**Minutes of Ramsgreave Parish Council Meeting Held 17th May 2022**

**at 7.00pm at Wilpshire Church.**

**Present** Kathryn Berzins, Kath Webster, Pat Young, Peter Ainsworth, Lindsay Wright.

**In attendance** – one member of public, R Greenwood, Clerk

**ITEM 1 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Bibby and Hirst.

**ITEM 2 Declarations of interest.**

2.1 To complete the updated declaration of interest forms.

2.2 Kathryn Berzins declared an interest in Peak and Northern Footpaths Society

2.3 Kathryn Webster declared an interest in planning application 3/2022/0427.

**ITEM 3 Minutes of the last meeting**

3.1 The minutes of the meeting held 22nd February 2022 were signed as a true record.

**ITEM 8 Public Engagement / Participation** was moved to here. One member of public attended the parish council meeting to ask questions.

8.1 Why was the parish council meeting held so far from the parish? KB answered that this was a financial decision as the Wilpshire Meeting Rooms charged £20 per meeting rather than the £35 charged at Brownhill. The meetings would be held at Wilpshire for this year but the plan was to move to Brownhill the following year.

8.2 Why was Ramsgreave Road not mowed. KB answered that the parish council used to pay a contractor £480 a year to mow the entire embankment which was not cost efficient and was also very bad for wildlife. The council therefore employed it’s own lengsthman and adopted a policy of encouraging biodiversity and the mowing schedule called ‘No Mow May’. There were some problems last year due to a broken strimmer which meant the full mow in October was not fully done. The new Lengthsman will commence mowing a 2 meter strip at the end of May, or before if visibility is affected. The wildflowers that grow on the embankment are photographed and displayed on the noticeboard.

8.3 Why was there no street cleaning in Ramsgreave and concerns re blocked drains. He was informed that all blocked drains have been reported. Street cleaning is the responsibility of RVBC and the clerk will contact the Borough Councillors regarding street cleaning.

8.4 Concern was raised about the amount of litter on the track at the railway station. This has been regularly reported to Network Rail who have a schedule of litter picking but the community litter pickers are not able to tackle it.

**ITEM 4 Accounts**

4.1 The accounts have been to internal audit, it was resolved that the Parish Council would have a full audit (proposed by KB, seconded KW), the Chair to sign the AGAR.

4.2 To accept the income from the Precept and from PNFS

4.3 Invoices presented for payment.

| Chq 431 | Room Hire x two meetings | £50.00 |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Chq 432 | Paul Mollart to repair footpath 4 | £3505.00 |
| Chq 463 | HMRC | £94.00 |
| Chq 464 | Clerk wage R Greenwood | £376.00 |
| Chq 465 | Office, stamps ink etc | £32.64 |
| Chq 466 | Outside Office for Internal Audit | £30.00 |
| Chq 467 | Ribble Valley Concrete, for allotment from Lottery Fund | £234.00 |
| Chq 468 | LALC | £137.83 |

4.4 Consideration was given to BACS payments for the parish council. The clerk advised that it would take 3 actions to do and that the payments would have to be approved at the meetings first. This was not considered easy to do so in the meantime things will continue as they are.

4.5 Kathryn Webster has been added to the bank mandate meaning that she, Kathryn Berzins and Lindsay Wright are able to sign cheques.

**ITEM 5 Governance,**

5.1 The Code of Conduct and Complaints Policies were reviewed, details of the Chair and dates were updated.

5.2 The Financial Policy was reviewed, it was resolved that any contractor to be asked to have the appropriate insurance in place.

5.3 The Grants Policy remains suspended as the Parish Council cannot currently afford to give grants, this will be reviewed in one year. The Retention Policy has a formatting error – no changes were needed.

5.4 The Privacy and Communication Policies are to be updated to include the Parish Council’s social media activity.

5.5 The Standing Orders Policy was reviewed and will now include clearer headings.

5.6 It was resolved that the new Family Friendly and Wellbeing Policy be accepted. This will cover sickness, maternity/paternity and carers responsibilities. Proposed KB, Seconded PY

**ITEM 6 Planning**

## 3/2022/0294 6 Isle of Man, No objections.

3/2022/0421 21 Paris, Objections were raised and sent to RVBC for publication on their website.

3/2022/0427 Pleckgate Road, no objections.

**ITEM 7 Highways, traffic issues, and Public Rights of Ways**

7.1 Ramsgreave Road, it was resolved to consult residents about the way forward with the ongoing speeding concerns, residents will be encouraged to submit dashcam footage of dangerous driving via  [**https://unitedkingdom1cpp-portal.digital-policing.co.uk/lancashire/appeal/public-dashcam-submission**](https://unitedkingdom1cpp-portal.digital-policing.co.uk/lancashire/appeal/public-dashcam-submission)

7.2 Consideration will be given to a resident-specific survey of Higher/Ramsgreave Road as there was some suggestion other parishes had potentially had more success over speed limits using this.

**7.3 Public Rights of way**

Following last years PNFS survey there are three footpath repairs still outstanding: the stile at the end of Isle of Man replaced with a gate, the waterlogged path in the field behind and the exit from that field at Ramsgreave Hall Barn. The Parish Council intends to facilitate these repairs as and when funding can be sourced. The first task will be to approach the land owner, the land is held in a legal trust, and if that is not successful a grant from LCC is due in the summer and this will allow an application to the Lancashire Environmental Fund to be considered.

Footpath 1 is also faulty with deep potholes rendering it inaccessible in wet weather. KB has suggested that LCC Highways provided 1-2 tonnes of road planings at no charge (due to it being a public route) and community volunteers will shovel it into the potholes. The PROW team are supportive of this suggestion. A response is awaited from LCC Highways.

**ITEM 8 Public engagement, newsletter and website.**

8.1 Public engagement was moved up the agenda.

**ITEM 9 Commemorations, Jubilee bench and War Memorial.**

9.1 The Commemorative bench will be delivered from next week. The ground needs the turf removing first.

9.2 The War Memorial plaque wording will be sent out for members approval at the September meeting.

**ITEM 10 Officers Reports**

10.1 There has been a report of vandalism of the fencing round Broadhead Farm. It would appear that this is one resident who is running his dogs in the field. This can be reported at <https://doitonline.lancashire.police.uk/PEDisclaimer/Create> or Crime Stoppers on <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/forms/give-information-anonymously>

10.2 Dog mess, concerns were raised about dog mess, this can be reported at <https://www.ribblevalley.gov.uk/dog-warden/dog-warden-1>

**ITEM 11 Volunteers, litter picking, gardening group**

11.1 The litter picking group continue to meet every month and were thanked for their work.

**ITEM 12 Allotment.**

12.1 The allotment is progressing very well, a full update was covered in the allotment subcommittee meeting.

**ITEM 13 Neighbourhood Watch.**

13.1 There are 8 registered Neighbourhood Watch Schemes in the Ramsgreave area on the Neighbourhood Watch website, it is generally organised at street level. Guidance of how to register a street will be put on our website. Further information can be found: <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/join>

 **ITEM 14 Climate Emergency Activities**

14.1 It was resolved that Ramsgreave Parish Council declare a climate emergency.

14.2 The result of this declaration is that the item becomes standard on the agenda.

14.3 As a very small Parish with few facilities it is difficult to adopt many of the recommended actions. We are already doing work to support biodiversity, promote walking, keep our parish clean and promote local food growing. It was decided that supporting individual behaviour change was a good way to extend this work. A series of regular posts will go up onto our social media highlighting ideas and tips for us all to consider. These will be seasonal and councillors are to bring suggestions to meetings, or directly to LW who will coordinate.

14.4 Consideration was given to the idea of running workshops from the allotment shed promoting community learning about relevant topics.

**ITEM 15 Feedback from other meetings.**

15.1 PY attended the Code of Conduct training at RVBC Chambers.

15.2 KB attended the LCC Highways conference.

**ITEM 16 Date of the next meeting**

* September 6th 2022 at 7.30pm
* November 15th 2022 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 21:12hrs