

RUISHTON AND THORNFALCON PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the meeting held 7th June 2023 at 7.00pm held in the Village Hall.

CLLRS PRESENT: Mullins (Chairman) Duke, Bulgin, Richard Harper, Marshall, Tarr and van Bussel

ALSO, PRESENT: Unitary Councillor Sarah Wakefield, 12 members of the public and the Clerk, Heather Bryant.

PRESENTATION FROM FAYE CROSS, COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICER – AIRBAND (FIBRE)

Faye Cross, Airband Community Liaison Officer gave a presentation.

She reported the following key points:

- They will use existing poles where they can.
- Scheduled to be completed by the end of this year.
- Parishioners can 'Register an Interest' in using the services of Airband
- 18-month contract for installation

After the presentation, Faye Cross answered questions from Councillors and the public.

PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME (ON GENERAL PARISH MATTERS)

Members of the public had the following questions

- Are the Council going to replace the dead sapling on the verge at Lawn Meadow? The Chairman replied that it has been inspected and is showing signs of growth
- Small Improvement Scheme in Ruishton Lane – when will this be implemented? The Chairman replied that we are still waiting for a date.
- Proposed 160 homes at Brookfield Nurseries (Taylor Wimpey). What are the Council's views on this development? The Chairman replied that he would cover this under his report.

UNITARY COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

Unitary Councillor Ross Henley sent his apologies. A report had previously been sent by email from the Unitary Councillors.

23/6/1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Cllrs Fudge and Liz Harper

23/6/2 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLORS TO FILL THE VACANCIES ON THE COUNCIL (3)

No candidates have come forward

23/6/3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared

23/6/4 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3RD MAY 2023

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

23/6/5 CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Proposed 160 homes at Brookfield Nurseries (Taylor Wimpey) – The Chairman stated that the TW Consultation was a surprise to the Parish Council, as it was to the parishioners and he was not content with the way the information was released to the parishioners. The Chairman read out the Parish Council's policy on the protocol of meeting developers for pre-planning situations such as this. It is critically important that the Council does not express their views until the planning application is 'on the table' at a convened Parish Council meeting as it could be construed as pre-determination. The Neighbourhood Steering Group may undertake the task of engaging with potential applicants but only for the purpose of if their proposals would fit in or not fit in with our emerging Neighbourhood Plan.

23/6/6 LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORKS

Terms of Reference was attached to the agenda

LCN Area 18 – Chard & Blackdowns launch meeting, Monday 17th July 2023 at 7.00 at Otterford Parish Hall.

The Chairman agreed to attend the meeting.

23/6/7 TO APPOINT COUNCILLORS TO SPECIFIC AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

To consider. To appoint Cllrs, parishioners/clerk to the following duties

FOOTPATHS – no appointment

HIGHWAYS- previously Cllr Bulgin

REC FIELD - previously Cllrs Bulgin & Fudge
POLICE CONTACT – previously The Clerk
HENLADE- vacant
RIVERBANK – previously Cllr Mullins
TREE WARDEN - previously Domini John
Deferred until the next meeting.

HEALTH & SAFETY - previously Cllr Mullins
PRESS - previously The Clerk
THORNFALCON - previously Cllr Harper
VILLAGE HALL REP – previously Cllr Harper
DEFIBRILLATOR - previously Cllr van Bussel

23/6/8 ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR END 2022/23

ACCOUNTS FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2022/23

(1) **RESOLVED:** the report from the Internal Auditor

(2) **RESOLVED:** that as members of Ruishton & Thornfalcon Parish Council we acknowledge our responsibility for the preparation of the accounts and confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the Council's accounts for the year ended on 31.3.23 that we agree YES to questions 1-8. (Trust funds not applicable) of the Annual Governance Statement. (Section 1)

(3) **RESOLVED:** In accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, this council approves the accounts for year ending 31.3.23. (Section 2)

23/6/9 PLANNING

There was nothing to report

23/6/10 FLOODING MATTERS

Report from Community Response Group

Cllr Duke reported that a quote has been received from AWP Services Ltd for £2649 excluding VAT for upgrading the Village Pump. It was agreed to defer until next month to see if Somerset Council will pay for this work as they are responsible for the maintenance.

Cllr. Duke has produced Community Guides for householders of what to do in cases of Flood, Fire or Snow. The Community Guides will be delivered with the newsletter

Flood Activated Signs

Solagen have provisionally scheduled W/C 26th June for installation. The signs will then be commissioned.

Flood Alleviation Scheme

No further updates

Bushy Cross Lane flooding near the junction with the A358

The Highway Superintendent suspects this is caused by either tree root infiltration into the gully's outlet pipe or silting of the ditch at its outfall. The superintendent is arranging for the outlet drain to be jetted, to hopefully clear the blockage. If jetting fails to clear the blockage, it should provide an indication of its location so they can arrange for an excavation to be undertaken to identify, repair or inform the landowner, of the need for ditch maintenance.

We have been told that currently the council's contractor is only undertaking urgent safety repairs, it may be sometime before they can devote resources to this work. U.C. Ross Henley has contacted Somerset Council with our concern that there is a safety issue. There are no further updates

23/6/11 HIGHWAY AND FOOTPATHS

Speed Indicator Devices (SID's)

Chapter 8 Signing, Lighting Guarding standard training

Cllrs Mullins and van Bussell agreed to attend training, one on an operative role and one on a supervision role. The Clerk will forward some dates.

Small Improvement Scheme

Still waiting for the National Grid to do the electrical work.

J 25 Upgrade

It was agreed that the Clerk should send an email to Andy Coupe based on the 'problems' in Cllrs emails that were previously sent a couple of years ago.

County Highways site visit around the parish

Somerset Highways have carried out their site visit. They are drawing up plans on the areas where lineage need refreshing. They did look at placing double yellow lines on the brow of the hill to stop parking but did not feel that this would solve the problem.

Other Highway or Footpath

Footpath/cycle path from Church Lane to Hankridge – The Chairman reported on a meeting and walk with himself, Mike Rigby, Somerset Council Transport Portfolio Holder, Sarah Wakefield and Cllr Marshall. Mike Rigby will have this footpath/cycle path written into the 23/24 Transport Plan

Footpath problems –

1) A stile that has had a part of it sawn off and the middle post is loose at the end of Newlands Road adjacent to the school.

2) Stile at Rose Cottage has 'disappeared' and needs to be replaced.

The Clerk will ask the Rights of Way Officer if he would carry out a site visit with the Chairman

23/6/12 RECREATIONAL GROUND

To consider a King Charles Coronation bench to either to replace an existing bench or a new one.
Defer until next month

23/6/13 FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

23/6/14 CORRESPONDENCE AND CLERKS REPORT

Training – List to follow

23/6/15 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

There were no matters to report

26/6/16 MATTERS TO REPORT (for information only) OR FOR THE AGENDA AT THE NEXT MEETING

Agenda - Specific areas of Responsibility Village Pump Coronation Bench

There were no matters to report

The Chair closed the meeting at 9.10pm.

DATE OF THE NEXT SCHEDULED PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5TH JULY 2023 AT 7.00PM.