



RAMSGREAVE PARISH COUNCIL – ANNUAL OPEN PARISH MEETING

c/o: 14 Longridge Road, Chipping, Preston Lancashire, PR32D,

Email:- clerk.ramsgreavepc@gmail.com

Minutes of **Annual Open Parish Meeting and Meeting of Electors** held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 9 May 2023 at Wilpshire Methodist Church

In attendance: Kathryn Berzins, Lindsay Wright, Kathryn Webster.
Two members of the public.

1	Apologies for absence. Mike Hill – Responsible Financial Officer
2	Approve minutes for the Annual Open Parish Meeting held on 17th May 2022. Approved by all Cllrs.
3	<p>Annual Report from the Chair.</p> <p>Ramsgreave Parish Council May 2023 - Chair's report by Kathryn Berzins</p> <p>I'd like to take this opportunity to summarise the past year's activities of Ramsgreave Parish Council.</p> <p>We have held the required four meetings this year and continue to meet in Wilpshire Methodist Church, primarily for financial reasons, we still intend to move to a venue nearer to our parish in due course. A decision will be taken on that at next year's AGM.</p> <p>Council Members and employees</p> <p>The current members of council are: Kathryn Berzins (Chair), Lindsay Wright (Vice Chair) and Kathryn Webster. Peter Ainsworth and Pat Young did not stand for re-election on May 4th and their terms of office ended on 6th May. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for all their support over the past year and to thank Peter Ainsworth and Pat Young for their service on the Parish Council over previous years. This evening Kath Webster will be standing down and I want to thank her for her contributions over the years and I know she will remain a close friend and ally of the Council. Lindsay and I will provide continuity going forward and I especially want to thank Lindsay for her exceptionally hard work over the past year, particularly with the allotment committee and having to take more responsibility with Kath being on maternity leave, her contributions are greatly appreciated. We are delighted to be co-opting three new councillors, all residents of our parish, in the following meeting. They are Susie Duerden, Nabila Parekh and Liz Woodruff. This will be the first time in many years that Ramsgreave has been represented on the Parish Council entirely by local residents. We warmly welcome our new councillors and look forward to working with them.</p> <p>Rachel Greenwood resigned as Clerk and we employed Mike Hill as our Responsible Financial Officer. Non-financial clerking duties are now undertaken by councillors, for</p>

example, agendas and minuting and research around issues that arise. Our thanks to Rachel for her work over the years and to Mike for his work so far.

Adam Pearson of Shore Farm continues as our lengthman and has done a wonderful job over the past twelve months, we look forward to working with him over the next year.

Finance

Our financial position is once again, stronger than the previous year and we now have the reserves required as minimum as recommended by NALC. We have achieved this through careful management, reclaiming VAT on purchases and reducing our clerk costs. We have kept our precept low and hopefully we demonstrate value for money to our residents. Our general model remains that of using the precept to run the council itself and applying for grant income to support specific projects.

This year we have successfully bid for grants from the Royal Horticultural Society £2,500, Lancashire Environmental Fund £650, LCC £500 for PROW and £300 for biodiversity projects. We have also applied for and received £1000 from RVBC for commemorative projects. In total an additional £4,950 of funding for our parish. We are currently awaiting news as to whether our funding application for a composting toilet at the allotment has been successful. This would represent another £5,000 of investment.

Planning

We now only comment on planning applications where there are concerns, this is on the advice of RVBC. We have commented on two planning applications this year. I became very involved in the objections to the major development proposed for Salesbury View which would have significant impacts on our Parish, this was withdrawn, although we expect another application to be submitted soon.

Training

We have not undertaken any training this year but our three new councillors will be offered introductory training over the next few months.

Liaison

We have liaised with Ribble Valley Borough Council, Lancashire Association for Local Councils and Lancashire County Council. We have worked with Network Rail, Royal Horticultural Society Britain in Bloom NW, the community police, our local borough councillors, county councillors and neighbouring parish councils.

We have reported numerous faults to LCC and RVBC either through our own concerns or those residents have told us about. We have had bollards replaced (eventually) and reported blocked drains, broken signs and potholes.

Commemoration

We installed our war memorial and for the first time the residents of our parish killed during the world wars are commemorated here in the parish in which they lived. Our webpage gives more details about these residents and we can add to this when new material becomes available, we have been supported with this work by local historians and we are very grateful for their input.

We have also installed a commemorative bench and new tree to commemorate the late Queen's platinum jubilee, we have had positive feedback about this from residents. We are currently considering how to commemorate the Coronation. These activities were all funded by grants from RVBC.

Footpaths

We have continued with improvements to PROW, negotiating permission to install a pedestrian gate at the end of Isle of Man and then submitting a successful funding application to Lancashire Environmental Fund. We have also filled potholes on the bridge outside the allotment, had part of a wall rebuilt on footpath 4 and plan to have rain damage repaired on the same path.

Environment

	<p>We have reported two flytips, including dead animals dumped in the united utilities field. Our community litter pick has run every month and is now in its fifth year, a huge thank you to all the volunteers.</p> <p>Our community gardeners have continued planting around the parish. The barrel planters are about to be renewed for summer, again in red, white and blue for the coronation. We are in the midst of No Mow May and our embankment is thriving and our community garden at the front of the allotment is becoming more of a focus as we move on from the large infrastructure tasks.</p> <p>Highways</p> <p>We continue to campaign for a sensible speed limit on Higher / Ramsgreave Road. We are currently trying to arrange speed monitoring devices. We will continue our fight and hope that we can eventually make our parish safer for the pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders that are so vulnerable to speeding traffic.</p> <p>Communication with residents</p> <p>Through chatting to people in person or telephone, via facebook, or email we hear lots of thoughts, views and concerns. Our facebook and website are frequently updated and have become an important way of communicating with people. We continue to keep the noticeboard and the noticeboard at the station up to date. We have issued another newsletter to all residents and received some very positive feedback.</p> <p>Allotment</p> <p>The allotment has almost completed its infrastructure phase, we have built a shed, polytunnel and shaded patio and volunteers are currently building a log cabin. We've installed four water tanks and collected 4000l of rainwater to hopefully see us through the summer. We managed to grow some veg last year but there is lots more growing there now. The path is currently being completed and will be the finishing touch. We have a core group of volunteers, most of whom are on the committee and plenty of regular visitors. We entered RHS NW Britain in Bloom and were delighted to be awarded a 'Level 3 Advancing' certificate. We have entered again this year and look forward to welcoming the judge back to see the developments.</p> <p>Plans and Priorities for 2022/23</p> <p>Our Parish Council's main priority in 2022/23 was to continue to develop the allotment as a community resource. We have made incredible progress in achieving this, our priority for 2023/24 will be to complete this task.</p> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>It has been incredibly rewarding to continue to see projects develop and some reach completion over this year. I want to thank the residents of Ramsgreave for all their support. I look forward to the coming year, welcoming our new councillors and carrying on our work.</p> <p>Appendix: Summary of activity for notice board and website</p>
4	<p>Receive the Draft Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2023.</p> <p>KB to sign. Will circulate once amended - headings incorrect.</p>
5	<p>Items brought to the meeting by the Electors of Ramsgreave.</p> <p>None</p>
6	<p>Open Forum.</p> <p>None</p>

Kathryn Berzins
Clerk to the Council.
Email: clerk.ramsgreavepc@gmail.com
Phone: 07855 183 444
web: www.ramsgreave.org.uk

7.25pm close



Ramsgreave
PARISH COUNCIL

Annual report May 2022/23

**Grant to install gate at
end of Isle of Man**

**300 newsletters
delivered**

**Finances: solvent,
increasing
reserves, precept
remains low**

**Allotment project awarded
Level 3 'Advancing' by RHS NW
Britain in Bloom**

**£4,950 raised
through
grants**

253 facebook followers

**Supported
community
gardening**

**Thank you
to everyone
for all your
support!**

**2 footpaths
maintained
and
repaired**

**2 planning
application
responses**

2 fly tips removed

**3 reports
to RVBC**

**4 Parish Council
meetings held**

**Installed
Jubilee bench
and tree**

**12 litter
picks**

**Priorities for 2022/23:
Finish establishing allotment project
Commission Coronation commemoration**