

GREAT RISSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON

TUESDAY, 5 FEBRUARY, 2019 AT 19:00 hrs, THE GREAT RISSINGTON CLUB

(not yet ratified)

Present: Parish Councillors Richard Cleverly (Chairman), John Durrant (Vice Chairman), Jane Carter, Natasha Sheasby, Jenny Stewart, Clerk Debbie Braiden

In attendance: Local Government Electors (10)

Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

- Apologies received from Councillor Graham Ramsay, County Councillor Nigel Moor. There were no declarations of interest.
- The Chairman welcomed Debbie Braiden as the new Parish Clerk.

Minutes of previous meeting

- The minutes of the previous meeting on 4th December 18, were agreed and signed off by the Chairman.

Matters arising

Parking:

- Concerns for safety were raised at the previous meeting regarding the fading white lines on the bend outside the public house. Cllr Durrant in the absence of Cllr Ramsay, confirmed he had doubts the lines would be painted soon as a year had passed since it was brought to the County Council's attention. However, Cllr Durrant confirmed Councillor Ramsay was still hopeful that the County Council would soon be repainting the faded white lines outside of the public house area and throughout the village. Upon Cllr Ramsay's return at the next meeting, the Council will discuss and consider whether the Parish Council should repaint the one particular area of concern themselves. Cllr Durrant reminded everyone that there are still cones available to prevent people parking on the bend whilst the lines are being redrawn and a request of consideration was still being published on public notices for the general public to be considerate with their parking.

Community Emergency Plan:

- Cllr Durrant confirmed on behalf of Cllr Ramsay that to date, no new volunteers had come forward. The intentions are to create a database of volunteers to post on the PC's website. The Council would encourage anyone, especially those people with 4x4 vehicles or skills like cutting down trees or medical assistance to come forward to assist the vulnerable and needy during emergency periods. Cllr Sheasby put forward a name who was willing to be a 4x4 driver volunteer. Cllr Durrant reminded Cllr Sheasby and others to contact Cllr Ramsay to put their names forward as he is collating the Emergency Plan database. This information will then be forwarded to the website administrator to publish.

Preparations for winter weather/Role of Snow Warden:

- Cllr Durrant confirmed that Cllr Young had withdrawn his resignation following improvement to his recent injury and, therefore, he was still the Council's Snow Warden; it is noted Cllr Young is unable to physically lift temporarily but would still be the liaison officer to approach with any concerns.

Accounts and financial matters

- Accounts up to January 31st 2019 prepared by Cllr Durrant were presented and all agreed. The Chairman duly signed them off.

Banking arrangements:

- Councillors Durrant, Ramsay & Cleverly met with Barclays bank and completed various forms but they were later found to be incorrect as the bank confirmed the Parish Council was not a community based subject. Therefore, this would instigate charges of £10 per month plus a charge for each cheque written as the PC would have a business account. The Council discussed whether to go ahead with changing the bank from Santander to Barclays but decided it made sense to wait until after the upcoming elections in May as the signatories may have to change following elections. Cllr Durrant confirmed the reason for changing was due to the Santander bank not providing an online payment system. A suggestion was given by a member of the Electorate that the Council should consider Lloyds Bank as they received no charges for business. Cllr Durrant agreed this would be considered nearer the time.

Precept bid for 2019/20:

- A precept of £6000 had been agreed and as explained in previous meetings the increase took into account the new Clerk position commencing 1st February 2019.

Cllr Carter asked if there was a limit on the levels the Parish Council could raise on the precept to take community grants into account in future. Cllr Durrant did not believe there were any limitations. Cllr Carter requested the precept meeting to be brought forward earlier into the year to give ample time to calculate and reflect on monies required for community groups. It was agreed to bring the precept meeting forward to the September meeting.

Planning:

- Cllr Carter enquired whether the procedure of receiving official pre-list planning applications could be more efficient and stream lined. The Council is a statutory consultee and therefore should receive notification prior to the plans being passed. Cllr Durrant confirmed Cotswold District Council had already been approached to this affect with no improvements being noted. However there is information available on the Cotswold District Council planning portal and that he and Cllr Carter had access. The notifications of applications are still required in a timely manner for consideration by the Parish Council. The Clerk agreed to investigate and enquire and formulate a procedure.

Correspondence and matters raised by residents

Snow plough:

- Concerns were raised by a member of the electorate that the snow plough had not been to her end of the village. She did confirm in the meeting that since raising her concern the plough had attended one morning. Cllr Cleverly pointed out it is important to note that the plough would not be able to access the area if there were parked cars on both sides of the road.

Dog waste bin request:

- The Council had been asked to provide another dog waste bin next to the existing salt bin near West View; Cllr Durrant suggested it would perhaps be more cost effective to provide a general waste bin as dog walkers could also use the bin to dispose of their bags. Councillors discussed the number of bins already in place around the village, agreeing there were already 3 dog bins and one general waste bin by the bus shelter. Cllr Durrant requested that the decision be delayed until further into the year when he could prove finances would be available. The Councillors considered whether there was a need for another bin in the village at which point Cllr Cleverly opened the discussion to the electorate present. The majority of the electorate voted, 'No', there was no need for another dog waste bin.

Litter:

- It was agreed to raise the litter subject in April's meeting so that the electorate could be present at the meeting.

Community donations:

- A few members of the electorate present, brought up the Council's decision not to give voluntary donations to the chosen community groups. They were unsatisfied with the decision made and questioned the reasoning. Cllr Durrant, current Finance Officer, explained that due to increased expenditure for the coming year he could not be certain that the budget would bear these voluntary donations, and had therefore recommended that the matter be deferred until the situation became clearer.
- The Village Magazine editor confirmed that their current financial status was stable and were able to continue producing for the near future, although to date only 2 sets of money had been received from public donations. The editor will contact the Parish Council if she experiences financial difficulties. Cllr Durrant reminded the Councillors that they had recently adopted a standing order so that the Council could not have preference towards any one community cause. Therefore any donations made by the Council should be made to all four of the chosen community causes. This was to avoid future difficulties of declarations of interest for Councillors being on other community committees.
- It was put to the Council by the Parochial Church Council (PCC) representatives that the PCC required regular support from the Council in order to maintain the closed churchyard. The PCC stated that if the Council was not going to contribute to the cost of this, they would seek to pass responsibility for the work over to the Council. It was agreed that the PCC should make this request in writing, and that the Clerk would research the legality of the request and if the responsibility lies with the District or Parish Council. The PCC members confirmed the closed church yard depending on season would require 6 to 8 cuts per annum.
- Cllr Stewart confirmed she was proceeding with a like for like price comparison for cutting the village greens as agreed in the last meeting.

Any other business:

- The Chairman opened the meeting to the Electorate members present.
- The salt bin at Sherborne Lane was reported to be at an inconvenient height to access the salt. They requested that the bin be sunk into the ground. Cllr Cleverly

agreed this would make the salt more accessible however it does create its own problems with drainage as the black bins do not have any drainage holes. He also said it would prove a costly initiative to dig and place the bins into the ground as this particular black bin would need to be buried to road level. Cllr Durrant confirmed that they could be replaced with smaller more convenient yellow bins; he also confirmed that the replacement of these bins had been factored into the budget and that the Sherborne Lane bin could be made priority. The Clerk will process this with Cllr Ramsay's assistance.

- The question was raised of how many grass cuts were actually required during the year, as the electorate member had noted on a few occasions, the contractor had arrived to do a cut when the grass was in fact still quite short and in his opinion did not require attention at that time. It was agreed to keep the grass cuts under observation during the next year. Cllr Durrant confirmed there are 14 cuts due under the current contract with Bibury, the contractor.
- The same electorate member also had concerns regarding the notice of planning timings. If neighbours receive notification prior to decisions by the Cotswold District Council there should also be time for the Council to find the information and be able to take action before decisions have been made.
- Notification of the precept being set was not seen in time by an electorate member who believes it should have been set higher to take into account the annual voluntary donations which the Council had always granted. Cllr Cleverly confirmed the precept discussion was advertised as on the agenda well in advance of the relevant meeting, both on the notice boards and the website. The electorate member requested the Council to hold the meeting earlier to give everyone more time to make comments. As previously noted above it is agreed the precept will now be set for the September meeting prior to the notification having to be sent to the District Council for the following January. This should allow sufficient time for debate by both Parish Council and the public.

The Chairman, Cllr Cleverly closed the meeting at 19:45 hrs.

