

NOT YET RATIFIED

## GREAT RISSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON

TUESDAY 5 MARCH 2019 AT THE GREAT RISSINGTON CLUB

*Present:*

Parish Councillors Richard Cleverly (Chair), John Durrant (Vice Chair), Jane Carter, Graham Ramsay, , Jenny Stewart, Simon Young, County Councillor Nigel Moor and District Councillor Mark MacKenzie-Charrington, Local Government Electors (2)

#### **1 Apologies for absence and declarations of interest**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Natasha Sheasby and Debbie Braiden (Parish Clerk). Declarations of interest were made by Richard Cleverly, John Durrant and Graham Ramsay, all of whom are trustees of the Friends of St John the Baptist church, Great Rissington (item 6 refers).

#### **2 Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed off by the Chair.

#### **3 Matters arising**

##### *Parking*

The situation on the bend below the Lamb Inn continues to cause concern. Gloucestershire County Council's Highways Department has been contacted again. They continue to say all the white lines in the village will be refreshed "within the next few weeks." County Councillor Moor undertook to speak with CC Vernon Smith to get the works progressed. Highways are also planning improvements to the footpaths and kerbing between Green Cottage and Lower Farm House, but this is likely to take several more months.

##### *Community emergency plan update*

Graham Ramsay reported there have still been no volunteers come forward to offer their services or equipment despite continued appeals on the website, in Great Rissington News and on the notice board.

##### *Date for annual meeting*

John Durrant proposed that the annual meeting and the May monthly meeting should both be held on Tuesday 14 May to avoid the potential for clashes with the forthcoming elections. This was agreed.

### *Election information*

John Durrant felt we should try to attract fresh blood onto the parish council and undertook to contact Electoral Services at Cotswold District Council (CDC) to obtain some promotional materials.

## **4 Accounts and financial matters**

The accounts for the year to date were presented by John Durrant, and were agreed. They were signed off by the Chair.

John sought views as to whether the parish clerk's timesheets need to be viewed by all councillors, and it was agreed he would monitor them on behalf of the parish council. It was also agreed to obtain a mobile phone for the official use of the parish clerk. Jane Carter kindly offered to donate one which would just require a SIM card.

## **5 Planning**

It was noted that the deadline for comments on the revised plan for the Bourton industrial estate (18/04764/REM) had now passed, but there was general agreement that it should be supported.

Concern was expressed that, for several months now, the parish council has not been receiving notification of planning applications on a regular and timely basis. It was agreed to ask the parish clerk to make contact with the IT department at CDC to get the issue resolved.

## **6 Correspondence and matters raised by residents**

John Durrant reported that a letter has been received from the Parochial Church Council (PCC) formally seeking the transfer of responsibility for maintenance of the closed church yard from the PCC to the parish council. As trustees of the FoSJBGR, John, Richard and Graham withdrew from participation in the meeting in view of a potential conflict of interest.

The remaining councillors resolved that, subject to the PCC evidencing the closed status of the churchyard by producing the Order in Council, the parish clerk will be asked to write to CDC as soon as possible, and in any event within 3 months from the date of the notice from the PCC, formally transferring responsibility to CDC. Simon Young undertook to liaise with the PCC to confirm the Order in Council is in place, and this was agreed. He also offered to inspect the walls, fences and gates to ensure they are in good order prior to the transfer taking place, but it was the view of the other councillors that this could be left to CDC.

## **7 Report from District Councillor**

District Councillor Mark MacKenzie-Charrington reported that, after several years of reduced or frozen council tax, CDC is increasing the level for 2019/20 by 2%. A Band D property in Great Rissington will now be liable to pay £1544.19 per annum.

Mark also reported that speed cameras have now been installed on Rissington Road (near Gorse Close) and on Lansdowne Road. Mobile camera units will be operating on the A40 based in lay-bys near the turnings for Sherborne, Windrush, Hampnet and Farmington.

Mark asked councillors to note that nomination papers for the forthcoming elections need to be hand delivered to the CDC Offices In Trinity Road, Cirencester.

Changes are being proposed to the green waste and recycling collection arrangements. The contractor UBICO are replacing existing vehicles in November, with additional compartments to enable the recycling of clothing and small electrical items in addition to the existing arrangements for paper, cardboard, rigid plastic and glass. The cost of the weekly green waste collections is £135,000 in excess of the funds raised by the £30 licence fee, which means those without gardens are subsidising those that do. From November the collections are likely to be reduced to fortnightly, although weekly food waste collections will continue. Larger bags for storing cardboard for recycling are also being provided.

## **8 Report from County Councillor**

County Councillor Nigel Moor commended CDC for achieving their targets for recycling, and performance is significantly better than neighbouring councils. Nigel explained that the county council is increasing council tax by 4.99%, 2% of which is ring-fenced for funding adult social services. The council is under increasing financial pressure due to the lowering of grant from central government.

Nigel confirmed that Barrington Lane will be closed for resurfacing in mid-March between Bristol Road and Mitchel Way. Leasow Lane is also in the programme for resurfacing later this year. County councillors will continue to hold budgets of £25K each for funding small local highways improvements, and a revised Lengthsmens scheme for minor repairs will be in place and managed in our area by Rhodri Grey of GCC Highways. The council is also funding a review of improvements to junction 10 of the M5, providing both north and southbound access from Tewkesbury Road in Cheltenham.

The county council continues to support the Fastershire project, which aims to improve broadband speeds in rural areas.

## **9 Any other business**

John Durrant expressed concern that the defibrillator purchased by the parish council some time ago has still not been fitted in the refurbished telephone box due to issues around power supply. Jane Carter undertook to speak with Clive Billings who is leading the telephone box project.

Christine Brain felt that any campaign to encourage more people to stand as councillors should emphasise the need for regular attendance at meetings. She also asked if the seat on the main village green could be cleaned. Graham Ramsay said he would look into this within the next few days.

**10      Date of next meeting**

It was agreed the next meeting will take place on Tuesday 3 April 2019 at 7.00pm at the Great Rissington Club. The meeting was formally closed at 8.04 pm.