

RUISHTON AND THORNFALCON PARISH COUNCIL

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

EMAIL: ruishtonpc@gmail.com. TEL: NO: 01460 234770

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th January 2023 at 7.00pm held in the Village Hall meeting room
CLLRS PRESENT: Mullins (Chairman) Bulgin, Fudge, Liz Harper, Richard Harper, Marshall and van Bussel
ALSO, PRESENT: County Councillor Sarah Wakefield, District Councillor Sue Buller, 1 member 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:

- Speed Indicator Device in Stoke Road. The Chairman advised that hopefully, the SID will be erected this coming Sunday.
- Repairs to the base of the notice board in Henlade. The Chairman advised that this is in hand.

COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

County Councillor Sarah Wakefield reported on the following:

- £2 bus journeys
- Somerset Unitary Vesting Day 1.4.23. There will be four Area Boards with an Overreaching Committee
- Local Plan – there has been one meeting. Some of the groundwork has been done.
- Help for parishes with proposed large-scale developments.
- Mike Rigby is willing to talk to R&T PC on a possible cycle path between Church Lane and the Hangeridge site

23/1/1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Cllr. Duke

23/1/2 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLORS TO FILL THE VACANCIES ON THE COUNCIL (4)

No candidates have come forward

Cllrs inserts in the February newsletter

In order to attract parishioners to join the Council, all Councillors will submit a personal paragraph about their selves and the reasons why they joined the Council.

23/1/3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared

23/1/4 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7TH DECEMBER 2022

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

23/1/5 CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reported that he had been contacted by residents that livestock (cows) and dogs have escaped from the grounds of Woodlands Castle on a regular basis. The Clerk will send a letter to the owner asking him in order to maintain a good relationship with the village, to remind his tenants to ensure that they stock proof the fences to stop the livestock escaping and to keep the dogs under control.

23/1/6 LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORKS

The boundaries have not yet been announced

23/1/7 PLANNING

40/22/0004/LB Erection of an accessible single storey para-hydrotherapy and leisure facility building with associated landscaping works at Thornfalcon House, Church Lane, Thornfalcon
No objections

31/22/0027 Replacement of bay window and doors at The Falcon Hotel, Ilminster Road, Henlade
No objections

23/1/8 FLOODING MATTERS

Community Response Group – as Cllr Duke was absent, to defer until the next meeting

Flood Activated Signs – the Clerk will email John Kitchen for an update to when the signs will be in position and a map indicating where the signs will be erected.

23/1/9 HIGHWAY AND FOOTPATHS

Speed Indicator Devices (SID's)

The Chairman reported that two of the SID's have been erected and working and the data will be downloaded by Cllr Duke. Hopefully the SID for Stoke Road will be erected next Sunday. It was thought it may be useful to have some spare brackets. The Clerk will enquire with Elancity.

A358 Taunton to Southfields

Notification had been received that National Highways has taken the decision to pause the Development Consent Order application while they support a review into the appropriateness of the environmental mitigations proposed for the project. This will move the submission date into 2023. After discussion, C.C. Wakefield will take forward a member of the public's observation to open the bus only road to all vehicles that cuts through to Blackbrook Retail Park. Also, to open up the bus lane at J25 roundabout to vehicles travelling to Taunton.

Small Improvement Scheme

The hedge cutting had been completed but the activated pedestrian warning signs are still outstanding.

Any other Highway or Footpath issues

A visit is planned in early March by County Highways to check highway related issues for the whole village. The Council has been asked to provide any new issues and if possible, to provide photos. Repaint the hump markings and the yellow slow lines along Bushy Cross Lane were added to the list.

23/1/10 RECREATIONAL GROUND

Cllr Bulgin reported that after a SW&T inspection it was advised that there is damage to the safety surface by the slide and a cap missing from the balance beam. The Clerk will ask if SW&T will carry out the repairs

23/1/11 POLICIES

RESOLVED: To ratify the Protocol on meeting with Developers policy (Agreed in principle at the last meeting) The Clerk will send the protocol to the administer of the Neighbourhood Plan Group

23/1/12 MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE FOR 23/24

The maintenance schedule contact for 22/23 ends on 31.3.24

It was agreed to change cutting the hedge between Newlands and Virginia Orchard from one cut a year to two cuts a year. The Clerk will contact SW&T with this change and to ask for an update on the new arrangements when there is a Unitary Authority.

The District Councillor arrived at this point

Cllr Marshall asked the D.C. if she knew if there was a variation on the Development Order on the Nexus site. The D.C. advised that the Clerk email Alison Blom-Cooper, Chris Hall and copy in the County Councillors and herself asking for an update.

23/1/13 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

23/1/14 CORRESPONDENCE

- An email had been received from the County Commander, SW Ambulance Service explaining the reason for the delay in accessing the defibrillator. (Min No: 22/12/5 refers)
- An email had been received from a resident concerned about the prospective development of 125 houses off Lipe Lane and the likelihood of causing more flooding. The Clerk will reply that the Parish Council shares these concerns.
- A letter from SW&T states the Unitary will continue to fund the regular grant of £1115 for 23/24 only. Any funding for future years will be subject to further discussions.

23/1/15 CLERKS REPORT

The Clerk reported that the handyman had quoted a sum of £250 including materials for the groundwork of laying a concrete base to the Notice Board at Henlade. This was agreed to be acceptable.

23/1/16 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr Marshall had nothing to report

23/1/17 MATTERS TO REPORT (for information only) **OR FOR THE AGENDA AT THE NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed to hold the future meetings in the meeting room

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30 pm

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

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