

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 6th July 2022 at 7.00pm held in the Village Hall observing the Council's Covid-19 Risk Assessment.

CLLRS PRESENT: Mullins (Chairman) Bulgin, Marshall, Richard Harper and Liz Harper.

Nicholas van Bussel, Dave Duke and Julie Preston after co-option

ALSO, PRESENT: County Councillors Ross Henley, Sarah Wakefield and the Clerk, Heather Bryant.

PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME (ON GENERAL PARISH MATTERS)

There was no public present at this point

22/7/1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Cllr Fudge

22/7/2 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLORS TO FILL THE VACANCIES ON THE COUNCIL (5)

RESOLVED: to co-opt Dave Duke. Julie Preston and Nicholas van Bussel as Councillors for the Parish. They duly signed a Declaration of Office form

22/7/3 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

TO CONSIDER: the election of a Vice-Chairman for the forthcoming year
It was agreed to defer until a future meeting.

22/7/4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received

22/7/5 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16TH JUNE 2022

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

The Chairman adjourned the meeting to allow a member of the public and the County Councillors to speak.

A member of the public spoke of his concerns in regard to the A358 Taunton to Southfields Scheme and the negative effect this will have for Stoke Road and Haydon Lane.

22/7/6 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS

County Councillor Ross Henley reported on the following:

- A358 Taunton to Southfield scheme – concern for the proposal at Martocks Tree interchange.
- Community Networks
- Bus service that has been withdrawn.

District Councillor Sue Buller sent her apologies

The Chairman reconvened the meeting

22/7/7 PLANNING

Any Planning Matters

31/22/0011 Erection of a storey extension to rear and replacement of porch to the front of 8 Newlands Crescent

The Council had no comments

31/22/0012 Erection of a single storey extension to the rear of Ruishton Village Hall
Noted

22/7/8 HIGHWAY AND FOOTPATHS

Speeding Vehicles through-out the parish

20mph and a Community Watch Scheme

The Clerk reported that seven volunteers have come forward to be part of a Community Speed Watch Scheme. It was agreed to go ahead.

The Clerk continued that Cllr Adrian Whatmore from Pitminster Parish Council would be willing to talk to this Council on his experience of a Community Watch Scheme and Speed Indicator Devices (SID's). It was agreed to invite him to a future meeting.

SIS Scheme

There were no updates

Traffic problems at the school

The Clerk reported that she had not received a reply from the school, in regard to the flashing lights and if they are used. The Clerk will chase up
It was also reported that the white lining around the school area needs renewing.

Any other Highway or Footpath issues

The following matters were reported:

- The Chairman confirmed that the PC's response to the A358 Taunton to Southfield consultation had been submitted.
- The footpath along Lipe Lane from the A358 to Stuarts Cottages has become very narrow due to encroaching grass verge. The Clerk will contact County Highways
- Overgrown vegetation from the aqueduct towards Creech St Michael's. The Clerk will contact Creech St Michael Parish Council.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting to allow the Chairman of the Hall Committee to speak.

The Hall Committee Chairman informed the Council on what was happening with the land at the back of the Village Hall which was recently sold.

The Chairman re-convened the meeting

22/7/9 RUISHTON TO HEATHFIELD SCHOOL ROUTE

Somerset County Council is proposing that the Travel Assistance (free bus) will be withdrawn as the route is less than 3 miles and considered safe to walk. A representative from SCC was invited to attend this meeting to discuss further

Linsey Banks, SCC, Access, Admissions and Entitlements confirmed in an email that the free travel assistance that pupils from Ruishton access to Heathfield School has not been taken away.

The entire route will be assessed by a Road Safety Officer at an appropriate point (once remedial works complete, vegetation cut back etc). She cannot give a date at this stage as various factors are involved. If the route is deemed suitable for a child to walk, accompanied as necessary, then notice will be given to parents for the travel assistance to be taken away.

The Clerk reported that she had asked for a copy of the criteria and that a representative of the Parish Council be permitted to accompany the officer when the route is physically assessed.

Awaiting a reply.

It was agreed to invite Linsey Banks again to a Ruishton & Thornfalcon meeting.

22/7/10 RECREATIONAL GROUND

It has been reported that concerns have been raised by residents from Overlands in regard to footballs landing in gardens along with young people climbing the fencing to retrieve. It has been suggested to move the goal to the other end of the field.

Cllrs Bulgin and Fudge will action.

22/7/11 FLOODING MATTERS

SCC Digital Systems Engineer has visited the village to site the LED flood warning signs. The position of the sensor will be adjacent the ditch opposite the SWW lay-by in Lipe Lane and it should operate the signs when the flood water is at kerb level at that point. The sensor will operate all 3 of the proposed signs simultaneously. It is likely to be October for completion and commissioning.

It was agreed to ask for a copy of the plan of where the warning signs will be sited.

22/7/12 PLANTERS AND SEED

The Community Group would like to buy 2 planters and plants to put in them for placing in front of the sign Ruishton on Cheats Road and another at the other end at the beginning of Ruishton Lane to brighten up the village entrances. They would plant these up accordingly for each season. They also have permission to plant a patch of land at the side of No 1 Dinham's to turn into a patch of wildflowers. The Community Group request a £200 grant

After discussion, it was noted that the group will require permission from County Highways as it is their land, also the safety aspect of working close to the highway.

It was agreed to grant £200 in principle toward this project

22/7/13 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

22/7/14 CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

For forthcoming meetings, the Clerk will list correspondence and emails received between meetings on the agenda.

22/7/15 MATTERS TO REPORT (for information only) OR FOR THE AGENDA AT THE NEXT MEETING

There were no matters to report.

August agenda – Parish Council Objectives

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.20pm

DATE OF THE NEXT SCHEDULED PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 3rd AUGUST 2022
AT 7.00PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL