

Ryton and Grindle Parish Council

Chair:
Allan Amey

Clerk:
Stephen de Launey
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COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in St. Andrew's Church, Ryton, on Wednesday 30th August 2017 commencing at 7:30 pm.

Present: Cllr Allan Amey (Chair); Cllr Mark Dady; Cllr Sarah Williams and Cllr John Webb.

In attendance: Stephen de Launey, Clerk to the Council; two members of the public, Francis Jellings and Brian Watson.

Public Forum

PF01/17 Welcome

Cllr Amey welcomed all present.

PF02/17 Ryton Bank – overhanging trees.

There were a considerable number of tree branches overhanging the Ryton Bank Road. There was a concern that there might be a danger of branches falling onto the roadway and the branches were also reducing light on the road. The Clerk was asked to contact Shropshire council to ask if the overhanging branches could be cut back.

PF04/17 Grindle Forge Bridge

Concern expressed about the growth of bushes around the bridge. The Clerk was asked to investigate whether the bridge fell within the parish boundary and consider appropriate action for clearing.

PF05/16 Close of Parish Forum

The Chair thanked those that had attended and contributed to the meeting. The Parish Forum closed at 19:55.

Council meeting

15/17 Apologies

All current members were present and therefore no apologies.

16/17 Declarations of Interest

None.

17/17 To Approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 10th May 2017

It was proposed by Cllr Dady, seconded by Cllr Amey and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 10th May 2017 be approved and signed by the Chair as a true and

accurate record.

18/17 Matters arising from the minutes

09/17 Annual Return - The Clerk reported that the 2016/17 Annual Return and Governance Statement had been signed off by the internal auditor and we are now awaiting sign off from the external auditor.

11/17 Old Ryton Playing Fields - The Clerk reported that the site owner effectively had no permission to undertake any development on the site. Given that there was currently a static caravan on the site the Clerk was asked to contact Shropshire council to ask if enforcement action was appropriate.

19/17 Declaration of a vacancy

Following the resignation of Cllr Ann Dukes, the vacancy would be declared and published in the Parish Magazine and on the web site.

20/17 Election of Vice Chair

A replacement Vice Chair would be required but it was proposed by Cllr Amey, seconded by Cllr Dady and **RESOLVED** that the matter would be postponed until the next meeting.

21/17 Finance Report

The Clerk/RFO presented the finance report to 31st August 2017, which is attached to these minutes as Appendix 1.

The current balance amounted to £4,235.55 of which £1,148.13 was represented by ring fenced' funds relating to the Environmental Maintenance Grant and the Transparency Fund. Within the report the Clerk advised members that VAT for the 3 years to 31/03/17, amounting to £536.55 had been reclaimed from HMRC. The figure was boosted by VAT payments to IPaD for work relating to Grindle House Farm and figures for future years would be considerably less. The Clerk was also able to report the receipt of £1,191.83 from Shropshire Council, following our successful application for a 2017/18 Environmental Maintenance Grant.

The Clerk advised that the local council insurance was now due for renewal. Our current brokers, Came and Company, had recommended a quotation of £168 which represented a small increase on the previous year. The Clerk recommended that members accepted the quote.

Cllr Dady proposed, Cllr Amey seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to accept the financial report and approve the acceptance of the Came and Company quotation for the provision of Local Council Insurance at a cost of £168.

22/17 Estimates of future payments

Cllr Dady asked if it would be possible to include on future financial reports an estimate of anticipated future payments. The Clerk advised that this had been included previously and that this would be included in future reports.

23/17 Planning Matters

The Clerk reported that there had been no new planning application received as at 30th August 2017.

Member's expressed satisfaction at the outcome of the Grindle House Farm Appeal. It was felt unlikely that the site owners would make any further appeal and within the medium term we should see an end to the problems of heavy vehicles using the local road network.

24/17 Environment Maintenance

The chair reported that following our success in getting the Environment Maintenance Grant he had sought to engage a contractor to undertake work in the parish which included the regular cutting of grass around the Queen's Diamond Jubilee bench site amongst others. Initially the agreement was for a three-month period after which a review would take place. Following previously expressed concerns over the safety of the bench in Ryton and the status of noticeboards in both Ryton and Grindle, the Clerk offered to approach the Environment Maintenance contractor recently engaged by Munslow, who had a woodwork specialisation, to get his view on the possibility/costs of undertaking repairs.

25/17 Appointment of New Clerk

The Clerk reported that a formal advert, job and person specification along job application form had been published. The one notable change compared to the draft details previously circulated to members, was a reduction in hours offered from 4 to 3 per week. This had been made following a review of the actual hours required for the post and a comparison with hours offered by the similarly sized Sutton Maddock Parish Council. Applications close on the 30th September 2017 and interviews would follow in early October.

26/17 Potential for Merging with an Adjoining Parish

The Chair reminded members that one of the options that had been put forward prior to the appointment of the current Clerk was that we should seek to merge with another parish to reduce the overall costs of having a professional Clerk.

The Clerk explained that the process we might look at is called 'grouping'. The individual parishes in the group retain their legal status as a parish and must hold an Annual Parish Meeting but the group only has a single parish council. If we were to group with, say, Sutton Maddock, there would be a single parish council with councillors elected from a Ryton and Grindle ward and a Sutton Maddock ward.

Cllr Amey proposed, Cllr Webb seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to continue investigation into potential 'grouping'. Specifically, the Clerk was asked to seek the views from current 'groups' on the advantages and disadvantages of 'grouping'.

27/17 Website Review

The Clerk reported that he had held a meeting with Cllr Williams to review the current Ryton and Grindle website and consider improvements. The work was ongoing.

The Clerk was asked to send details of the Ryton and Grindle website to all Councillors and ask them to review and return comments.

28/17 Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 13th December 2017, at 7:30pm in St Andrews Church. Cllr Amey committed to arrange for the church heating to be turned on earlier in the day, so that both members and the public could attend the meeting in some degree of comfort.

The meeting closed at 9:25 pm.

SignedDate.....