

## REMENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held virtually after a decision by the Chairman on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2022 starting at 6:02pm and finishing at 8:02pm (circulated 14<sup>th</sup> June 2022)

**PRESENT** Cllrs Bill Ronald (BR) (Chairman)  
Polly Hogan (PH)  
John Merkel (JM)  
Darrel Poulos (DP)  
Nigel Williams (NW)  
The Clerk: Paul Sermon (TC)

In attendance: David Cook (DC), Peter Grace (PG), Chris Leeming (CL), Pat Sly (PSI), Mark, Sue Perry-Whitehead

### **052/22: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were apologies from Franky Cookson (FC) and John Halsall (JH).

### **053/22: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

NW declared and interest in one planning matter. Following the May election, The Clerk had distributed declaration of interest forms and asked councillors (apart from Polly) to fill these in and will submit completed ones.

### **054/22: MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

It was AGREED that JH be authorised to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022 (confirming these as a true record of that meeting) – subject to a correction requested by PG relating to the election process. JM commented that co-opting was available going forward. It was AGREED the Clerk would find out about maximum numbers of RPC councillors (currently 7).

### **055/22: MATTERS ARISING & ACTION LIST**

The actions taken by The Chairman and The Clerk were noted.

### **056/22: PLANNING**

There was a brief discussion on two applications for tree work. For 221515 it was noted that the proposed extension could not be seen from the A4130 and that if the volume increase was modest the matter should be left to WBC Planning. On 221488 it was felt RPC should make no comment. RPC had already commented on 221274 but having considered an update from the applicants and neighbours it was felt an appropriate outcome could be reached. CL said that in an ideal world retrospective planning applications would not be considered.

### **057/22: CIL PROJECTS**

The Clerk provided the meeting with an update on CIL projects.

It was AGREED that the flood risk assessment for the area to be paved in front of the Parish Hall wall should be undertaken (as a prerequisite of a planning application). Andy Meader had provided an outline for the proposed planning application for this area. It was felt that no parking controls should be included. There was discussion about whether feedback from residents should be sought before planning submission in July, but no decision was reached. JM said this would not pre-empt comments made by residents after submission. It was thought updated tenders for paving would be needed.

The Clerk said the ECOSA initial summary was lacking in detail and that the quality of the final report would need to be improved. JM agreed to oversee the ECOSA biodiversity report. CL asked whether funds could be set aside to deliver a better environment in Remenham. JM asked whether there could now be regular reporting of water quality in the Parish.

The Clerk described the current position in discussions with Copas. It was AGREED that these should be part of CIL expenditure. Copas had agreed to RPC funding (i) the replacement its one bench on the towpath (with a traditional wooden bench retaining its citation for long service to RPC), (ii) the widening one towpath gate and (iii) the provision/installation of one defibrillator near one of its substations, subject to their having final approval of selected items. PH and DP agreed to finalise the bench and defibrillator decisions for the July meeting.

**058/22: LICENSING AND EVENTS**

The Clerk confirmed that he had spoken with Kings Chambers about the JH steer on licensing advice. He would report back as soon as he knows the position. BR said there were two issues – establishing a fair framework and then containing future growth.

**059/22: TOWPATH, FOOTPATHS, TRAFFIC & HIGHWAYS**

The Clerk reported one enquiry about a commemorative bench on the towpath. CL commented that trees were better than benches. PH said she was happy to deal with this matter. This was AGREED.

There was a discussion about damage done to verges by GigaClear contractors and the fragmented nature of their fibre rollout. The Clerk said he had taken the matter up with GigaClear. It was AGREED he would invite GigaClear to answer questions at the July meeting.

CL mention a cyclist injured near the bridge. PH thought that the approach to the bridge should be improved. PH asked if she could attend the next RPC-Highways meeting. The Clerk said he would ensure this.

**060/22: FINANCIAL MATTERS**

The Clerk circulated a summary of all recent current account activity (Appendix 1) and received approval for all payments to be made this month (meeting a point made by DP) (Appendix 2). Two NatWest forms updating existing standing orders were signed. The internal audit was approved after it was noted that the internal auditor (Alison Jones) had found no issues. The Audit Commission Accounting Statements (see Appendix 3) were presented to the meeting. These were read and approved by all councillors present. The Chairman and The Clerk signed and dated the Annual Governance Statement and the accounting Statement. Paperwork will now be prepared, submitted to the external auditor (PKF) and placed on the Parish website (and noticeboard) so that they are available to all residents.

**061/22: ANY OTHER MATTERS**

PSI asked the Clerk to look into the operation of the street light near Felicity Rutland and reminded the meeting that trailers for the HWR were already arriving in Remenham Lane. PG asked if future meetings could be at a later time to help those working and increase public attendance. It was AGREED that for the July meeting the time should remain unchanged, but matter could be reconsidered in the future.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING** (after that on the 24<sup>th</sup> January): Mon 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 6:00pm.

**ACTIONS:**

JH and BR will sign off/counter-sign amended May minutes

*The Clerk will:*

amend May minutes/notes and ask JH to sign off and BR to countersign

submit to WBC completed declaration of interest forms

ascertain the maximum number of councillors allowed and co-opting options available going forward