



## RIPPLE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

### Minutes of the Meeting held 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 7.15pm at Ripple Parish Hall

- Present:** Cllrs. M. Peters (Chairman), M Davies (Vice Chair), M England, P Turner, D Cllr J Owenson, C Cllr Martin Allen
- Attendees:** Interim Clerk M White, and 40 members of public were in attendance to object to the Airband poles in The Beeches, Ryall.
- 27.11.23.1** **The Chairman will formally ask if anyone is intending on recording or filming the meeting.**  
There were no requests to record or film the meeting
- 27.11.23.2** **To receive comments from the public - no decisions will be made on issues raised. Any items requiring decisions will be added to the agenda for the next meeting (NB Councils cannot lawfully decide items of business that are not specified on the agenda (LGA1972 Sch 12, paras 10(2)(b) and Longfield Parish Council v Wright (1918) 88 LJ Ch 119)**
- 27.11.23.3** **To note absence - none**
- 27.11.23.4** **To receive declarations of interest for items on the agenda below (Localism Act 2011) and to confirm the meeting quorate**  
There were no declarations of interest, and the meeting was declared quorate.
- 27.11.23.4a)** The Chairman took the opportunity at the start of the meeting to welcome all residents of The Beeches who were in attendance. He indicated that the matter they wished to discuss had occurred after the agenda for tonight's meeting had been published, so it was not scheduled to be discussed by the council. However, he would use the public participation section of the agenda to allow members of the public to raise their concerns. He would also invite District Cllr Owenson and County Cllr Allen to speak and provide information in this session.
- 27.11.23.4b)** Following the public discussions which included the background, and subsequent actions following the Airband consultation in 2021, the suggestion was that residents who were worried or concerned about the position of the poles should contact Airband directly, copying in RPC.
- Councillor England advised that it would be pertinent for one person to take a lead in representing the residents, and for each resident to independently write to Airband.
- Vice Chair Maggi Davies made reference to the notices attached to the poles and that residents should complain about any negative impacts quoting paragraph 77 in the notice.
- It was proposed that greater impact would be achieved through individual action, and the Clerk will collate these responses and RPC will provide an official response to Airband. Some residents also agreed that they would organise petitions throughout The Beeches. Once all the petitions and formal letters of complaints have been received there will be an attempt to get problem poles removed or repositioned. Councillors Owenson and Allen agreed that they will support the Parish in these endeavours and advised that if residents failed to sign up for Airband Broadband following the installation project, the poles would very likely be removed.

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Further discussion was had regarding the best approach to take in residents' complaint letters the impact on property values, personal impact, and the inconvenience to homeowners regarding pole positioning. It was agreed that it may be useful to add the Airband map of pole installation to the Parish website and Facebook page. Members of public were thanked and left the meeting at 20.20 hours.

#### **Other matters resumed at 20.30 hours**

##### **27.11.23.5 To confirm and agree minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

Council agreed to review and approve the minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023 via email.

**Proposed** Cllr England

**Seconded** Cllr Turner

##### **27.11.23.6 To Receive Clerk's Report and agree actions – Clerk's report was received as per APPENDIX 1**

27.11.23.6a) The Clerk introduced Tim Hughes, the new Parish Lengthsman, who was welcomed, and the following issues were discussed:

- 1) Tim was asked to review and tidy the memorial cross at Ryall
- 2) Cllr Turner asked Tim to cut back brambles at the footpath in Ryall
- 3) Cllr England suggested adding some information about Tim to the website and a provide photos of some of the work he has carried out so far
- 4) Tim advised that he had attempted to review the disputed footpath at Ferry Lane but hadn't managed to locate it. The Clerk agreed to provide more information to help Tim so that he can visit the area and evaluate works required.
- 5) Tim also updated the Council regarding the footpath at the Marina which is now badly deteriorated due to lack of attention from either the Marina staff or the Environment Agency, and due to flooding. Tim felt that further inspection was needed to decide what improvements were needed, but that it was likely that machinery would be needed to make the path safe and secure. More information is also required from the Marina regarding their intentions to resume maintaining the path.

The Clerk agreed to add these points to Tim's list of priorities and we should review these at the next meeting.

27.11.23.6b) The Clerk advised that the Parish web hosting fees are due to increase from January 2024 to £19.20 per month incl VAT, and with a discount of 15% from IONON. The Chairman asked the Clerk to provide quotes from alternative hosting firms and to provide via email ahead of the next meeting.

27.11.23.6c) The Clerk informed Council that a number of complaints had been received from residents at in Ryall, and The Beeches about dog fouling, and bags left hanging on trees and thrown across grass. It was felt that this is due to there only being two bins available in the area, and apparently none in The Beeches, and we have been asked to consider introducing more bins. The Clerk agreed to liaise with the residents to agree locations and number of bins so that the Council could consider this expense as part of the forthcoming budgeting exercise

27.11.23.6d) The noticeboard in the bus shelter at Ryall needs replacing/restoring and Tim agreed to take a look to see what could be done

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- 27.11.23.7**      **To receive County Councillor's Report and agree actions – APPENDIX 2**  
County Councillor Allen left the meeting following his report
- 27.11.23.8**      **To receive District Councillor's Report and agree actions.** District Councillor Owenson addressed the meeting updated the council on the current challenges faced within the MHDC Planning Applications and Environment departments. The previous backlogs in applications are starting to improve, although it was felt that some outcomes on applications lacked nuance and sensible decisions, and this was being addressed.
- 27.11.23.9**      **Finance, all documents circulated prior to the meeting.** The Clerk agreed to recirculate all finance documents for approval.
- 27.11.23.9a**      **To approve the Bank Reconciliation and Budget Monitoring Report:** The Clerk produced October and November bank statements and bank reconciliation up to 24<sup>th</sup> November, all balances OK. **APPENDIX 3**
- 27.11.23.9b**      To consider and resolve to agree Payment List and payments made since the last meeting. Payment List was received as per **APPENDIX 4.**
- 27.11.23.10**      **To discuss the ongoing maintenance of the wildflower meadow at the recreation ground in Ryall**  
  
Vice Chair, Maggi Davies provided a full report on the progress of the meadow, and details of the planned works. Vice Chair M Davies asked Tim to take a look at the dead Elm trees at the edge of the recreation ground, and to review the maintenance plan and liaise with her regarding its upkeep. It was also discussed and agreed that the area would no longer require regular cutting via Smart Cut and the Clerk agreed to write to them to confirm this. Tim was asked to consider alternative areas for regular cutting by Smart Cut as part of the contract in place of the wild meadow. **APPENDIX 5**
- 27.11.23.11**      **To discuss the issue of the response from Platform Housing Group regarding the parking at Ryall**  
  
The Clerk produced the email response from PHG, and Cllr Turner provided images of the car parked illegally. Following a discussion regarding the ownership of the area being used to park cars it was agreed that the Clerk was ask County Cllr Allen to write to WCC as a last resort ahead of enforcement, for support in this matter. The installation of bollards to prevent parking, and by association, illegal driving over footpaths, was suggested also.
- 27.11.23.12**      **To review and agree the quotation for the plaque for the Commemorative bench**  
  
The Clerk provided one quotation of £90.54 and was asked to go ahead with a brass plaque up to the value of £90.00 . The Lengthsman agreed to provide dimensions for the plaque.



**27.11.23.13 To discuss and agree the position for the final bin Ripple**

Following a discussion regarding the history of the difficulties of the placement of the final bin, it was agreed that a suggestion would be put the residents of Ripple that the bin is situated next to the post-box and noticeboard. The Chairman agreed to put a notice to this effect on the noticeboard and report back at the next meeting. The Lengthsman confirmed that he could install the bin easily when requested.

**27.11.23.14 To discuss the following planning applications/appeals received since the last meeting and agree actions:**

- a) ONGOING 23/00001/REFUSE Gloucestershire CC application regarding the gravel extraction at Bow Farm, Bow Lane, Tewkesbury – proposed vehicle access off the A38 and the land at Bow Lane – a reminder that the appeal hearing is on the 5<sup>th</sup> December for those wishing to attend. Cllr Matt England expressed an interest in attending.
- b) NEW M/2301386/FUL Three Counties Equine Hospital – erection of log cabin on a concrete base for use as a staff room – **NO OBJECTIONS**
- c) NEW M/23/01576/HP Ryall Cottage, Ryall WR8 0PN – **NO OBJECTIONS**

**27.11.23.15 To discuss the Clerks performance review in a confidential session**

In a private session, the council agreed that the Parish Clerk, Michelle Hinde, currently on maternity leave, would have a pay increase from level LC23 to LC24 recognising her performance and progression within the role. Proposed by Cllr Matt England. Seconded by Paul Turner

As part of this separate discussion it was also agreed that the Council was comfortable to pay the Lengthsman's mileage claims for fuel used whilst in the Parish. Proposed by Cllr Matt England. Seconded by Paul Turner

**Date of Next Meeting : Parish Council Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> January 2023.**

Meeting closed at 21.15 hours

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Dated \_\_\_\_\_



## APPENDIX 1

### Clerk Report 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023

#### **Lengthsman**

Introduction of Tim Hughes, our new Lengthsman. Tim can run through some of the key issues with our footpath management and you can ask questions.

#### **Ryall Quarry Extension**

We have invited members of Cavendish Consulting to the Parish meeting on the 8th January to discuss the proposals, and they have accepted. Heather Leelan will be in attendance. I suggest we publicise this and invite parishioners to attend.

#### **IONOS web management**

We've had notification that our prices are going to increase from January 2024. We currently pay £1.20 including VAT per month, and this was part of an introductory deal, which is now about to expire.

IONOS have offered RPC a 15% discount.

The increase is to £16.00 pm ex VAT

They're offering an annual 15% off which is £19.20 INCLUDING VAT

This starts from 13<sup>th</sup> January.

#### **Dog Fouling in Ryall**

I've had emails from a resident in Ryall regarding an ongoing problem with dog fouling, and suggested we look into the placement of more bins. Is this something we can do?

#### **Noticeboard at Ryall bus stop**

It's been brought to our attention that the noticeboard in Ryall is very tired looking. We would need to agree dimensions and backing colour and I have a quote for a replacement. I can then add this to the payments list for approval at the next meeting, or agree in principal today..

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## APPENDIX 2

### COUNTY COUNCILLOR MARTIN ALLEN REPORT TO RIPPLE PARISH COUNCIL NOVEMBER 2023

#### COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

##### AIRBAND

I am unhappy with how Airband have carried out their work. I accept the need for fast broadband, and I know that in 2019 Airband did ask residents if they wanted their services and quite a lot of locals did sign up for it. I have spoken to a senior person (Clive) in Airband, I made it clear that I had expected any cabling in the Beeches to go underground, just like the existing services do.

However, he explained that there is no ducting from the pavement into the homes and gardens or driveways would need to be dug up.

The cost of this Airband do not and will not pay.

1. There are two codes – one they have to comply with and breaches can be reported to OFCOM. Ofcom also has an enforcement role under s. 110 of the Communications Act 2003 over compliance by Code operators with any requirement imposed by virtue of any restrictions or conditions under the Electronic Communications Code (Conditions and Restrictions) Regulations 2003 as amended ( The 2003 Code). The second is voluntary and is more about good practice – this is the Cabinet and Pole Siting Code of Practice 2016.
2. Our role is as Local Planning Authority. All operators have to do is notify us under the 2003 Code and the AONB (if appropriate) where they are putting up poles under permitted development rights (Schedule 2 – part 16 of the GDPO). We have to check that we are satisfied that what they are telling us does fall under PD. There are two conditions that also imposed by the GDPO – visual impact is minimised so far as practicable taking account the site and then in addition in putting in the poles they must not prevent pedestrians from passing along the footway, access to premises, detriment to disabled people etc. **There is no requirement under the GDPO for them to consult anyone. The Council has no powers to seek their removal on visual impact grounds.**



3. We can suggest conditions if we have any concerns which they have to have due regard to unless they believe the conditions are unreasonable.
4. In addition to the above the operator only needs a permit from the Highway Authority to work within the highway extent. They submit a plan to the County Council and that is checked – if found to be satisfactory they get the permits.

In short; Providing they are below 15 metres and don't block the footpath or prevent access to someone's home, they're nothing to do with the LPA, they're not required to submit prior approval or planning permission, we have no say where the poles are located and how many are required.

We would advise that any complainants or local residents bring up any issues with OFCOM and/or the installer.

I believe Ripple Parish Council should collate all the problems with pole locations and then write to Airbnb to ask if they will consider relocating the problem ones.

#### **BOW FARM MINERAL EXTRACTION**

Going to be heard by a planning inspector In December 2024.

#### **RYALL EAST QUARY APPLICATION – Nr Ripple and Uckinghall.**

As I said at our last two meetings, I have spoken to officers at WCC, and they are still waiting for the applicant to send in more information.

I have asked for another briefing prior to this application going to WCC planning committee.

#### **RIPPLE SCHOOL LANE QUARY FOR MINERALS APPLICATION**

Just to confirm that still no formal planning application has yet been received.



## **ON DEMAND BUS**

I and Cllr Tom Wells have now had our meeting, this has taken months to be organised.

The fourth official launch is to commence soon. Once I have the leaflets, I will be able to give you more information. But it now looks like the buses will take you to anywhere within the designated County Council Divisions of Croome and Powick.

Also, it will take you to: Tesco's in St Peters, St Peters Garden Centre, B&M Bargains and Aldi. County Hall/The Countywide Centre, Croome Court, Worcester Parkway Railway Station, Upton Upon Severn, The Retail Park in Malvern, both of Malvern's Railway Stations. Not all of these destination may yet be on the App but should be soon.

It is hoped that Tewkesbury may be added in December 2023.

## **FOOTWAYS AND ROADS LIST**

I have been asked to give a list of the roads and footways that I consider to be the ones most in need of attention in my division, I have included:

Ryall Grove footway needs urgent attention.

Ryall Grove road needs urgent attention.

## **DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS**

### **PLANNING MATTERS**

SWDPR

This has now gone off to the Secretary of State and as you know, Furrow Close planning application was turned down by 11 votes to 1.

70 Homes on the A4104 at Holly Green – I still have no more news at present.

### **LORRIES PARKED OFF SCHOOL LANE AT THE OLD OIL DEPOT.**

23/10/23 I sent you the latest I had from Seb Ash, MHDC Enforcement Team.

I will keep pressing this matter.

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**SOCIAL HOUSING INFORMATION.**

I sent you an email about this on 10/11/23.

As at 08/11/2023, there were 9 households registered with a connection to the Parish of Ripple (an increase of 5 households since 01/03/2023). These households have the following bedroom need:

1-bed – 4 households

2-bed – 3 households

3-bed – 2 households

As at 08/11/2023, there were 68 households registered with a connection to the surrounding parishes/grouped parishes and Upton-upon-Severn (an increase of 5 households since 01/03/2023). These households have the following bedroom need:

1-bed – 43 households

2-bed – 15 households

3-bed – 9 households

4-bed – 1 household

Warmest Regards

Cllr Martin Allen



APPENDIX 3

Bank statement and reconciliation report on separate attachment

APPENDIX 4

Payments Required		
Company	Amount	Comments
Clerk expenses	£18.98	Copy paper, A4 pockets
Lengthsman salary	£400.00	5 week month
Lengthsman mileage for October	£8.10	18 miles @ 0.45 ppm TBC with Council
Lengthsman mileage for November	£19.35	43 miles @ 0.45 ppm TBC with Council
	<b>£446.43</b>	

Paid since last meeting		
Payslip M. White	£814.84	
Payslip M. Hinde	£725.32	
Alex Portch Services	£385.00	Installation of new n.board
PFK Littlejohn	£252.00	Audit fee
Smartcut	£192.00	2 cuts to wild meadow
Payslip Tim Hughes	£200.00	3 weeks in October
Namesco	£22.97	Email authentication renewal
Namesco	£39.47	Email hosting renewal
	<b>£2,631.60</b>	

### Ryall Recreation Ground Management Plan – November 2023

**Aims:**

To maintain or increase the biodiversity value of the Recreation Area. Create a wildflower meadow, improve the range of trees and plant bulbs in the area. Attract wildlife by situation bird and bat boxes. Creating a natural area of beauty adjacent to the banks of the R. Severn. See the Green Park Biodiversity Enhancement Assessment for details: Worcestershire Wildlife Trust Report from Natural Networks Officer.

**Management tasks and responsibilities:**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Frequency and notes</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
Meadow management	Cut-and-collect to 7cm annually in late July - September. All arisings to be cleared from site by contractor.	Lengthsman (Tim Hughes)
Meadow management	Check Meadow area to re-sow seed in patchy areas (Spring 2024)	Lengthsman Tony Addison (TA) to advise on areas.
Meadow management	If required, pull or hoe unwanted plants, e.g. dock or creeping thistle, every July. Allow grass around Meadow to grow above height of paths.	Lengthsman Volunteers
Path management	Cut-and-collect paths to 5 cm as required during growing season to keep grass below 10 cm. <i>Paths to be created around Meadow as illustrated in separate drawing. This will allow residents easy access to all areas including viewpoint looking across The Ham.</i>	Lengthsman
Hedge cutting	Rotational management - cut on a 3-year cycle with alternative areas cut annually in January or February. Allow standard trees to grow at regular intervals. Cuttings to brush piles or compost areas.	Lengthsman
Tree Management	Trees around site checked to ensure that they are safe. Young trees watered if necessary during Summer periods of drought.	RPC tree inspection schedule Volunteers monitor
Bulbs & Edges	Tidy bulbs under trees after flowering – strim edges near fences to neighbouring properties. Strim edges on other sides to keep nettles, thistles and brambles in check.	Lengthsman
Bat & Bird Boxes	Bi-monthly Check bird/bat nest boxes	Volunteers - TA
Viewpoint Seating	Check current bench / install additional bench	RPC – MD
Overall site check	Bi-monthly Clear litter, check bench, and fences.	Volunteer team MD & TA

- Do not cut the meadow areas during the summer months (April - late July), leave some areas of meadow uncut each year, and always collect arisings (to be taken to the compost areas)
- Vigorous plants may spread over the meadow area in the summer after seed sowing: plants such as dock and creeping thistle should be pulled or hoed in July.
- If the meadow growth is too vigorous, an extra cut-and-collect mow can be done in early spring or a second cut can be taken in autumn.
- Maintain at least 30% cover of flowering shrubs and scrub in the scrub area.
- No fertilisers should be used in the park and pesticides should be avoided whenever possible.
- Any new plants should be UK native species, preferably of local stock. No peat or peat-grown plants should be used in the area.

**Monitoring and species recording:**

The condition of the meadow should be monitored, and photos should be taken of the site each year to help keep track of changes.

Species recording can be extremely useful for future management of the site and wildlife conservation in general. Records should be submitted to Worcestershire Biological Records Centre (<http://www.wbrc.org.uk/WBRC/index.html>).

**Things to remember:** Review plan 2028 - Sketch plan showing Recreation Ground.

