RAMSGREAVE PARISH COUNCIL – ANNUAL OPEN PARISH MEETING

Thursday 23rd May 2024

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

Email:- **clerk.ramsgreavepc@gmail.com**

In attendance: Kathryn Berzins, Lindsay Wright, Nabila Parekh, Liz Woodruff, Susie Duerden, Mike Hill RFO

1	Apologies for absence	None
2	Approve minutes for the Annual Open Parish Meeting held on 17th May 2022.	Agreed by all.
3	Annual Report from the Chair by Kathryn Berzins	I'd like to take this opportunity to summarise the past year's activities of Ramsgreave Parish Council. We have held the required four meetings this year and continue to meet in Wilpshire Methodist Church, primarily for financial reasons. **Council Members and employees** The current members of council are: Kathryn Berzins (Chair), Lindsay Wright (Vice Chair) and Liz Woodruff, Nabila Parekh and Susie Duerden and I would like to thank everyone for all their contributions over the past year. It is wonderful to have a council made up of local residents and I thank everyone for their efforts, you are all a pleasure to work with. Lindsay Wright has decided to stand down from the council this time after four year's service and I would like to thank her for her vast and varied contributions while on the Parish Council, she has been particularly influential in developing communications and our website. I know she will remain a friend and ally of the council and we all wish her well in her future ventures. Mike Hill has continued as our Responsible Financial Officer and his advice and wisdom has been hugely appreciated. Non-financial clerking duties will continue to be undertaken by councillors, for example, agendas and minuting and research around issues that arise. Adam Pearson of Shore Farm continues to do a wonderful job as our lengsthman and we look forward to working with him over the next year. **Finance** Our financial position is once again significantly stronger than the previous year and we now have well beyond the recommended reserves. We have achieved this through continuing careful management and reclaiming VAT on

DRAFT

purchases made from grant income. We have increased our precept this year but still only to cover our basic running costs and hopefully we continue to demonstrate value for money to 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 LCC £500 for PROW and £300 for biodiversity projects and £8750 from Ribble Valley Borough Council Rural Fund. We have also applied for and received £500 from RVBC for commemorative and seasonal projects. In total, an additional £10,050 of funding for our parish.

Planning

We have commented on the ongoing planning applications relating to the major development proposed for Salesbury View which would have significant impacts on our Parish, this was recommended for rejection by the planning officer due to its significant impact on the landscape. It was subsequently resubmitted but has yet to be decided.

Training

Two of our three new councillors have undertaken introductory training during this year.

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. We have had bollards replaced and some removed, reported blocked drains, broken signs and potholes.

Commemoration

We were awarded a grant to commemorate the Coronation and bought a recycled plastic planter that will replace the barrel planter by the station. We also applied for a grant from RVBC to support local community groups with celebratory activities, with this we funded the Christmas buffet at Wilpshire Methodist Church for 40 local residents , we also provide the same group with funding for Easter eggs and are supported a choir event at the United Reford Church for Alzheimers UK.

Footpaths

We have continued with repairs to PROW due to rain damage.

Environment

We have reported flytips and our community litter pick has run every month, now in its fifth year, a huge thank you to all the litter pickers.

Our community gardeners have continued planting around the parish. We continue to follow the Plantlife mowing schedule including No Mow May and our embankment is thriving.

Highways

We have installed deer warning signs to try to protect our local herds. We continue to campaign for a sensible speed limit on Higher / Ramsgreave Road. We are currently liaising with a working group of other councils to try to request speed reducing measures. 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.

Communication with residents

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. We continue to keep the noticeboard and the

DRAFT

		noticeboard at the station up to date. We have issued a third annual newsletter to all residents and received positive feedback. **Allotment** The allotment has completed its infrastructure phase with the completion of the path and addition of a log cabin and a bridge. The installation of the toilet will be the final major work, this will be carried out by contractors over coming weeks. We grew a lot more vegetables over last summer as well as adding more fruit trees as recommended by the RHS judges. We entered RHS NW Britain in Bloom and were delighted to be awarded a 'Level 4 Progressing' certificate. We have entered again this year and look forward to welcoming the judge back to see our final developments. **Plans and Priorities for 2022/23** Our Parish Council's priority in 2023/24 was to complete the development of the allotment which we have now achieved. Our priority for 24/25 is for this and other activities to become sustainable. **Conclusion** It has been incredibly rewarding to continue to see projects reach completion over this year. I want to thank again my fellow councillors and residents of Ramsgreave for their ongoing support. I look forward to us carrying on our work.
4	Receive the Draft Financial Statements for year ended 31 March 2024.	Received and agreed by all.
5	Items brought to the meeting by the Electors of Ramsgreave.	**None**
6	Open Forum.	**None**

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

7.15 pm close

DRAFT