**RIBCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on Monday 17 February 2025**

**PRESENT:**

**Parish Councillors:** Caunce, Cromie, Finch, Yates

**Borough Councillor:** Barnsley

**Residents:** Eight

**Apologies:** Cllrs Ellis & Mason

**55 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None

**56 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

The Chair reported on the response to the Flood Questionnaire issued after the last meeting. There had been ten responses. Three had expressed an interest in the suggestion of a temporary flood barrier being pursued; four persons had expressed a willingness to make a personal contribution; four had offered to help as volunteers and four to consider fund-raising.

Following that there were a number of issues raised by the residents present; first, was the concern about the frequency (and speed) of vehicles continuing to drive through the village during period of flooding. A suggestion was made that signs should be made and put up around the village when flooding was forecast. An offer was made by a local resident to make such signs to be put up once flood warnings had been issued. At the level beyond anything that could be organised within the village, it was strongly proposed that solutions had to be provided by the Environment Agency and appropriate funding would also need to be sourced.

The ensuing (positive) discussion then progressed through acquiring a suitable temporary barrier to be stored in the village until needed, but it was acknowledged that this would require some significant funding – possibly through grant money with match funding provision.

There was no final conclusion or proposal reached, but this item will require to be regularly revisited on the Agenda of each Council Meeting.

**57 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**:

The Minutes of the meeting on 20 January 2025 were confirmed and duly signed.

**58 MATTERS ARISING**:

58.1 Information provided by Cllr Finch about the progress on sourcing a new noticeboard for Community use was welcomed.

58.2 It was reported that the work on the Riverside benches had been completed and paid for. The improvement to the appearance of the benches (and consequently the area along the riverbank) was noted and warmly welcomed.

58.3 In the further matter of the Benches on Blackburn Road, Council had received an offer from a resident to undertake the renovation of these in due course. It was noted that residents appeared to be moving the benches to facilitate the parking of cars in the vicinity.

58.4 In a related matter, Councillors Yates and Finch had ascertained that the hedges could be trimmed back.

58.5 The Restoration of the removed postbox continued to be pursued, although the available means of making a complaint/request were onerous for complainants. The matter will continue to be pursued.

58.6 The purchase and placement of a ‘Community’ notice board to be placed on the side of Potters Barn was considered in detail. Permission, costs and placement were all considered. The project was approved in principle, with Cllr Finch continuing to acquire information and to progress the installation.

58.7 In respect of the previously identified issue of traffic calming in Knowle Green and Ribchester there was an update from the Chair. He confirmed that the ‘bottom line’ was for the installation of CCTV facilities. A policy would be required and consultation with the Police. An additional point was made that it would assist this proposal if local organisations made the first move/enquires to expedite this project.

**59 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

The following applications were reported:

3/2024/0963 – 5 Church Street – Loft Conversion. APPROVED with conditions

3/2024/1005 – Providence House, Preston Road, Flat-roof extension to rear, APPROVED with conditions

60 **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

Council considered the Payments for Approval and RESOLVED that the following payments be made:

Lengthsman £481.95

Parish Clerk £499.20 + £124.80 reimbursement of Clerk’s payment of PAYE on behalf of the Council

Payment to Mr Whitlock for completion of the work on the benches on riverside £2800

**61** **REPORT ON PRINCIPAL COMMITTEES**

Borough Councillor Barnsley reported that the Borough Council was currently focusing on Budget-setting plans at the moment. Council Tax discussions were underway, but the main focus was on Ribblesdale Pool in Clitheroe – which will be a major investment for the coming financial year.

**62 VILLAGE MATTERS**:

62.1 Councillor Barnsley informed the meeting that the annual Spring Clean/Keep Britain Tidy project would be taking place from 21 March to 6 April.

62.2 Installation of Flower Planter/Troughs. This had previously been proposed and Cllr Finch provided some sample photographs of the kind of containers which might be acquired. It was also pointed out that Adam Whitlock had constructed and installed the planters outside the Club. Whilst this project was generally seen as a potential improvement for the village, concerns were raised as to who would be responsible for their upkeep. A suggestion was made that the Gardening Society or the School might be prepared to take on the care and upkeep.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.20pm