**Minutes of Ramsgreave Parish Council Meeting Held 6th September 2022**

**at 7.00pm at Wilpshire Church.**

**Present** Kathryn Berzins (Chair) Pat Young, Lindsay Wright, Peter Ainsworth, Cllr Stuart Hirst, Tony Gaffney.

**In attendance** R Greenwood, Clerk

**ITEM 1 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Kathryn Webster.

**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

**ITEM 3 Minutes of the last meeting**

3.1 The minutes of the meeting held May 2022 were signed as a true record.

**ITEM 4 Accounts**

4.1 The bank reconciliation was signed and approved.

4.2 To accept the income from the VAT Return and Concurrent Functions Grant.

4.3 Invoices presented for payment.

| Chq 469 | Northern Polytunnels – lottery funded | £1712.63 |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Chq 470 | Community First Insurance – paid via precept | £162.60 |
| Chq 471 | Barker Ross, - lottery funded children’s activities | £21.85 |
| Chq 472 | Pennine Walling – PROW funding | £200.00 |
| Chq 473 | LALC Training for parish councillors - paid via precept | £35.00 |
| Chq 474 | HMRC - paid via precept | £94.00 |
| Chq 475 | Clerk Salary for 3 months - paid via precept | £376.00 |
| Chq 476 | Allotment items – lottery funded | £250.56 |

4.4 Approved for payment is an invoice, via the lottery fund, for Planthire at £283.20. Proposed PY and seconded LW.

4.5 The parish council has met its original obligation for reserves set in 2020 and is now solvent according to that metric. The subsequent aim is to achieve £787 in reserves to meet National Association of Local Authorities best practice guidance having the equivalent of three months running costs. This will be achieved via the 2023 VAT return.

4.6 The parish council has approved the next years finances for the lengthsman, this will be paid at £12 p/h Proposed KB and Seconded LW

**ITEM 5 Planning**

| 3/2022/0541 | Tanner House Farm Higher Ramsgreave Road | No objections |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |
| 3/2022/0618 | Land adjacent 25 Paris | No objections |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 3/2022/0633 | Croft Cottage Ramsgreave Hall Farm Higher Ramsgreave Road | No objections |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 3/2022/0669` | 21 Knowsley Road, | No objections. |  |
|  |  |  |  |

**ITEM 6 Emergency Planning Resources.**

## September is annual ‘preparedness’ month. The parish council are to share emergency planning resources via social media. These are small changes we can all implement to reduce our personal risks of current threats. The #30days30ways project will be used to do this.

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

7.1 Jubilee Trail – this was moved to the first item on the agenda. The jubilee trail is a 65 mile walk around the Ribble Valley and passes through Ramsgreave. The Mayor Cllr Stuart Hirst attended the meeting to promote this and the three connected charities. This will be shared on social media and a leaflet put on the noticeboards. TG shared some helpful information about a £1000 Green Grant that does not require match funding. KB will investigate as it remains the longer term plan to replace stiles across the parish PROWs.

7.2 Cllr Schofield has contacted LCC Highways about the junction of Saccary Lane / Higher Ramsgreave Road - Mellor Lane / Barker Lane and the inability to see out of the junction. The parish council had requested a mirror but like all requests to improve the safety of out roads, LCC Highways refused. LCC have sent out, at some great expense, a banner and bin stickers requesting people slow down and save lives. The bin stickers are stored in the allotment shed and will be made available to any resident who would like one. The banner will be put up in a suitable place when a councillor has time to do this. it could be placed at the first bend on Ramsgreave Road if the landowner agrees.

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

8.1There is going to be a new newsletter in 2023 to each home. The template from last year will be used. KB and LW will agree content and provide a proof at the November meeting. It will be funded from the Lottery grant as it will be dominated by that project this year. Social media is steadily attracting more followers and the website and noticeboard continue to be updated regularly.

**ITEM 9 Jubilee bench and War Memorial**

9.1 The Jubilee bench has been installed and there has been positive feedback from residents. It is being frequently used. RVBC provided a Jubilee tree that was planted next to the bench but sadly there have been issues with the tree being damaged and six branches cut off. The damage was reported to the police who made inquiries locally in an attempt to identify the perpetrator. There has been no subsequent damage since the police came out.

9.2 The War Memorial planter is in situ and has been planted up including some perennial poppies. The brass commemoration plaque will be ordered and attached to the war memorial planter for November. The text was agreed at the meeting. The victim with the missing address has been shared on social media with no response. The only remaining way to find the address is to look at the electoral roll for 1945-1950. KB has been in contact with LCC archives about visiting their office in Preston to do this.

9.3 The PC is due to receive 15 small trees from the Woodland Trust in November. Some of these will be planted on the grass by the bench, although not so many that the area feel closed in and unsafe. The surplus trees will be planted around the parish including by the postbox, lower down on the embankment, the allotment garden area or anywhere else suggested by residents that will not impose on anyone’s light or view. The trees are all small varieties including crab apple and rowan.

**ITEM 10 Officers Reports**

**10.1** PCSO Pembertons report:In July there was an assault on the train station platform which Blackburn officers are dealing with. Officers have done some cctv checks around the immediate area and Transport police are involved.

A resident that lives on Mayfield Road emailed Alan Schofield regarding the speeding of vehicles on the upper part of Ramsgreave Road. PCSO Pemberton assured her she does what she can in the way of speed gun (last done in Ramsgreave on the 9th Aug).

10.2 KW will be taking 6 months off from the parish council’s active duties for maternity leave but will remain available to authorise payments and keep up to date with all information.

10.3 Clerks Report: the clerk has given her notice to finish with the parish council but will be available to support, and train her replacement. In the interim, the clerk will take advice on the councillors taking their own minutes until the new clerk is in post. The clerk was thanked for her work which has been absolutely crucial in the renewal of the parish council over the past three years. An advert for a new clerk will be circulated. Training will be paid for by the PC for a successful candidate if required.

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

11.1 The litter picking group continue to meet every month and were thanked for their work. The community gardeners continue to work on small areas around the parish and have had more success with a new patch of flowers this year by the station as well as the now well established verge of herbs on Moorfield.

**ITEM 12 Allotment**

12.1 The allotment is progressing on track; a full update was covered in the allotment subcommittee meeting.

**ITEM 13 Climate Emergency Activities**

13.1 The parish council continues to be committed to encouraging measures to mitigate climate breakdown and actively sharing information for all on how we can make small changes to contribute to this.

**ITEM 14 Date of the next meeting**

* November 15th 2022 at 7.30pm. 7.00 for the allotment subcommittee.

The meeting closed at 9pm