

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 1st February 2023 at 7.00pm held in the Village Hall meeting room
CLLRS PRESENT: Mullins (Chairman) Bulgin, Duke, Fudge, Liz Harper, van Bussel and Rachael Tarr after c-option.

ALSO, PRESENT: County Councillor Ross Henley, District Councillor Sue Buller, 1 member of the public and the Clerk, Heather Bryant.

PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME (ON GENERAL PARISH MATTERS)

There were no questions from the public

COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

C.C. Ross Henley reported that the new Statement of Community Involvement consultation will set out how Somerset Council (as a Unitary Authority) will involve our communities, organisations and other interested parties in the planning process. Apparently, under the proposed new rules, objectors would have to share three minutes between them, rather than having three minutes each.

D.C. Sue Buller was not present at this point

23/2/1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Cllrs Richard Harper and Mike Marshall.

23/2/2 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLORS TO FILL THE VACANCIES ON THE COUNCIL

RESOLVED: to co-opt Rachael Tarr to serve as a Councillor for Ruishton and Thornfalcon PC.
Cllr Tarr duly signed a Declaration of Office form

23/2/3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared

23/2/4 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4TH JANUARY 2023 AND 19TH JANUARY 2023

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

23/2/5 CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman had nothing to report

23/2/6 LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORKS

LCN Boundaries – It was agreed to stay with LCN Boundary 18.

There is a meeting next week organised by the parishes in LCN 18. Cllr Bulgin agreed to attend

23/2/7 PLANNING

There were no planning matters

23/2/8 FLOODING MATTERS

Community Response Group

Cllr Duke reported that there are five members of the response group.

An Issues and Actions spreadsheet has been produced to identify possible actions and key points. It is hope to meet with Nigel Oie of AWP Services Ltd to review the efficiency of Ruishton pumps and whether they can be upgraded.

The Clerk reported that she has in the files, a schedule of work carried out by the Environment Agency which should be carried out annually. She will send this document to Councillors plus any other useful documents.

Flood Activated Signs

The Clerk reported that she had received an email from John Kitchen stating that he is in the process of finalising the design package for the civils contractor and will have some construction date programmed in with shortly. He will keep the Council informed when he has some updates and dates booked in.

Cllr Bulgin left the meeting at 8.00pm

23/2/9 HIGHWAY AND FOOTPATHS

Speed Indicator Devices (SID's)

The Clerk reported that the extra brackets for mounting the SID's have been received. Cllr van Bussell agreed to be Chapter 8 trained.

A358 Taunton to Southfields

There are rumours that this scheme may not go ahead due to financial restraints

Small Improvement Scheme

No further updates. The Clerk will ask C.C. Ross Henley to chase.

Any other Highway or Footpath issues

The Clerk reported that County Highways are due to visit the parish at the beginning of March and asked the Council to send a list of highway defects. (Two problems have already been reported) Cllr Tarr reported:

- The flashing sign at the school has never worked. The Chairman replied that C.C. Henley is due to mention this when he visits the school. The Clerk will ask him when he is planning to visit the school and remind him of the flashing light.
- There is a pole that is situated outside the property of Cllr van Bussell. There should be a sign on this pole to inform people what times they can park outside the school or stop. Cllr van Bussell said he would check.
- Directions for Ruishton Primary School is pointing the wrong way at the bus stop outside Dinham. (Please note this was adjusted following the meeting)
- At the corner of Bushy Cross Lane in front of the nursery, there is a loose kerb stone' that sticks out. Cllr. Tarr has already reported this to County Highways.

23/2/10 RECREATIONAL GROUND

The Chairman reported that he had received a phone call from a mother of a toddler in regard to the self-closing gate at the entrance of the child's play area. The gate has hit two infants on the head as it swung back to quickly. Cllr Fudge said he would take a look.

The Clerk reported that she had not heard back from SW&T in regard for a quote for repairing the defects highlighted by them at a playground inspection. The Clerk will chase up

Cllr Fudge left at 8.30pm

23/2/11 MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE FOR 23/24

The maintenance schedule contact for 22/23 ends on 31.3.24 – The Clerk reported that she had not heard from SW&T for a quote for next year's contract. The Clerk will chase up.

23/2/12 FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

23/2/13 POLICY REVIEWS AND RISK ASSESSMENTS

RESOLVED: to adopt the policies and Risk Assessment as presented

Effectiveness of Internal Control

Privacy Policy – General

Privacy Policy – Councillors & Staff

Risk Assessment - Open Space

It was agreed to post the following key policies on the web site

Code of Conduct	Standing Orders	Financial Regulations	Complaints Procedure
General Privacy	Recording of Council meetings	Protocol for meeting with developers	

The District Councillor arrived at this point

23/2/14 CORRESPONDENCE

The Chairman reported that Reverend Lee Mullen had contacted him in regard to the Council joining in with Creech St Michael's celebrations for the King Charles 111 Coronation. The Clerk will advertise in the next newsletter for any interested parishioners in forming a group for this parish to take this forward.

23/2/15 CLERKS REPORT

Three free sessions have been scheduled for Town and Parish Councillors and Clerks to attend for training on:

Standards Regime including Code of Conduct & Interests	Somerset Code of Conduct
Social Media and pitfalls to avoid	Recording of Council meetings
Confidentiality	Public perception and risk
Being a Councillor versus being an individual	Disrespect versus freedom of speech

The sessions will take place online and the dates are Thursday 9th February at 6pm; Wednesday 8th March at 6pm. Cllrs will email the Clerk if they are interested in attending.

23/2/16 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr Dave Duke reported it is planned to submitted the Neighbourhood Plan by the end of March. All documents have been submitted except for the Consultation Statement which he currently working on. This is a complex key statutory document which has to be right.

23/2/17 MATTERS TO REPORT (for information only) OR FOR THE AGENDA AT THE NEXT MEETING

D.C. Sue Buller reported that SW&T are now operating from Somerset County Council Offices causing some disruption to emails last week. The final meeting of SW&T before Somerset Council vesting day on 1st April will take place the beginning of March

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00 pm

DATE OF THE NEXT SCHEDULED PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 1ST MARCH 2023 AT 7.00PM.