

MINUTES of NOVEMBER 20th 2012 MONTHLY MEETING OF RIPLEY TOWN

In attendance: Cllrs S Daley (in the Chair), R P Ashton, A Bridge, Ms L D Cox, C Cutting, S D Freeborn, M B Gent, M J Godfrey, Mrs J H Gregory, T Holmes, M G Jones, M Missett, RAP Phillips-Forsyth, Mrs A S Ward, D T Ward, D A Williams, M Wilson and Mrs C Worth
Five members of the public, Press and the Clerk

AGENDA

PART I – NON CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

5978. To receive apologies for absence: Cllrs K Buzzard and S Joynes

5979. Variation of Order of Business –

RESOLVED item 14 to be taken prior to item 5 (minute 5982)

5980. Declaration of Members Interests: Cllr RAP Phillips-Forsyth declared a prejudicial interest in item 15. Nottingham Road recreation ground as an employee and a shareholder of Sainsburys and would leave the meeting
Cllr Mrs J H Gregory declared a personal interest in item 8a) Ambulance Station Closure as a member of Unite but would remain in the meeting

5981. Public speaking – (10 Minutes)

Ms T Cordon gave a brief presentation of the Butterley Tunnels

Cllr S D Freeborn thanked Tina for her very informative presentation and hopes that there can be a complete presentation at some future date.

Cllr D A Williams spoke of his support for taking steps to make the unique tunnels safe particularly at the western end. The miners of the township should be recognised by a half winding wheel in a visual location, safe place not to cause traffic hazard and would be prepared to debate the location and would ask Ripley Town Council to allocate monies in the budget.

5982. Ripley Heritage Action Group: (taken before item 5983)

- **Inaugural meeting December 10th 2012**
- **World Heritage Status**
- **Creation of Heritage Trail**
- **Miners Memorial**

RESOLVED Ripley Town Council are to have an inaugural Ripley Heritage Action Group meeting on December 10th 2012 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber and would like to see all local organisations and interested people come along. The Ripley Town Council and the Clerk will support the group and would like to: 1 seek World Heritage status for the underground canals etc at Butterley; 2 to list and register all historical sites; 3 create a Heritage Trail; and 4 arrange a suitable memorial to local miners.

5983. To confirm the Non-Confidential Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Town Council October 16th 2012 –

RESOLVED to sign the minutes as a true and accurate record

5984. To determine which items if any from Part 1 of the Agenda should be taken with the public excluded. None

5985. Town Mayor's Announcements the Town Mayor attended: the Ripley Branch of the Royal British Legion new Standard Blessing, Craftsman G Kerry additional name to the memorial dedication, the Ripley Fair dinner, the Ripley Fair opening,

5986. Report of the Town Clerk on: -

- a) **Ambulance Station Closure** - the Clerk reported that a letter had been sent on behalf of the Ripley Town Council stating the great concerns regarding this closure, there is to be a demonstration march on Saturday at 10.00am – **item for report**
- b) **Certificate of Merit Award 2012** – the Clerk reported that, to date, there had been no nominations for the award and that there is no need to award a Certificate even if there are nominations – **item for report**
- c) **Hanging Baskets** – to consider taking up the option of Plantscape for a further year contract for supplying the hanging baskets – total cost £4186.00 + vat same as 2012
RESOLVED to award the contract to Plantscape for a further year (2013) supply of the hanging baskets with an option to take up a further two years if the Ripley Town Council are happy with the displays (note, the price is fixed at £4186.00 + vat for 2014 and 2015 were the options to be taken up).
- d) **Winter Newsletter for early January release** – the Clerk asked Councillors if they had any items for the newsletter to let the Clerk have them electronically by December 14th 2012
- e) **Amber Valley Borough Council - Armed Forces Community Covenant – statement of recognising the sacrifices have made in the past and continue to do so, on a daily basis**
Item noted
- f) **Porterhouse Road** – Amber Valley Borough Council report re Ripley Town Council taking over the land – Notices have now been posted by Amber Valley Borough Council – **item for report**
- g) **Christmas Lights Switch On November 30th 2012** – item for report
- h) **Town Hall Lease update** – at this time we are waiting for Amber Valley Borough Councils solicitors to put together a the lease for signing. It was noted that the Town Hall is still for sale on the Jones Lang LaSalle website – **item for report**
- i) **Village Green application – appointment of QC Mr Webster £9800.00 + vat**
RESOLVED to appoint QC Mr Webster as the Town Councils barrister and note the cost shown will be the maximum costs.
- j) **Bus Shelter removed from Marehay junction with Derby Road and Bowler Street**
RESOLVED the Clerk is to write to Amber Valley Borough Council asking where the shelters have gone, why they were removed and if they are to be replaced
- k) **Mill Hill School Election of Partnership Governor**
RESOLVED the Clerk is to write to Mill Hill School nominating Cllr RAP Phillips-Forsyth as a representative of Ripley Town Council
- l) **Derbyshire Biodiversity News & Conference Reminder** – Groundwork Derbyshire have gone into administration but Creswell Groundwork are taking up some of the work – **item for report**
- m) **Street signage to Crossley Park from the Market Place**
RESOLVED the Clerk is to write to Amber Valley Borough Council for a Crossley Park sign to be added as this is a Green Flag Award site and there are band concerts and the Ripley Music Festival held on the park
- n) **Missing Amber Valley Borough Council Litter bins in Ripley**
RESOLVED the Clerk is to write to Amber Valley Borough Council regarding a list of litterbins that have been removed and not replaced
- o) **Thank you correspondence received from Grant recipients** – received a letter of thanks from the Ripley Branch of the Royal British Legion
- p) **Greenway Litter Bins Installed** – 10 bins installed and one more to follow and the Clerk has received positive telephone calls regarding the bins. Emptying the bins is to be undertaken fortnightly through the Probation Service's "Community Payback" scheme.

- q) **Quality Status application and cheque for £200.00 + vat = £240.00**
RESOLVED to pay the cheque
- r) **Allotment society request regarding increasing the length of the rental agreement with Ripley Town Council**
RESOLVED to agree the length of the rental agreement to be increased to 5 years.
- s) **DALC on site training explaining Councillors, Chair and Clerk roles - £200.00**
RESOLVED the Clerk is to organise the training and could this be at the most 1½ hours and to look for dates in February / March 2013

5987. Amber Valley Borough Council Preferred Growth Strategy

RESOLVED the Clerk is to write to Amber Valley Borough Council stating that it would have been more beneficial for everyone if Amber Valley Borough Council had consulted with the Ripley Town Council regarding where housing could be built in the Ripley Township before drawing up this strategy.

5988. Ripley Reckoning and Neighbourhood Plan and AMT costs of £21,000.00 spread over two years

RESOLVED to accept the proposals and agree the expenditure over two years

5989. Public Toilet provision in Ripley Ambergate and Heage

RESOLVED to re-open the toilets on Ripley Market Place and the Clerk will contact Amber Valley Borough Council again regarding costs for re-opening the toilets. The Clerk is also to write to the Borough Council to oppose the demolition of Ambergate toilets, and the closure of Heage toilets.

5990. Growth and Sustainability Bill – public consultation –The second reading of this Bill is underway and the Clerk and Leader are to prepare and submit the Councils consultation response.

5991. Community Right to Bid – Assets of Community Value

RESOLVED The Clerk is to write to Amber Valley Borough Council and request that Borough registers the Nottingham Road Recreation Ground and the toilets at Heage and Ambergate as assets of community value. Were these to be available or other uses proposed, the Ripley Town Council could look to buy the assets.

5992. Nottingham Road Recreation Ground

5993. Budget / Precept setting for 2013 / 2014

RESOLVED the budget will need to be increased for taking over the Ripley Town Hall, whilst rentals will be received from the Registrar and the Police, the Town Council will need an increase of approximately £75,000 which will add roughly £11.25 to a band D property (bearing in mind 80% of properties pay less than a band D rate)

5994. Accounts for payment/Income cheques to be approved and signed

RESOLVED cheques agreed and signed

Cheque No	Payee	£	VAT	Total
503055	Butterley Lodge Fair Dinner	£1064.00		£1064.00
503056	L McCormick Clerk's pay & reimbursements –	£1080.39		£1080.39
503057	HMRC PAYE			
503058	Cllr S Daley Reimbursement for repair to Mayoral Chain	£8.00		£8.00
503059	Staples envelopes, doc wallets, staples etc	£46.32	£9.26	£55.58
503060	National Leaflet newsletter delivery by Team	£742.78	£148.56	£891.34
DD	BT Internet Services	£111.90	£22.38	£134.28
503061	AVBC October Office Rent	£300.00	£60.00	£360.00
503062	Phase Printers	£513.68		£513.68
503063	Ripley & District Royal British Legion for wreaths & crosses	£75.00		£75.00

503064	Plantscape watering hanging baskets 2012	£1456.00	£291.20	£1747.20
503065	ICO Information Commissioners Office Data protection	£35.00		£35.00
503066	Broxap 10 Greenway Litterbins	£2359.50	£471.90	£2831.40
503067	James Beresford & Sons clean & renovate Heage memorial	£2650.00	£530.00	£3180.00
503068	Glow Gadgets 600 Safety Candles for 2012 and 2013	1010.00	£202.00	£1212.00
503069	B+B Audio Ltd microphones / speakers	£360.00		£360.00
503670	On event production stage Christmas Lights Switch On	£173.70	£34.74	£208.44
503671	IMI Ripley memorial cleaning and waxing + names	£2716.00	£543.20	£3259.20
503672	L McCormick December pay and 503673 PAYE cheque	£991.63		£991.63
503674	NALC Quality Status application payment	£200.00	£40.00	£240.00
503675	Air Cadets Drummers donation	£200.00		£200.00
503676	All Saints Hire of Church	£20.00		£20.00
503677	Phase Marketing Remembrance Order of Service	£70.00		£70.00
503678	Lynden Cooper Bugler	£70.00		£70.00
	Total	16253.90	£2353.24	£18607.14
<u>Income</u>	Fair Dinner payments			£256.85
	Total			£256.85

5995. Planning Applications – previously circulated

Recommendations from the November 9th 2012 Planning Committee meeting

RESOLVED to accept the recommendations as Appendix 1

Recommendations from the November 16th 2012 Planning Committee meeting

RESOLVED to accept the recommendations as Appendix 2

5996. Items for Information in the Information Folder: The Playing Field Magazine – Biodiversity News – CPRE Annual Review – Clerks & Councils Direct Magazine – Amber Valley Access Report & Accounts – Countryside Voice magazine

PART 2 – CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS None identified

5997. Date for Special Meeting: December 3rd 2012 at 7.00pm

Next monthly meeting January 15th 2013 at 7.00pm

Appendix 1

Planning Application- AVA/2012/0965 Land West Of, Holborn View, Codnor, Ripley, Site for the erection of a maximum of 79 dwellings and public open space; point of access not reserved. This is a Departure from the Adopted Development Plan

Recommendation to Full Council: to object to this application on the following grounds: Departure from the Development Plan, over development of the area, road safety concerns, the utilities infrastructure is unable to cope with this additional amount of properties, the loss of a 'green lung' and the destruction of the wildlife.

Appendix 2

- 1. Green Belt:** The proposed land is GREEN BELT land. There really should not be any other discussion about the proposal after this as you cannot put structures on green belt land. The solar panels should be considered to be an inappropriate development that is not in keeping with the local surroundings. If this was accepted then the land would no longer be considered as Green Belt and therefore who is to say that we could not end up with another housing estate being put on the land?
- 2. The proposal is not part of the local development plan.** Planning law requires that applications for planning permission must be determined in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.
- 3. Visual Impact:** The proposal is so large that it would dominate the whole area and would be seen for miles. The panels are VERY large and will require a high metal fence round the edge of the field. Do you want to see this at the bottom of your garden? When considering a planning application you must consider the openness of the space. This proposal is on such a massive scale.
- 4. Temporary:** The proposals state that they are only going to be temporary, but in this case temporary is 25 years!
- 5. Wildlife:** Must consider the negative effect that this will have on our wildlife. The fields and hedges are teeming with wildlife. If the plans were to go ahead the countryside would be totally destroyed.
- 6. Ecology:** The ecology of the local area will be destroyed. It is worth noting that the Campaign to Protect Rural England have been consulted and are very unhappy about the proposals. They are an organisation who fights to protect rural England. www.cpre.org.uk
- 7. High Radon Gas:** The fields are considered to be a high radon gas area. This could cause a health risk.
- 8. Previous Mining Area:** The weight of the panels on land that has previously been mined could cause further damage to the land, residents land and properties.
- 9. Reflection and glare from the panels.** Will residents be safe and able to use their gardens once the panels are in place?
- 10. Lack of consultation:** Please mention the way that the proposal has been put in. There has been no consultation with local residents or the council. There has been no community involvement which the government recommends there always should be. This is being forced on us by a large company and farmers who have grouped together. We are meant to be a community that works together.
- 11. Listed Buildings:** There are listed buildings in the local area. Street Lane itself is a roman road. The solar panel farms would ruin the heritage of our local community. Causing irreversible damage.
- 12. Health Risks:** Many solar panels contain chemicals which could cause damage to the local environment and possibly public health. Arsenic, cadmium telluride, hexafluoroethane, lead, and polyvinyl fluoride could cause untold devastation should they leach into the water supply. Silicon tetrachloride renders crops infertile, causes skin burns and increases the likelihood of lung disease, and transforms into acids and poisonous hydrogen chloride gas when exposed to air. What will happen if these panels break? Cadmium may be carcinogenic. Exposure affects the lungs and kidneys and can be fatal. Its gene toxic and a mutagen, so it has the ability to affect DNA, meaning it could affect reproduction and future generations' DNA. Cadmium is technically banned by the European Union's Restriction on Hazardous Substances directive, although the policy currently allows an exemption for its use in solar modules.

13. **Privacy:** The solar panels will be so close to the properties on the street lane and there can be no doubt that our privacy will be affected. The panels will need maintaining that will mean security personnel and workmen regularly on site looking into your gardens and houses.
14. **Noise & Heat:** The panels will cause a level of noise and when they are on such a large this would ruin resident's opportunity to enjoy the peaceful countryside. Will residents be safe to use their gardens due to the heat that will be given off.
15. **Distraction to road users:** The panels will be so large, drivers on the A38 could become distracted and the chance of a road traffic accident massively increased.
16. **Increased Fire Risk:** How will the emergency services be able to access the site if there is a fire. There are no considerations to this point in the plans.
17. **Weather damage:** The fields on Street Lane are often subject to high winds. In the winter often covered in heavy snow. Both of these elements can cause damage to solar panels. Heavy rainfall would cause soil erosion and heighten the risk of flooding in the area.
18. **Increase in Home Insurance:** could resident's income be directly affected if we are forced into paying a higher rate of home insurance?
19. **Inefficient:** Solar panels are not very efficient in converting energy. Most only turn 16% of sunlight into electricity.
20. **Increase in traffic on Street Lane:** Safety risk to our children and elderly members of the community on what is already a busy road.
21. **Recycling:** They are very hard to dispose of. Will they be left to cause irreversible damage to our community and countryside?

National Planning Policy Framework.

- **An economic role** – contributing to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation; and by identifying and coordinating development requirements, including the provision of infrastructure.
- **A social role** – supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by providing the supply of housing required to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by creating a high quality built environment, with accessible local services that reflect the community's needs and support its health, social and cultural well-being.
- **An environmental role** – contributing to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; and, as part of this, helping to improve biodiversity, use natural resources prudently, minimise waste and pollution, and mitigate and adapt to climate change including moving to a low carbon economy.