

REMENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the face-2-face meeting held on 10th May 2022 starting at 7:15pm and finishing at 8:00pm (circulated 11th May 2022)

PRESENT Cllrs John Halsall (Chairman/Vice Chair)
Franky Cookson (FC)
Polly Hogan (PH)
Darrel Poulos (DP)
Nigel Williams (NW)
The Clerk: Paul Sermon (TC)

In attendance: Linda Ashwell (LA); David Cook (DC); Natalie Michell/Grace (NMG); Peter Grace (PG); Wai Ye Harmer (WH); Chris Leeming (CL); Jacky Ronald (JR); Sarah Pope (SP); Marilyn Sermon (MS); Pat Sly (PSI); Margaret Spralley (MSp)

039/22: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies for absence from Bill Ronald (BR) and John Merkel (JM) who was unwell.

040/22: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

041/22: ELECTION; JH said that BR had agreed to act as Chairman and that for 6-months he was acting as Vice-Chairman. This was seconded and approved. NMG, PG and CL asked if some candidates wishing to stand had been prevented from doing so in the recent RPC election and about the legitimacy of the leaflet circulated under an RPC logo that mentioned only some candidates. The Clerk had reported previously to WBC Governance that he had not been involved in and knew nothing of any candidacy or election leaflet mentioning only some candidates. He agreed to circulate relevant Declaration of Interest forms to elected Cllrs for completion.

042/22: MINUTES OF THE MEETING

It was AGREED that JH be authorised to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 14th March 2022 with these then being countersigned by BR before the next meeting (confirming these as a true record of that meeting). JH had asked for the April 2022 RPC meeting not to go ahead.

043/22: MATTERS ARISING & ACTION LIST

The Clerk reported on matters arising and the action list. He updated the meeting on the RPC commemorative bench on the towpath that was showing signs of decay. CL suggested that rather than replace the bench trees should be planted. The Clerk mentioned that WBC Enforcement had closed the case of land clearance on Aston Lane.

044/22: PLANNING

Two planning applications were considered by the meeting (221304 and 221274). There was discussion involving DC about the earlier WBC requirements in 221274 on the wall facing the Thames. It was AGREED that more information was required. The Clerk was asked to obtain more information and circulated possible RPC comments to Cllrs for approval.

045/22: CIL PROJECTS

The Clerk asked the meeting to note CIL expenditure.

046/22: WEBSITE

FC presented April website statistics, where numbers were rising again. PSI said she was now receiving lots of enquiries relating to the hiring of the Parish Hall.

047/22: LICENSING AND EVENTS

JH said he was unsure of the current position. It was AGREED that The Clerk would investigate this as a matter of urgency.

048/22: TOWPATH, FOOTPATHS, TRAFFIC & HIGHWAYS

JH talked about needing to fight plans to close the towpath and of the importance of the Thames Path. FC described a meeting with WBC Highways the previous day, where she felt there had been progress on limiting the speed of vehicles on the A4130 near Middle Culham. She thought action would occur by mid-June. PH/FC raised the question of cows not being separated from pedestrians (or the river) in Ferry Lane Field and that as a result illegal water pollution might occur.

048/22: HENLEY MATTERS

It was AGREED that JM should continue to sit on the Townlands group and NATs and DP on the Henley Transport group.

049/22: FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Clerk had circulated statements showing current account activity. He asked the meeting to note that agreement to payments for MKR and PSI for 2nd generation downlights outside the Parish Hall wall had been approved. LA asked about RPC donations to CAB. The Clerk said that payments to Open Spaces and CAB had been approved. He thanked PSI for her sterling work on the internal audit of RPC over more than a decade and asked RPC to approve the use of Alison Jones (residing in Swiss Farm) for this year's internal audit. He asked the meeting to note the items in and costs of (without depreciation) RPC Fixed Asset Register which now was more than £10K.

050/22: ANY OTHER MATTERS

Michael Dudley had raised to question of how widely GigaClear were installing fast optical-fibre broadband but there was no time to consider this matter. The Clerk provided the history of information provided by GigaClear and that commercially-sensitive maps were not provided. RPC had advised residents/businesses at the start of 2021 to enquire whether they were covered by the scheme. PG and SL asked again about candidate nominations and a leaflet describing some candidates under an RPC logo in the recent RPC election. The Clerk had already indicated to WBC Governance that he had known nothing about candidate nominations or any election leaflets (even when they carried the RPC logo).

051/22: APM notes in Appendix.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Mon 13th June 2022 at 6:00pm in the Parish Hall face-2-face.

ACTIONS:

BR: to countersign the minutes of the meeting held on 14th March 2022
TC: to circulate relevant forms to Cllrs for completion
to gather further information on two planning applications (221304 and 221274) and circulated possible RPC comments to Cllrs for approval
to investigate with King's Chambers the position on the strategy of the cumulative impact of events in Remenham
pay MKR and PSI for PH downlights
to talk to Alison Jones about this year's internal audit

APPENDIX: Minute 051/22:

Notes of the 2022 Remenham APM (circulated 11th May)

Held in the Parish Hall on 10th May at 8-9:10pm (minute 051/22)

Those present included those at the 7:15pm RPC and AMPC meetings.

Following refreshments, John Halsall outlined what had been achieved in the last year in Remenham. He mentioned planning, the cumulative impact of events and Community Assets. In subsequent discussion there was mention of The Flower Pot and The Little Angel in the context of Community Assets.

The Clerk then gave key data on the financial position of RPC, where

- (i) fixed assets had increased
- (ii) the pattern of expenditure had been similar to previous years
- (iii) reserves had risen a little but these included CIL money that ought to be spent in 2022. JH and DP explained the nature of CIL monies and The Clerk said that RPC had benefitted from CIL money from about three planning/building approved by WBC.

The Clerk indicated the range of CIL projects being moved forward ((a) the area in front of the Parish Hall, (b) traffic speed signs, (c) the wild trail long the A321, (d) the parking at Ferry Lane, Aston). He said that residents would soon receive a draft document being drafted by Andy Meader on the area in front of the Parish Hall and a wild trail alongside the A321 (Wargrave Road) with an ECOSA biodiversity survey recommending how we might better retain/improve our environment. RPC would welcome comments. DC said he thought the area in front of the Parish Hall and the wild trail site were best left untouched. DC suggested that RPC should rather introduce flower baskets on the 10 or so lampposts leading to Henley Bridge and that the trees felled in the same area should be replaced. He thought the Remenham side of the bridge did not compare with that on the Oxfordshire side of the bridge. LA reminded the meeting that WBC had thwarted earlier RAG attempts at introducing bulbs on verges. MSp said that older residents living near the bridge needed clear pavements from Thameside to the bridge to ensure they remained active. WH asked about improved speed indicators on the 30mph section of the A4130 White Hill. The Clerk said that WestcoTec were hoping to deliver WBC-Highways approved SIDs within the next 3 months. There was discussion about temporary enforcement cameras operative by volunteer residents. Many present appeared to be interested. In subsequent discussion The Clerk agreed to email NMG to initiate resident's discussions. PSI was asked about Jubilee events in June and talked of a musical concert, a flower festival and the need for cakes, etc for a garden party.

PG and SL again asked if some candidates wishing to stand had been blocked in the recent RPC election and about the legitimacy of the leaflet circulated under an RPC logo that mentioned only some candidates. The Clerk had already indicated when asked by WBC Governance that he had not been involved in any candidacy or election leaflet. JH closed the meeting.

Subsequently The Clerk gathered the following Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) information and indicated that this needs to be spent in 2022 if possible, adding that the views of residents should continue to be sought through an advisory resident's group (as with the colour of Tegula paving) that would operate specifically in 2022 until current CIL is spent.

SLIDES FOR THE VIRTUAL RPC MEETING 14/12/2020 SAID

Remenham Parish Council (RPC) - Regulation 121B Monitoring Report

RPC uses CIL monies to fund — the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure or anything else addressing the demands that development places on the Parish. RPC is required to report on its website CIL

Chairman

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13th June 2022

expenditure no later than 31st Dec 2021. Regulation 59E says that WBC will recover CIL monies not spent within 5 years of receipt.

RPC MINUTE 113/20 SAID

113/20: The Clerk said that RPC CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) receipts were now more than £30,000 and that it would be sensible to consider CIL expenditure early in 2021 as non-wage expenditure (currently about £12,000 was lower than expected – even after payment for oak towpath signs). This was AGREED.

SLIDES FOR THE VIRTUAL RPC MEETING 08/02/2021 SAID

CIL Projects - there should be resident's input. For example, on Tegula paving SA thought that a reddish paving block would match the wall better. NG preferred a grey paving block that matched the road. SP also gave feedback.

Suggested CIL items have been:

CIL project (for Feb 2021 RPC)	Approval received	Required	
Tegula paving outside the Parish Hall (£14000)	PCC, Parish Hall Comm, Father Tayler, Resident's panel	WBC Highways	WBC Highways
Westcotec speed indication signs on A4130 (£8485)		WBC Traffic Management	WBC Traffic Management
Parish ecological-biodiversity survey and 2.5m x 700m wild trail work (£9280)		WBC Property	WBC Property
Large Litter bin in Ferry Lane (£1000 including fixing)	WBC		