

Minutes of Ramsgreave Parish Council Meeting Held 23rd March 2021
at 7.30pm held via Zoom

ITEM 1 Present -. Peter Ainsworth (Chair), Pat Young, Lindsay Wright, Kathryn Berzins and Kathryn Webster.

In attendance – Cllr Schofield, Cllr Bibby, PCSO Pemberton, Cheryl Sandford (BwD) and R Greenwood (clerk) and 3 members of the public.

Apologies received from Cllr Hirst.

ITEM 2 Declarations of interest,

No members made declarations of interest.

ITEM 3 Minutes of the last meeting.

3.1 The minutes of the meeting held November 2020 were accepted as a true record.

ITEM 4 Vacancies

4.1 One application received for the casual vacancy; Kathryn Webster was welcomed to the parish council by Chair Peter Ainsworth.

ITEM 5 Accounts

Chq 421	Pennine Walling, Lengthsman dated 12.10.2020	£40.00
Chq 422	Clerk, August to November salary	£323.43
Chq 423	HMRC	£81.00
Chq 424	Ink, office expenses payable to KB.	£28.85
Chq 425	PKF Littlejohn invoice for audit	£240.00
Chq 426	Room hire for 2020 meeting	£26.00
Chq 427	Lalc training for 2 members	£120.00
Chq 428	HMRC	£60.00
Chq 429	Void.	
Chq 430	Clerk Wage totalling £240.00	£242.00
	Office supplies added to above cheque £2.00	

5.2 Bank reconciliation and bank statement were circulated by email prior to the meeting and accepted as a true record. The balance at the bank predicted for the 31st March 2021 is £390.07. Proposed PY and seconded KB.

5.3 Pensions Regulator, the parish council has completed the declaration of compliance stating the no member of staff is paid in a pension scheme.

5.4 Application for financial support / grant to be submitted to Parish Champions item 10 refers.

ITEM 6 Planning

3/2021/0168 21 Paris Ramsgreave BB1 9BJ, Amendment to planning permission 3/2020/0072 to allow brick to be used as an external finish, and to allow bi-fold doors to the front of the garage. Objections were sent to RVBC on 08/03/2021

3/2021/0230 Overbridge at Pleckgate Road Ramsgreave, Works to repair and improve the Brownhill Railway Bridge at Pleckgate Road, Ramsgreave by removing the existing bridge deck and constructing a replacement bridge and parapets. The parish council has no objections to this.

3/2021/0022, Tanner House Barn Higher Ramsgreave Road Ramsgreave BB1 9DJ for Internal remodelling and two storey rear extension with single storey outbuilding and link. Objections sent to RBVC on 20/3/2021

Concerns were raised regarding an application for Mellor for holiday lets and their impact on Ramsgreave. 3/2020/1061 refers.

ITEM 7 Highways and traffic issues

7.1 Request for 20mph on Ramsgreave Road, Cllr Schofield has been liaising with the Highways Department regarding this. The Highways Department “are unable to provide 20mph sign only or any additional traffic calming in this location”

7.2 Cllr Schofield - Mellor Lane, Mellor / Higher Ramsgreave Rd & part Ramsgreave Rd, Requests for Speed Limit Reduction from 60mph to 40 for a significant section/area of highway. The reply from Highways is *“When we analysed the data, there are a wide range of speeds recorded and setting an arbitrary 40mph will not improve driver safety and will lead to significant non-compliance without any likelihood or possibility of enforcement (fixed or mobile). We do not introduce speed limits for isolated hazard bends, road features, junctions, etc. This is why we use specific hazard signs, where appropriate, as we have recently deployed.*

In relation to concerns about the speed of traffic on the 60mph speed limit sections of Mellor Lane, Higher Ramsgreave Road and Ramsgreave Road, we work closely with the Police, as part of the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership, to target locations where casualties and speeds are higher. If there is an evidence-based speeding issue, we will look to introduce appropriate mitigation measures.

Our investigation of the casualty and speed data for Mellor Lane (60mph section from Primrose Hill to Saccary Lane) indicates that there is no clear speeding issue which would justify measures. In addition, we recently assessed Higher Ramsgreave Road and Ramsgreave Road (60mph section from Saccary Lane to Isle of Man) and our investigations also indicated that there was no clear speeding issue which would justify measures”

Kathryn Berzins has sent crash data to LCC highways and is disappointed that this has not been taken up with the crash data not meeting the criteria of serious incident /accident over the past 5 years, although it does meet their criteria over 10 years. Kathryn Berzins felt this criteria and especially the removal of consideration of community perception of risk goes against LCC's own strategy of promoting walking for health and early intervention to prevent accidents. The current situation is that we are waiting for a fatality or serious injury before any action will be considered. LW spoke about the ongoing life-changing impact of serious incidents on the lives of all those they affect and how waiting for this to reoccur is not morally justifiable and the PC will not stop campaigning on this issue.

KB also noted that crash data is not accurate as there continue to be incidents that are not reported and near misses that are never reported. AS recommended that everybody report signs of incidents that they see to ensure they are reported.

It was felt that the request, that is for road signs and a new speed limit, were not costly in comparison to traffic calming infrastructure such as speed reducing cushions, cameras or road narrowings (such as have been provided in Mellor) and would save lives.

KB noted that the Ribble Valley Conservatives state one of their aims as being to ‘Reduce speeding on our roads with traffic calming measures to make our roads safer’ and asked how they plan to actualise this within local communities.

Pat Young requested that CC Keith Idden be invited to walk the route causing concern, and to walk in the company of members of the parish council with Cllr Schofield and local residents in attendance. It was agreed a large crowd of people walking the length of the road would not convey a typical experience of being a pedestrian on the route so he could meet residents and other councillors elsewhere, prior to walking the route with one other local person. Cllr Schofield will send an email requesting this copying KB in. It was noted that the time of day of a visit may not give a true picture of the risks. KB said that she walked the road at different times of day and usually experienced some high speed cars each time. She also noted that she had been counting how many people she typically encountered when walking from the station to Barker Lane and it was usually 10 pedestrians during that half an hour, which amounts to a significant number of people who walk the route each day.

PCSO Pemberton fully supports this measure to reduce the speed limit here.

Cllr Bibby asked for the logistics of petition to be circulated i.e. how many signatures would be needed to change policy and how could residents have a voice at County Hall meetings. Cllr Schofield answered that only those round the table could speak at meetings.

It was resolved that the request would be sent to CC Idden first and following his visit a resident's petition would be taken by Cllr Schofield to County Hall, Proposed KB and seconded KW.

7.3 Mirrors on Saccary Lane, there was a request for mirrors on Saccary Lane, Cllr Schofield explained that LCC are reticent to install mirrors on highways as mirrors have proved unreliable with an overreliance on them. If permission can be granted by the land owner private mirrors can be installed. Councillors and residents felt that it was not the mirrors that were the issue but the 60mph speed limit.

ITEM 8 Clerk position

8.1 The clerk will continue in position.

ITEM 9 Correspondence, all correspondence has been forwarded to all members via email.

ITEM 10 Newsletter.

10.1 The website and social media for the parish council are live. There has been good interaction with residents and those further afield. The next stage is to run analytical data to see which posts on the website generate the most interest and to analyse where followers and visitor are from.

Lindsay Wright is requesting an annual newsletter to target those residents that do not have access to social media or the website. The cost of the newsletter would be £100 and the Parish Champion has said that this would be something they were willing to support. It was resolved that an application be sent for a £100 grant. Proposed LW and seconded KW.

Cllr Bibby requested that information regarding the latest scam was included, this is where vulnerable people are targeted to share personal information in return for fictitious refunds on their council tax. KB said that these leaflets from LCC are always shared on the website and FB and if there is room and they are poster style they are placed on the noticeboard. KB asked Cllr Bibby to let her know directly if there is anything she feels would be useful to be shared on social media or the noticeboard. The noticeboard has been cleaned and the locks oiled and are now fully functioning. KB has the two keys but will pass one to LW so that two people can access it. It is now being updated at least once a month.

ITEM 11 Volunteers, litter picking and gardening group.

11.1 Litter picking group –. The activities of the litter picking group have been suspended due to the lockdown, it is hoped that there will be an April meeting. Anyone wanting to join the group would be most welcome. Litter pickers have continued to work individually or in household groups

throughout lockdown. KB has lent equipment to several residents to facilitate this. Their efforts are very much appreciated.

11.2 The mowing schedule will recommence in May; the parish council has a policy of “No Mow” to promote wild life and wild flowers on the embankment. At all times road visibility will be the priority but after road safety the parish’s environmental impact is paramount.

ITEM 12 Land

12.1 Land is a large embankment off Ramsgreave Road, does not belong to RVBC or LCC. LCC are registered owners of the lower half of the embankment. PC has historically said BT own the embankment but land registry shows it is unregistered land. Enquiries have been made to see if the parish council can adopt this with the support of RVBC legal department, they declined the request and said if the PC wishes to attempt registration (on ground of having maintained the land for over 12 years) it would have to pay the related legal fees which would seem too onerous considering our small budget and not a priority for residents. The other parcel of unregistered land is the grass at the side of the path at the bottom of Moorfield. This land historically belonged to Broadhead farm but is no longer within their boundary and has been unregistered for many years. It is not big enough to require protection from developers so is not a matter of concern.

12.2 Moorfield Road allotments. Kathryn Berzins has been in touch with the owner (Network Rail) to request that this derelict allotment be leased to the PC at no charge to be run as a community allotment and garden, in collaboration with the Ramsgreave Community Gardeners group. There is the potential for this to be given over to the parish council on an annual community lease providing it is run as a community interest project. Work has been done to check that this is covered by the parish councils insurance and it is. Once the paperwork has been sent out with regard to this the parish council will request that the legal team at RVBC check the paperwork on behalf of the parish council. Network Rail have said it can take several months for this process to complete so it is expected that if this can proceed it would not be until at the end of the summer

Item 13 Railway –anti social behaviour, defib and cctv.

13.1 PCSO Pemberton presented her report, there has been an issue with youths on the station and they have vandalised the art work. BTP is dealing and sharing the CCTV with the Lancashire Police for joint working. In addition, there has been a report of sheep killed off Higher Ramsgreave Road and the wildlife officer, for the Police is investigating.

Cheryl Sandford, Blackburn with Darwen Council, is the lead for the community art project and is devastated that this 2-year community project has been decimated. Cheryl Sandford has asked for the community to help identify the youths responsible for this vandalism. PCSO Pemberton has said that once she has the stills from the cctv she will take them into schools for help with identification.

Cheryl Sandford is awaiting prices for replacing the art works. Members of the parish council expressed their disappointment at the vandalism and said that the art works had been a lovely and important look at local history. Many residents have commented on the project and how interesting they have found it.

13.2 Defibrillator

KB had contacted Network Rail about whether they would support the installation of a defib on the platform at RGW. They said they would and recommended some companies that provide them. KB had contacted two organisations that provide grants towards defibs but to date they had not replied. The grant schemes they were running might have ended. It is known that they cost around £1800 and have ongoing costs so this is a significant amount of money to be found.

Many present (especially Caroline Pemberton) have concerns about vandalism of a defib if it is sited on the station. The other two potential sites are the Rising Sun or the Coop. Both the pub and the coop are busy places, overlooked until late at night and less at risk of vandalism. Neither are technically in Ramsgreave parish although very close. It was also noted that the boundary of Ramsgreave parish does include both station platforms.

KB has spoken to the landlord of the Rising Sun who is very supportive of hosting a defib and already has CCTV but would have to get permission from his area manager and support with cost for maintaining an electricity supply. KB had said she would explore the options at this meeting and the PC would get back to him about their plans.

Caroline Pemberton said the Coop has good CCTV already and would be a preferable site.

Kathryn Webster offered to contact Coop corporate office to investigate how we might pursue this as an idea.

Item 14 Raising money

14.1 Lindsay Wright proposed the idea of the parish council joining the Covid Doorstop Photos as other groups have done. This would be a voluntary doorstep photoshoot, with Lindsay Wright as the photographer and would enable a pictorial record of lockdown life. This would also look to raise some money for charity in exchange for receiving a digital copy of the photographs.

Questions need to be asked regarding cost of photographs, image copyright, enforcement of fees and distribution to charities. Lindsay Wright and the clerk to liaise with LALC for guidance. KB (as treasurer of the Ramsgreave Community Gardeners) offered support with this project if it was more easily facilitated through this group. It is a constituted group with its own bank account.

ITEM 14 Dates of the next meetings.

18th May 2021 at 7pm for the AGM

13th September 2021 at 7.30pm

15th November 2021 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 21:36hrs.