

RUISHTON AND THORNFALCON PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th April 2023 at 8.10pm held in the Village Hall meeting room

CLLRS PRESENT: Mullins (Chairman) Duke, Bulgin, Fudge, Liz Harper, Marshall, Tarr and van Bussel

ALSO, PRESENT: Unitary Councillors Sarah Wakefield & Ross Henley, Neighbourhood Plan Administrator, 1 member of the public and the Clerk, Heather Bryant.

PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME (ON GENERAL PARISH MATTERS)

A member of the public referred to a letter he had received from Richard Holden M.P. stating that changes to the bus gate arrangements do not form a part of the National Highway's proposals for the A358 Scheme. This matter would be within the remit of Somerset Council. The Clerk will send a copy to the Unitary Councillors.

UNITARY COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

A report had previously been sent by email from the Unitary Councillors.

U.C. Ross Henley reported on the following:

- He had not heard from Ruishton School in regard to a meeting with the Headmistress
- The Unitary Councillors had a meeting in regard to the Local Council Networks which was useful. There will be another briefing in April on how the LCN's will work
- He will chase up the flooding at the top of Bushy Cross Lane. The Clerk will forward the last email.

23/4/1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Cllr Richard Harper

23/4/2 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLORS TO FILL THE VACANCIES ON THE COUNCIL (3)

No candidates have come forward

23/4/3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared

23/4/4 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1ST MARCH 2023

RESOLVED: the approval of the minutes as a true record.

23/4/5 CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman had nothing to report

23/4/6 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

After a briefing from the Neighbourhood Plan Administrator the Parish Council unanimously **RESOLVES** the following statements.

1. The Parish Council approves the submission of the draft Ruishton and Thornfalcon Neighbourhood Plan and its accompanying documents (Consultation Statements, Basic Conditions Statement and the SEA/HRA reports) to the Local Planning Authority.
2. The Parish Council notes the matter of clarifying whether a conflict of interest may apply but agrees with the views of the Officer of Somerset Council with responsibility for Neighbourhood Planning that there is no conflict of interest.
3. The Parish Council agrees to request the Local Planning Authority to appoint Ann Skippers as the Examiner for its Neighbourhood Plan.
4. The Parish Council delegates authority for the Steering Group to decide on any future matters regarding the Examiner in conjunction with the Local Planning Authority.

23/4/7 LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORKS

There were no further updates

23/4/8 PLANNING

40/23/0002/LB Various internal alterations at The Coach House, Manor Farm, Thorn Lane. Thornfalcon

The Council had no comments

23/4/9 KING CHARLES III CORONATION

The Chairman reported that there will be a meeting at Creech St Michael the week beginning 17th April. The Clerk will forward details of the three volunteers in Ruishton to the Chairman at Creech St Michael. Cllr Duke agreed to attend the meeting as well.

RESOLVED To ratify £200 donation to join the Creech St Michaels Coronation free event on Saturday 6th May. Ruishton & Thornfalcon parish has been invited. (The vote was recorded as 7 in favour, 1 against)

23/4/10 FLOODING MATTERS

Report from Community Response Group

Cllr Duke reported that still awaiting to hear from the engineer in regard to a possible upgrade to the pump outside the Village Hall for a meeting.

Flood Activated Signs

SCC are waiting for the Works Programming Manager at Enervo for installation dates for the poles.

Flood Alleviation Scheme

The Clerk had not heard anything further. She will chase up.

23/4/11 HIGHWAY AND FOOTPATHS

Speed Indicator Devices (SID's)

Cllr Duke reported that the data recorded by the SID, Stoke Road was revealing high speeds along this stretch. He will send the results to the PCSO's

The Clerk reported that there are courses available at Rockbridge for £208 with various dates available. Also, anybody attending a training course would be required to bring a fluorescent jacket, hard hat and safety boots. Cllr van Bussel added that to adjust or move the SID would also require safety cones etc. It was agreed to discuss in more detail at the next meeting.

Cllr Marshall left the meeting at 9.30pm

Small Improvement Scheme

SCC is still waiting for National Grid to come back with a timescale for their return to site and updated requirements.

Other Highway or Footpath

- J25 upgrade – Andy Coupe would rather deal with problems by correspondence and not in person at a meeting. It was agreed to include on the agenda for next month.
- County Highways site visit around the parish – The Clerk reported that she had not heard if this took place. She will chase up.
- A358 Community Forum – Doug Lowe reported by email there will be no further developments until the Local Development Order has progressed.

23/4/12 RECREATIONAL GROUND

Cllr Bulgin reported that the toddlers gate had been adjusted

The Clerk reported that she had contacted G.B. Sports and Leisure for a quote to repair the safety surface near the slide.

Playground Inspection Report – All defects highlighted were low risk or very low risk. Cllrs Bulgin and Fudge agreed to look at the issues raised.

23/4/13 MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE FOR 23/24

RESOLVED: To approve the Maintenance Contract, Dog Bin emptying and Playground Inspections for 23/24 with SW&T for £6347.20 excluding VAT

23/4/14 FINANCIAL MATTERS

DEFIBRILLATOR ELECTRIC CONTRACT RENEWAL 1.6.23

SSE -Current Rate £4.55 a month. Renewal £5.42 a month for a period of one year

RESOLVED: to renew the contract with SSE.

It was reported that the defibrillator pads are soon due for renewal. The Clerk will action.

FINANCIAL REPORTS AND CHEQUES FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED: that this Council approves the schedule of cheques and the Financial Report subject to the requirements of our Risk Assessment Document

Village Day

RESOLVED: £200 grant towards the Village Day event. (£200 budgeted)

23/4/15 CORRESPONDENCE AND CLERKS REPORT

Email from the Village Hall Chairman

The Clerk reported that the Village Hall Chairman had emailed to say the problem is mainly on a Saturday morning when the Council's recreational field is hosting football games. Cllr Fudge reported that the football teams do put cones out so there is not a continuous line of parked cars. The Council agreed for the Clerk to write again to the Chairman to see if we could all work together on this problem

Meeting with Airband – it was agreed to invite Airband to a future meeting.

23/4/16 MATTERS TO REPORT (for information only) OR FOR THE AGENDA AT THE NEXT MEETING

There were no matters to report

The Chair closed the meeting at 10.00pm.

DATE OF THE NEXT SCHEDULED PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 3rd MAY 2023 AT 7.00PM.