

**Minutes of Ramsgreave Annual Parish Meeting Held May 18<sup>th</sup> 2021**  
**at 7.00pm at Wilpshire Church.**

**ITEM 1 Election of Chair**

Peter Ainsworth was elected Chair for the Annual Parish Meeting.

**ITEM 2 Election of Vice Chair.**

Kathryn Berzins was elected Vice Chair for the Annual Parish Meeting.

**ITEM 2 Declarations of interest,**

No members made declarations of interest.

**ITEM 3 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Sue Bibby, Cllr Hirst.

**ITEM 4 Chairman's Report.**

The Chairman presented his report, of note was that there was no annual parish meeting in 2020 due to Covid19. The statutory number of meetings have been held albeit via Zoom. The parish council is solvent. The Chairman also explained that he would not be standing for Chair or Vice Chair for the forthcoming year.

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held May 18<sup>th</sup> 2021 at 7.10pm**

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

**In attendance** –R Greenwood as Clerk, Cllr Alan Schofield (7.45pm)

**ITEM 1 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Sue Bibby, Cllr Hirst.

**ITEM 2 Declarations of interest.**

2.1 Lindsay Wright made a declaration of interest regarding planning application 3/2021/0290

2.2 Kathryn Berzins declared an interest in Item 10 footpaths due to her being a member of PNFS

**ITEM 3 Election of Chair and Vice Chair.**

3.1 Chair – Kathryn Berzins proposed herself as Chair for the term of one year. Seconded by LW. No objections.

3.2 Vice Chair – Kathryn Webster proposed herself as Vice Chair for the term of one year. Seconded by LW. No objections.

3.3 Peter Ainsworth was thanked for his services as Chair.

**ITEM 4 Minutes of the last meeting Annual Parish Council Meeting**

4.1 The minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held March 2019 are not available as these were not produced by the previous clerk. There was no Annual meeting in 2020 due to Covid.

4.2 The minutes of the meeting held March 2021 were signed as a true record.

## ITEM 5 Accounts

5.1 The cashflow and bank reconciliation were accepted, the bank statement signed.

5.2 Invoices presented for payment.

Chq 430	Lalc yearly subscription	£150.71
Chq 431	HMRC	£118.00
Chq 432	Clerk Wages	£472.00

5.3 Income to the parish council, the parish council has submitted a Vat Return for £147.61 to HMRC and the Precept of £3298.00 has been paid into the bank

5.4. The audit statement for 2019/20 is on the parish website, this audit failed due to incomplete accounts and a poor accounting process. A statement was reviewed and agreed and will be published on the parish website detailing this and explaining the changes made to ensure that this cannot happen again. Proposed KB seconded LW

5.5 The audit statement for 2020/21 is to be published and submitted to the Auditor. This will be the exemption audit as the parish council's income is under £25,000. The parish council has prepared the accounts for audit, the notice of audit was signed by the Chair and will be displayed along with the accounts on the parish notice board and website. The parish council has met all its obligations for good practice for the year 2020/21. Proposed PA and seconded PY.

5.6 No invoice has been left for the hire of the hall; this will be forwarded via email. The cheque for this will be raised and posted out.

5.7 Review of the clerk's position, the clerk was thanked for her work on the years accounts and for the past year. The clerk will remain in position. Proposed PY and seconded KW.

## ITEM 6 Planning

**3/2021/0290 Ramsgreave Road**, Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of timber clad extension on the same footprint. Amendment to existing rear window. Raising of existing extension roof by 800mm and application of render to existing elevation. No objections.

**3/2021/0378 Jersey Farm Knowsley Road**, Demolition of the existing stable structure and erection of a detached holiday cottage No objections.

## ITEM 7 Highways and traffic issues

7.1 A request was made to RVBC (via email) that weedkiller is not sprayed anywhere along Moorfield Avenue this year including the footpath and railway bridge. For the second year running the parish council are promoting pollinators and wildflowers and do not want poison sprayed near these projects. We accept that Ramsgreave Road will be sprayed.

Next year the parish council are to take on responsibility for keeping weeds down without using poisons but this financial year we have such limited resources that we cannot pay our lengthsman to do any additional work.

7.2 Cllr Schofield spoke about the campaign to reduce speeds on Higher Ramsgreave Road. C. Cllr Iddon is no longer the councillor responsible for highways, the new appointee will be announced on the 27<sup>th</sup> May. Cllr Schofield has had an informal word with the new appointee and invited him to visit the site. Kathryn Berzins said the parish council would also write to him directly to invite him to meet and hear the concerns of local residents. Kathryn Berzins asked if Cllr Schofield knew the history of Wilpshire Road leading to Rishton Road and why the road is a 40mph, this was not known. There have been at least two serious near misses recently. People are encouraged to report them to the police. Cllr Schofield advised that the new cabinet member for Highways will not have the final say in the speed of the road, this will lie with the Highways department staff.

Lindsay Wright raised the petition / survey that had been mentioned at the previous meeting to collect and summarise concerns of local residents. KB has done a draft survey but a paper version would also be required, this could be part of the annual newsletter. We are still waiting to hear whether our application to the LCC Parish Council Champion's fund has been successful, if so this will fund the newsletter.

**ITEM 8 War Memorial** consultation has started with what residents want for their War Memorial. The parish council now have a financial figure that can be used for match funding so research into grants and match funding can commence. The consultation will continue via the newsletter and a proposal made at Septembers meeting.

**ITEM 9 Correspondence**, all correspondence has been forwarded to all members via email. There has been correspondence with Community Rail Lancashire and Buckingham (the contractors extending the platform) regarding the station. Buckingham undertook additional tasks to improve the station with jet washing the ramps, litter picking, fence repair and the resurfacing work in the corner of the Co-op corner and were thanked for their work.

#### **ITEM 10 Allotments and footpaths.**

10.1 PNFS carried out a full inspection of all Ramsgreave footpaths in January 2021. 12 faults were identified and these have been submitted to LCC. Kathryn Berzins has been liaising with the local representative of PNFS.

10.2 There has been a request for a kissing gate to replace the stile at the end of Isle of Man. This is for better accessibility as the stile is high. The stile height will be reported to the Public Rights of Way (PROW) team at LCC with a request for the kissing gate to replace. If this is unsuccessful, there is the potential to apply to PNFS for a grant to carry out this work. KB will contact through PROW officer and investigate.

10.3 There has been the report of a broken-down dry-stone wall between the two fields on the footpath from Collinson's Farm down to Seven Acre Brook. The land registry does not show who owns the land. This has been reported to the PROW Team.

10.4 Allotments – Network Rail are still working on establishing the potential for a community licence. There has been some confusion over the status of the allotment as it was missing from their records. KB spoke to them last week and was told there was a meeting this week that would hopefully lead to further progress. . There is a lot of community interest in this potential project with volunteers ready and wanting to start work when the community licence is granted from Network Rail.

#### **ITEM 11 Fly Tipping.**

11.1 There was a major fly-tip in the field behind the post-box on Ramsgreave Road consisting of packaging, decorating and builder's waste. A member of the parish council investigated and found

identification, she then called at the address and left a letter. Two days later the waste was removed. This incident was also reported to United Utilities, who are the landowner, and they sent photos of the waste and the ID. They said they could prosecute for fly tipping, the report was withdrawn once the waste was removed.

11.2. Fly tipping at the back of Perry's it turns out this is actually a resident who has decided to create a parking place here and has therefore been doing some landscaping.

**Item 12 Meeting Hall.** The parish council would like to hold meetings as near to the parish as possible so that residents can attend more easily. Kathryn Berzins has enquired with Holy Souls but they were unable to confirm availability. The Unitarian church on Brownhill Road is the next nearest, it will be contacted to enquire, although there were problems with unlocking the building when it was used previously so arrangements need to be more robust. There is a small amount in the budget for room hire.

### **Item 13 Officers Report**

13.1 Lindsay Wright has completed the accessibility audit, with the help of the website provider Jonathan Greenwood so that the parish councils website fulfils all obligations under the new rulings, <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/make-your-website-or-app-accessible-and-publish-an-accessibility-statement>. Lindsay Wright was thanked for her work.

13.2 Kathryn Berzins requested that all policies and the standing orders are reviewed prior to the AGM meetings. The responsibility for this will be shared across all members. Proposed KB, seconded KW.

13.3 All members of the parish council are to choose their preferred method of being contacted. This will be the only published contact details of that parish councillor. This impacts on the Data Retention policy that will be discussed at the September parish council meeting.

### **ITEM 14 Dates of the next meetings.**

14<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 7.30pm

16<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 20.56hrs