

NOT YET RATIFIED

## GREAT RISSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, 2 February 2016 at the Great Rissington Club

Present: Parish Councillors Elizabeth Meyrick (Chairman), Richard Cleverly, John Durrant, Clive Billing, Colin Campbell, Graham Ramsay (Parish Clerk). Natasha Surch and Liz Bannister joined the council following item 2.

In attendance: County Councillor Nigel Moor, District Councillor Mark MacKenzie-Charrington, LGE (8)

### 1 Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

The Chairman asked if there were any financial interests to be declared. No such declarations were made.

### 2 Parish councillor vacancies: Expressions of interest

The Chairman reported that, following the resignations of Andy Kemeys and Peter Brown, the vacancies had been advertised as required by law. Liz Bannister, Natasha Surch and Michael Saunders had expressed interest in being co-opted as parish councillors. Following brief presentations by each candidate, councillors voted by secret ballot to co-opt Liz and Natasha, and it was at this point they joined the council and were welcomed by the Chairman. The Chairman thanked Michael for his expression of interest and encouraged him to consider applying again when another vacancy occurs.

### 3 Minutes of meeting held on 1 December 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 December were approved and signed by the Chairman as an accurate record.

### 4 Matters arising

#### *Blocked drains and gully clearance*

The parish clerk reported that further complaints had been received from residents in Orchard Bank. Despite numerous assurances from the county council's highways contractors, Amey, over the past 9 months, the works are still outstanding and the flow of water is causing significant problems for the residents affected. Nigel Moor accepted there has been undue delay in resolving this issue due to the extensive nature of the problems, but said he would ensure this features in the work programme for 2016/17.

#### *Replacement of village sign*

The Chairman noted that, despite repeated requests of Amey, the promised replacement sign at the entrance to the village near Lane End had still not been installed. Nigel Moor undertook to chase the matter with Highways.

### *Traffic activated speed signs and deferred works associated with lengthsman's project*

Both these items will be included in the programme for 2016/17.

### *Proposed procurement of telephone box*

Clive Billing advised that the telephone box is grade 1 listed. His research shows that many villages have adopted telephone boxes from BT and are using them for various purposes, including book, seed and plant swaps, as information points for visitors and for housing defibrillators. The box in Great Rissington can be purchased for £1, but there are inevitably on-costs that have to be taken into account. There have been problems with the electrical supply to the local box which will require resolution before further progress can be made.

Clive felt the existing perspex panels should be replaced with toughened glass and the box should be repainted. Subject to initial refurbishment by BT, Clive strongly advocated the purchase of the box, which is otherwise likely to fall even further into disrepair and become an eyesore instead of a potential asset. He undertook to seek sponsorship to fund the necessary refurbishment and to seek views of local residents as to the use or uses it might be put to.

The Chairman opened the meeting up to invite views from the floor. Michael Saunders asked who would be liable in the event of a problem, and it was agreed that public liability insurance would be required. It was unclear whether the existing policy would cover this matter, and the parish clerk was asked to look into this and report back.

The Chairman stated she was opposed to the purchase, but accepted there appeared to be a majority of councillors in favour of progressing the purchase, subject to further cost analysis by Clive which will be considered at the next meeting, when a formal decision will be taken.

### *Main village green*

It had been proposed at the previous meeting that the track across the green should be filled in and grassed over to prevent further damage being caused by parked cars. Andy Kemeys had subsequently contacted the parish clerk, suggesting there might be a legal impediment to the proposal.

The Chairman said that the record shows there was no track when the green was registered in the 1970s, so claims of it being a "valuable historic feature" would seem to be incorrect. Checks with Highways confirmed they have no claim to the track, and GAPTC advice has also been sought. Richard Cleverly kindly offered to undertake the necessary work at no cost to the council and was thanked by the Chairman and the other councillors. Nigel Moor noted the request for "keep clear" signs and advisory no parking road markings on the tarmac road across the green and undertook to speak with Highways.

## 5 Accounts and financial matters

The accounts for 2015/16 to date were agreed and signed off by the Chairman. The parish clerk confirmed he had submitted a precept bid for £4,000 for 2016/17.

It was noted that a local resident, David Turnbull, had kindly agreed to fulfil the role of internal auditor for the forthcoming annual return.

It was determined that the council will not opt out of the proposed new audit arrangements, thereby avoiding the expense of engaging an external auditor.

Councillors considered the options provided by Bibury Landscaping for varying the frequency and nature of grass cuts in the coming season. After some discussion, it was agreed to retain the services of Bibury Landscaping and to continue with fortnightly cuts with the grass being collected and disposed of.

## 6 Planning

The advice of the Tree Warden, Mark Darwent, has been sought in relation to 2 applications (16/00010/TCONR and 15/05393/TCONR) involving tree cutting and had been agreed. Concerns continued to be expressed in relation to the development of Waterbank. Mark MacKenzie-Charrington advised he had spoken with the Planning and Conservation Officers at Cotswold District Council (CDC), and confirmed the plans for a driveway onto the road had been specifically removed from the original application by CDC. No driveway appeared on the consented scheme, but planning is not required across the grass verge onto a C road. A retrospective application will however have to be made owing to associated engineering works. Excavations had not been authorised and amended plans for the building at the rear of the property were anticipated. The Conservation Officer would be attending to inspect the site.

A planning application affecting a building adjacent to Ashspring House was then discussed. The matter has now been referred to the Conservation Officer for consideration. The applicant, Bill Lane, was present and was invited to speak. He confirmed there would be no increase in the size or structure of the building. It was generally felt that the proposed changes to the building would enhance the location.

## 7 Correspondence

The correspondence received since the last meeting was noted.

## 8 County councillor's report

Nigel Moor reported that the county council's budget for 2016/17 would be going before Cabinet the following day. It was likely that an increase of 1.99% would be agreed, plus a 2% levy specifically targeted at adult social care. The £67.4M grant from central government is being reduced to £49.9M and will be further reduced incrementally in future years. To meet its obligations, the county council has three options, ie to raise revenue through the business rate, to increase council tax or build more houses to secure the new homes bonus and increase the tax base.

An announcement on devolution for Gloucestershire is expected from the Chancellor in March.

There are now 566 children in care in Gloucestershire, as a result the budget for this is higher than that for highways and flood defences combined. It has already been confirmed that the devolved highways budgets to county councillors will continue, and Nigel reiterated that the speed activated

sign, village sign and verge clearance by the footpath will be included in the work programme for 2016/17.

Nigel also confirmed that a report on bus schedules would be considered by Cabinet the following day.

In closing, Nigel advised that a Task Group has been established to review road safety on the Fosseway following a spate of accidents, and that GRPC will be invited to send a representative to a meeting on this matter in Bourton on a date to be agreed.

## 9 District councillor's report

Mark MacKenzie-Charrington reported that outline agreement has been reached on a nursery school at Upper Rissington, with a significant donation from the developers. The school could be open by September.

A revised application has been lodged in relation the proposed Badham Pharmacy at Upper Rissington which Mark hoped would be successful. He understood that Badham's intend providing a free delivery service within their distribution area.

Bourton coach park will now remain open after discussions between the landowner and CDC.

Mark said he still hopes a bulk purchase discounted calor gas scheme can be established for residents in the Rissingtons. This is being pursued by a CDC Cabinet member.

The CDC local plan is scheduled to go to central government in September, but it is likely it will take further year for it to be approved.

A planning application has been submitted for 800 houses on land opposite the North Cotswolds Hospital in Moreton in Marsh.

215 houses have been sold out of 358 consented ones at Victory Fields, Upper Rissington. The balance of 143 should be sold in the next 18 months. Plans have been submitted for 24 homes to be built on land originally earmarked for business use at Delfin Way, 12 of which are to be "affordable." A further 29 houses are planned at Sandy Lane.

## 10 Community Emergency Plan

The parish clerk said the council had been asked to develop and thereafter maintain a community emergency plan. The plan should outline the initial actions the local community would take in the event of a major incident where the attendance of the emergency services and other authorities was, for whatever reason, delayed.

Following an appeal on the village website and in Great Rissington News, a number of residents had come forward offering their skills and physical resources for inclusion in the plan, including several people with medical, first aid, building and surveying skills, and offers of use of items of equipment (eg generators, chainsaws, cherry-picker, tractor, etc). The Chairman thanked all those who have come forward and asked the parish clerk to complete the draft plan by the next meeting. Nigel

Moor congratulated the council on having developed such a comprehensive plan. The Chairman thanked the parish clerk for his work on this.

An appeal has also been made for volunteers for defibrillator training in order to expand the pool of trained personnel. Six new volunteers had expressed interest, together with 4 requests for refresher training. It is intended to stage the 2 hour training session at the Club on a weekday evening in March or April.

#### 11 Queen's 90th birthday celebrations

The Chairman proposed that loyal greetings should be sent to the Queen on the occasion of her 90th birthday. Clive Billing advised he had made extensive enquiries in relation to how the village might mark the occasion, and there seemed to be consensus for a black tie ball followed by a bring your own picnic the following day, with children's entertainers, etc.

It was agreed that a sub-committee should be formed to build on the work that Clive has already carried out, ensuring the proposed events are financially viable with no risk or liability on the parish council or any individual.

Liz Bannister undertook to lead another sub-committee to look into joining the official Beacon celebrations.

#### 12 Any other business

John Durrant offered to lead a litter picking exercise along Leasow Lane up to New Bridge Lane.

Liz Bannister thanked Mark MacKenzie-Charrington for his work on the proposed nursery at Upper Rissington.

Sheila Jesson suggested the village might join the "Clean for the Queen" campaign, and it was agreed this would go on the agenda for the March meeting.

Christine Brain asked whether stakes could be provided to protect Pool Bank. John Durrant agreed to look into this further.

Nigel Wade reported that Heaven Field has been fenced along Rectory Lane, but felt the fencing used to create the boundary between the field and Little Court was out of character with the area.

Graham Sedden expressed concern that the blocked drains and gulleys are resulting in serious problems for residents in Orchard Bank. The Chairman asked him to speak with Nigel Moor who had referred to this issue earlier in the meeting and had the paperwork to hand.

#### 13 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, 1 March 2016. The meeting closed at 8.10 pm.