

RUISHTON AND THORNFALCON PARISH COUNCIL

CLERK: HEATHER BRYANT, NORTHAY HOUSE, NORTHAY, CHARD, SOMERSET. TA20 3DN

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The minutes of the meeting held on 7th December 2022 at 7.00pm held in the Village Hall.

CLLRS PRESENT: Mullins (Chairman) Duke, Fudge, Richard Harper, and van Bussel

ALSO, PRESENT: County Councillor Ross Henley, 3 members of the public and the Clerk, Heather Bryant.

PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME (ON GENERAL PARISH MATTERS)

The Council received the following questions or comments as follows:

- It was questioned why wasn't the all of the works in Ruishton Lane completed at the same time. The Chairman advised that the topic will be discussed later on the agenda under Small Improvement Scheme (Min No 22/12/9)
- Proposed 125 residential properties west of Lipe Lane. The Chairman advised that the topic will be discussed later on the agenda under Planning (22/12/7)

COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

A report had previously been sent by email from the County Councillors. C.C. Wakefield sent her apologies. The Chairman reported that the hedge had been cut back in Ruishton Lane however, there is the opportunity to further remove the soil & spoil another ½ metre therefore making the road wider. C.C. Ross Henley said he would contact the Officer at S.C.C.

District Councillor Sue Buller sent her apologies

22/12/1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Cllrs. Bulgin, Liz Harper and Marshall

22/12/2 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLORS TO FILL THE VACANCIES ON THE COUNCIL (4)

No candidates have come forward

22/12/3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared

22/12/4 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2ND NOVEMBER 2022

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

22/12/5 CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reported that he has not had a response from the ambulance control centre where the operator did not know where to find the code to the defibrillator which resulted in a delay. A question was raised that could the Council publish the code. The Chairman replied that the concept of obtaining the code from the ambulance service is to ensure the service has been alerted of the incident.

The Chairman reported that unfortunately Julie Preston has had to resign from the Council due to work commitments and the increasing support of looking after her elderly parents. If her circumstances change, she would like to re-join the Parish Council.

The Chairman continued that the Council needs to try a different approach to increase the number of councillors on the Council. He suggested that each Councillor do a couple of lines or so of why they joined the Council to be included in an article in February newsletter.

22/12/6 LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORKS

There was nothing further to report.

22/12/7 PLANNING

*The Chairman adjourned the meeting to allow an objector to speak on the next planning application
The Chairman re-convened the meeting.*

14/22/0051 Installation and operation of solar farm and energy store system with associated works, equipment and infrastructure on land at Ham Farm, Creech St Michael. (Outside Parish)

The Council had no objections in principle but concerns on emergency access, transporting components to the site and there will be adequate screening

40/22/0003/LEW Application for a lawful development certificate for an existing use of a building as a separate dwelling at Manor Farm Thorn Lane Thornfalcon
No objections

31/22/0020 Erection of a detached double garage with office space above at Eversley, Ruishton Lane Ruishton

No objections in principle but concern that there is the potential to make a separate dwelling or use for commercial purposes

31/22/0022LB Change of use and refurbishment of former office accommodation into 9 dwellings at Ruishton Court.

No objections but subject to the requirements of County Highways.

31/22/0024 Conversion and change of use of building from use Class 1 into 4 No 2 bedroom flats and 2 No1 bedroom flats at The Falcon Hotel, Ilminster Road, Henlade

Support in principle but subject to the requirements of County Highways and Wildlife Trust

31/22/0026T Application to fell one Ash Tree included in Taunton Deane (Ruishton No 1) Tree Preservation Order 1991 at Riversdale, Cheats Road, Ruishton

No objections

Any other planning matters

The Chairman reported that the Council has had emails in regard to Summerfield Home's leaflet drop in regard to the proposed development of 125 dwelling west of Lipe Lane and south/east of Ruishton Primary School. The Chairman continued that the PC declined a meeting with Somerset Homes as previously, the council declined a pre-application meeting on the land behind the Village Hall as it could have been seen as pre-determination of any planning application that may come our way. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee will deal with any further requests from Summerfield Homes.

The Clerk had forwarded a 'Protocol on meeting with Developers' policy generally adopted by Councils which had been forwarded to Councillors. This will be discussed under the agenda item on Policies (Min 22/12/14)

22/12/8 FLOODING MATTERS

The Council has been advised that the activated flood signs have been ordered from the manufacturer but we have no date for when they will be installed.

22/12/9 HIGHWAY AND FOOTPATHS

Speed Indicator Devices (SID's)

The Chairman reported that the units have been delivered by the manufacturer which are stored in the store room at the Village Hall. Once SCC had erected the poles, a couple of volunteers are required to fit the units on the poles. Cllrs van Bussel and Fudge volunteered.

A358 Community Forum

Jim Claydon from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee has kindly agreed to represent the Council at forthcoming Public Enquiry into the upgrade of the A358.

Small Improvement Scheme

The initial works to improve pedestrian safety has taken place during the road closure which included the vegetation cut works. However, due to procurement delays and issues mobilising third party contractors, the activated signs will unfortunately not be commissioned until the new year. It will probably mean another road closure of Ruishton Lane.

Inappropriate Parking

The Clerk reported that in the last Police newsletter there was an article on inappropriate parking as follows:

The team have had increased reports regarding inconsiderate / illegal parking whereby vehicle users are parking on footpaths causing pedestrians to have to walk into the highway. Any such reports could result in your vehicle being removed / towed away and / or a fixed penalty notice issued.

The Clerk will include this in an article in the January newsletter

Any other Highway or Footpath issues

The pedestrian guardrail was hit by a vehicle causing it to jut out into the road. The Council has been advised by Somerset County Council that the site has been made safe but there is no pedestrian guardrail budget left for this financial year. An order will be submitted for the next available budget.

22/12/10 RECREATIONAL GROUND

Nothing to report

22/12/11 ASSETT OF COMMUNITY VALUE DISPOSAL

The Nags Head, Thornfalcon -Moratorium period 3.11.22 – 14.12.22

The Clerk reported the Parish Council had previously nominated the pub under the Community Right to Bid, introduced as part of the Localism Act 2011. This is where an asset subsequently comes up for sale, there is a protected window of opportunity to prepare and submit an offer for the asset on the open market. During the interim moratorium period a community interest group can make a written request to Somerset West and Taunton Council to be treated as a potential bidder, thus bringing the full moratorium period into force (to give time to raise funds) then the Freeholder may not dispose of the asset until 3 May 2023. The Clerk continued that an article in December's newsletter had been included to gauge if there was any interest in the parish.

22/12/12 FINANCIAL MATTERS

SALARY AWARDS

National Salary Award 2022/2023 now agreed at £1,925 increase over all Spinal Point Columns (1-68)

Clerk's present Contract is SPC 8 £10.84 an hour x 40 hours a month

2022/23 pay per hour is £11.84 an hour back dated 1.4.22

Neighbourhood Plan Administrator present Contract is SPC 5 £10.21 an hour x 24 hours a month
2022/23 pay per hour is £11.21 an hour back dated 1.4.22

RESOLVED: to approve the increases

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

22/12/13 CORRESPONDENCE

Draft Firepool Master Plan consultation 21.11.22 – 2.1.23 - Noted

Citizens Advice – request for a donation.

To consider the request at the budget meeting

Civility & Respect – To consider taking the pledge

RESOLVED: this Council takes the Pledge to be civil and respectful to fellow Councillors, employees, members of the public and outside organisations

22/12/14 POLICIES AND RISK ASSESSMENTS

Policies

Communications Policy

Social Media Policy

Risk Assessments -General & Financial Risk Assessment

RESOLVED: to approve the above policies and Risk Assessment as presented

Draft Policy - Protocol on meeting with Developers

After a full discussion, it was agreed to adopt the policy in principle to be ratified at the January 2023 meeting.

22/12/15 CLERKS REPORT

Notice Board at Henlade

The Chairman had contacted the local handman of laying a concrete slab to replace the existing broken paving slabs. This was agreed. The Clerk will contact him for a quotation

22/12/16 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

With Cllrs Marshall & Bulgin not present, there was no update.

22/12/17 MATTERS TO REPORT (for information only) **OR FOR THE AGENDA AT THE NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed to hold the next meeting in the meeting room

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00pm

DATE OF THE NEXT SCHEDULED PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 4TH JANUARY 2023 AT 7.00PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL MEETING ROOM

There will be a precept meeting on Thursday 19th January at 7.00pm in the Village Hall