

MINUTES OF RIMINGTON & MIDDOP PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2016
AT 7.30 PM

Present: Bob Whittaker (Chair), Brian Berry, John Parker, Borough Cllr Richard Sherras, Clerk and one member of the public (Mr Bob Hewitt)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Kate Hooper, Chris Smith

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None

MINUTES OF MEETING OF 17 AUGUST 2016

The Minutes of the meeting of 17 August 2016 were accepted as a true record of proceedings at that meeting and duly signed.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Hewitt remarked that roadside hedges and verges appeared to have been left a long time before any cutting back and strimming had taken place. It was explained that this appeared to be the deliberate policy of Lancs Highways who were mostly responsible for work on roadside vegetation and had affected other localities too. Mr Hewitt also remarked that some of the drains in the village looked like they needed attention. Bob Whittaker responded that he had seen the gully-sucker in the village but did not know how often Lancs CC sent it to Rimington. There was discussion regarding a deep pothole on Back Lane which Bob Whittaker agreed to report via the online reporting system.

MATTERS ARISING

Bob Whittaker advised that the defibrillator was now in place in a cabinet and notices regarding its location had been placed in and around the village. Bob Whittaker advised that he had personally chosen the defibrillator cabinet and, due to budgetary constraints, had not purchased a cabinet with a heater as these were too costly. It was explained that the defibrillator was in a porch area so was afforded some protection from the elements but was still classed as being in an outside location. A representative of the NW Ambulance Service had inspected the defibrillator and declined to sign off the device due to the lack of a heated cabinet. It was agreed that the decision of the NW Ambulance Service should be challenged in the first instance but also that an amount be placed in the 2017/18 budget to purchase a cabinet which would be acceptable to the Ambulance Service. John Parker advised that there was now also a defibrillator at Todber Caravan Park which was probably nearer to several houses in the parish than the defibrillator at the Memorial Institute.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Current Account: £554

ACCOUNTS FOR APPROVAL

Bob Whittaker	(Reimbursement for defibrillator cabinet)	£167.00
BDO LLP	(External audit fee)	£48.00

PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET 2017/18

The Clerk tabled a draft budget for the financial year 2017/18 noting that the figures were intended as a starting point for discussion. It was explained that there was a likelihood of some additional income of up to £312 in 2017/18 due to a potential claim under RVBC's concurrent functions scheme. Items of expenditure were discussed and it was agreed refurbishment of benches and noticeboards in the parish should be undertaken. It was also noted that there would be a small amount of expenditure on the street name project although the bulk of the spend would be covered by the RVBC Parish Council grant. The Clerk's salary would remain at its current level with the proviso that it could be reviewed in the next calendar year. It was agreed to retain an amount for donations but further agreed that this may need to be revised downwards if circumstances dictated. It was agreed not to subscribe to Clerks and Councils Direct nor to continue with membership of the CPRE. It was ultimately agreed that the precept request to RVBC remain at £4,000 for 2017/18.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

3/2016/0988 Land adjacent to Manor Farm, Rimington Lane

It was agreed that the proposed dwelling, of a contemporary design, would be visually intrusive, out-of-keeping with neighbouring properties and inappropriate for the location and that an objection should be lodged with RVBC. Borough Cllr Sherras commented that he envisaged receiving comments of a similar nature from certain residents.

CORRESPONDENCE

a) Parliamentary Constituency Review

A letter from RVBC had been previously circulated advising that the full Borough Council had voted to reject the Boundary Commission Parliamentary proposal for the Ribble Valley and had suggested counter proposals which would keep the Ribble Valley borough in one parliamentary constituency. After discussion it was agreed to support RVBC's stance and that an appropriate letter should be sent to the Boundary Commission.

b) RVBC Concurrent Functions Grant scheme

The Clerk advised that a proportion of the grant made to Rimington Recreation Association was potentially recoverable under the above scheme, depending on the use to which the money had been put. It was noted that a written receipt and confirmation as to what the money had been

used for would be necessary in order to make a claim. John Parker agreed to ask the necessary questions at a forthcoming meeting of the Association.

c) *BT Consultation re public payphones*

The Rimington payphone was on the list of telephone kiosks which BT intended to decommission due to lack of use. Parish councils were being granted the option to purchase the kiosks for £1 if needed for an alternative use. It was noted that the Rimington payphone had not worked for a considerable amount of time and there were no objections to its removal nor did the Parish Council wish to assume responsibility for the kiosk for another purpose.

REPORTS

1. *Borough Councillor*

Richard Sherras commented on the Parliamentary constituency review and the ward changes also proposed at County and Borough level. It was noted that most of the changes at Ribble Valley Borough level would take place in Clitheroe, Whalley and Longridge, all of which had seen population growth due to increased development.

2. *RVBC Parish Councils Liaison Committee*

Bob Whittaker noted that the main topics discussed at the PCLC had been the removal of certain BT payphones and various electoral reviews by the Boundary Commission, items already considered elsewhere on the Agenda.

3. *Rimington Recreation Association*

John Parker noted that the recent planning application by the Association had been approved by RVBC. The Association had held a successful bonfire and fireworks event in early November.

4. *Rimington Memorial Institute*

Bob Whittaker advised that the usual events continued to take place at the Institute and that a Christmas dinner event, arranged by the Recreation Association, was to be held on 3 December 2016 at the Institute.

5. *Clerk*

The Clerk advised that she had taken possession of the external audit report earlier in the evening. The only matter to be brought to the attention of the Parish Council was a minor issue regarding the erroneous categorisation of a grant from RVBC which the Clerk advised was a common mistake. The completed and certified Annual Return was duly accepted and approved by the Parish Council.

6. *Highways and Footpaths*

Borough Cllr Sherras advised that he had completed his work on detailing the footpaths within the parish and had recorded his work on a CD, a copy of which he was proposing to provide to the person responsible for the village website.

CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLOR

It was noted that, following publication of the requisite notice, no nominations for the vacant post had been received so it was in order for the Council to consider co-opting a suitable individual onto the Council. After discussion it was agreed to approach Mrs Jacqui Lynch, who had previously expressed an interest in serving on the Council, to see if she was still interested in becoming a Parish Councillor.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was agreed that items i) ii) iii) and iv) had been already covered under the discussion regarding the 2017/18 budget.

v) Junction of Station Road/Back Lane

It was reported that concerns had been raised by a resident and representatives of the Recreation Association that certain drivers were not exiting carefully at the above junction. It was agreed, judging from the personal experiences of those present, that the problem did not lie with Rimington residents who did stop at the junction but with those from outside the village attending fixtures and events at the Recreation ground. It was further agreed that provision of any road signs deemed necessary at the junction was the responsibility of Lancs Highways, not the Parish Council.

It was noted that the hedges along Howgill Lane remained uncut despite an indication that they would be trimmed in late September. As there continued to be complaints about the hedges it was agreed that the matter should be raised with Lancs Highways.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 22 February 2017 at 7.30 pm