

RUISHTON AND THORNFALCON PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the meeting held 5th July 2023 at 7.00pm held in the Village Hall.

CLLRS PRESENT: Mullins (Chairman) Duke, Bulgin, Liz Harper, Richard Harper, Marshall and van Bussel
ALSO, PRESENT: Unitary Councillors Sarah Wakefield and Ross Henley, 3 members of the public and the Clerk, Heather Bryant.

PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME (ON GENERAL PARISH MATTERS)

Members of the public had the following questions/comments

- When will the Parish Council be meeting in regard to a proposed planning application from Taylor Wimpey? The Chairman replied that the Parish Council will call a properly convened meeting when the proposed Planning Application is received.
- The footpath (T22/15) from Stears Cottages is totally overgrown. The Chairman replied that he is not sure if Trevour Faulkner cuts this footpath. Cllr Bulgin agreed to contact him.
- The pavement has been blocked by a park car outside the new Somerset Council's Childrens Home. The Chairman stated that he would bring this matter to the attention of the Somerset Councillors.

SOMERSET COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

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

The Somerset Councillors were not present at this point

23/7/1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Cllrs Fudge and Tarr

23/7/2 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLORS TO FILL THE VACANCIES ON THE COUNCIL (3)

No candidates have come forward

23/7/3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared

23/7/4 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7TH JUNE 2023

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

Cllr van Bussell arrived at 7.23pm

23/7/5 CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reported that he is unsatisfied on the time it taken for the Authorities to act on problems or projects in the parish some of which have been outstanding for years

The Chairman continued that the roads in Ruishton need resurfacing and not just earmarked for 'patch work' repairs which do not last.

23/7/6 LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORKS

The Chairman will be attending a meeting for the Chard & Blackdown Area on Monday 17th July.

23/7/7 TO APPOINT COUNCILLORS TO SPECIFIC AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

RESOLVED: To appoint Cllrs, parishioners/clerk to the following duties

REC FIELD - Cllrs van Bussell & Fudge

HEALTH & SAFETY - Cllr Mullins

POLICE CONTACT – The Clerk

PRESS - The Clerk

ENVIRONMENT – Cllr Harper

THORNFALCON - Cllr Harper

RIVERBANK – Cllr Mullins

VILLAGE HALL REP – Cllr Harper

TREE WARDEN - Domini John

DEFIBRILLATOR - Cllr van Bussel

The Chairman adjourned the meeting for the Somerset Councillors

The S.C. Ross Henley reported on the following:

- There have been no updates on the Small Improvement Scheme, Ruishton Lane or the Flood alleviation signs. He will continue to chase.
- Andy Coupe has stated that the problems with the J25 scheme have been sorted. The Council stated that the vegetation obscuring some signs is dangerous, there are problems with the junction lights at Ruishton Lane and the lights under the bridge. He will go back to Andy Coupe.
- He is no further on with the flooding situation at Bushy Cross Lane

- He and S.C. Sarah Wakefield will go back to the Manager of Somerset Homes in regard to the problem of the parked car on the pavement
- He will ask is Kerry Jones if she would attend a Parish Council meeting to discuss road problems in the village including resurfacing.

23/7/8 PLANNING

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group is meeting Taylor Wimpey on 18th July 2023 as requested by the Parish Council in line with the Council's policy on Protocol for meeting with Developers.

23/7/9 FLOODING MATTERS

Report from Community Response Group

Village Pump – Cllr Duke reported that the problem can be fixed by blocking off the main outlet pipe which runs into the ditch which would then allow the flood water to run directly into the pump station and will stop any flood water coming back up the pipe from the ditch when it floods.

This would cost in the region of £200 - £300. Agreed

Flood Activated Signs

No updates from last month

Flood Alleviation Scheme

The Clerk reported that she still hadn't heard back from the Environment Agency. She will chase up and also mention that the bank behind Barton Lane is reduced

Bushy Cross Lane flooding near the junction with the A358

See Somerset Councillor Ross Henley's report

23/7/10 HIGHWAY AND FOOTPATHS

Speed Indicator Devices (SID's)

Cllr Duke reported that the Lawn Meadow is not recording the data and he is waiting for suppliers to come back to us.

Training

Cllr van Bussell and the Chairman will arrange a date that they can both attend. Cllr van Bussell will do the Operators Course and the Chairman will do the Supervisor's Course

Small Improvement Scheme

No further updates

J 25 Upgrade

See Somerset Councillor's report

Other Highway or Footpath

Public Rights of Way Officer Sarah Crosswell is willing to meet with the Chairman. The Clerk will organize a date and time to suit both parties.

A 20mph speed limit in the village was discussed. It was agreed to put this on the next Agenda

23/7/11 RECREATIONAL GROUND

King Charles Coronation bench

It was agreed to replace an existing bench with a recycled plastic. The Clerk will obtain quotes for the next meeting

Playground Repairs

The Clerk reported that Somerset Council is providing a quote to mend the safety surface around the slide and replace a cap on the activity area

23/7/12 FINANCIAL MATTERS

To receive the Quarter 1 Budget - NOTED

FINANCIAL REPORTS AND CHEQUES FOR PAYMENT

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

23/7/13 CORRESPONDENCE AND CLERKS REPORT

Environment Act 2021 places a duty on Town & Parish Councils to have regard to biodiversity – Noted

Defibrillator – The new pads have been fitted replacing the expired pads. The Co-ordinator commented that the casing needs to be cleaned from bird droppings as it is a bio hazard. Cllr van Bussell said he will clean.

23/7/14 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr Marshall reported that the examination process has now commenced

23/7/15 MATTERS TO REPORT (for information only) OR FOR THE AGENDA AT THE NEXT MEETING

There was nothing to report

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50pm

DATE OF THE NEXT SCHEDULED PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 2nd AUGUST 2023 AT 7.00PM.