

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 2nd March 2022 held in the Village Hall observing the Council's Covid-19 Risk Assessment.

CLLRS PRESENT: John (Chairman), Dickinson, Garbutt, Fudge, Marshall, McEvans and Mullins

ALSO, PRESENT: County Councillor John Thorne, District Councillor Buller, 5 members of the public and the Clerk, Heather Bryant.

PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME (ON GENERAL PARISH MATTERS)

Members of the public made comments on the following matters.

- Ruishton Lane, Small Improvement Scheme
- Speed of traffic Bushy Cross Lane
- Water at the top of Bushy Cross Lane

22/3/1 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND APPROVE THE REASONS GIVEN

Cllr Bulgin sent his apology

RESOLVED: to approve his apology for the reasons given

22/3/2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received

22/3/3 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2nd FEBRUARY 2021

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

22/3/4 CO-OPTION OF A COUNCILLOR TO FILL ONE OF THE VACANCIES ON THE COUNCIL

The Clerk reported that the person interested was not eligible to be a Councillor as he did not live, work or have land in this parish

22/3/5 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS

C.C. John Thorne referred to his written report which was emailed to Cllrs.

District Councillor Barrie Hall sent his apologies

22/3/6 PLANNING

Cllr John reported that she attended a meeting at Somerset West and Taunton in regards to the application to fell the oak tree at Newlands Road with a TPO. SWT only agreed to a crown reduction.

22/3/7 HIGHWAY AND FOOTPATHS

Increase in traffic now that the Creech Castle Road is closed

The Council has an update meeting with Andy Coupe on 10th March

Speeding Vehicles through-out the parish

The Clerk will contact our PCSO's in regard to the next sets for a 20mph and a Community Watch Scheme.

SIS consultation

Cllr Mullins reported that he had a meeting with the Highways Engineer responsible for the scheme to address specific aspects and give feedback following the recent SCC Highways consultation. Two parishioners were present.

A358 Southfields to Junction 25 scheme-

The Chairman reported that she attended an online meeting on 15.2.22. The first stage will be the A303 South Petherton to Southfields roundabout.

Parking along Cheats Road

The Chairman reported that she has concerns about the continuous line of parked cars when football is being played on the Recreational Ground.

It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the football club suggesting car-share and parking in the Village Hall car-park. However, to check with the Village Hall bookings secretary to ensure that the hall is not being used at the time.

It was agreed that the Purchase of Land be held in confidential session.

22/3/8 SOUTH WEST AND TAUNTON MAINTENANCE QUOTE April 2022- MARCH 2023

It was agreed to only have one cut to the hedge at Newland & Virginia Orchard. (SWT had quoted for 2 cuts) Also, SWT had not quoted for the cut behind the bull top fence and weed kill. The Clerk will get this changed and then sign the agreement.
(Post note: the total was £5674.11 excluding VAT)

22/3/9 GRASS CUTTING AROUND THE VILLAGE HALL

RESOLVED: for Mr Thorne to grass cut around the Village Hall area at £180 a year

22/3/10 RECREATIONAL GROUND

Cllr Bulgin agreed to visit a firm in Taunton to get an information sign made up for the Recreational Ground

22/3/11 FLOODING MATTERS

Nothing to report

22/3/12 VILLAGE PUMP

Nothing to report

22/3/13 CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

Elections 5th May 2022

The Clerk had the nomination packs for councillors who were standing again.

West Monkton Neighbourhood Plan

The Clerk reported that this Council has been asked to consult. It was agreed to respond on the lines of the submission from Jim Claydon (R&T N.P. Steering Group)

Local Heritage List

The Clerk will have a look at the N.P. Heritage document in regard to the Scout Hut which is not listed

22/3/14 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reported that she removed weeds from around the base of three young trees planted in the Recreational Field last year and mulched the area. She also removed young branches from around the base of the large tree nearest the Village Hall.

Cllr Fudge mentioned a planting of a tree for the Platinum Jubilee. It was agreed to include on the next agenda

22/3/15 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr Marshall reported that it is likely that the Habitat Regulation Assessment will be updated

22/3/16 POLICY REVIEWS

RESOLVED: to adopt the following policies

Effectiveness of Internal Control

We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.

General & Financial Risk Assessment

We carried out an assessment of the risks facing this authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.

22/3/17 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Monday, 11th April 2022

It was suggested to invite Jurassic Fibre to the APM

It was agreed that the agenda item Internal Auditor be held in confidential session.

22/3/18 FINANCIAL MATTERS

FINANCIAL REPORTS AND CHEQUES FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED: that this Council approves the schedule of cheques subject to the requirements of our Risk Assessment Document.

22/3/19 MATTERS TO REPORT (for information only) **OR FOR THE AGENDA AT THE NEXT MEETING**

There were no matters to report

RESOLVED: *Under SO 1C the press and the public be instructed to leave the room.*

22/3/20 PURCHASE OF LAND

It was agreed to carry out a geotechnical survey and ground investigation with trial pits. The Clerk will ask the seller if the Council can have permission to enter his land to carry out the works

Cllr Fudge left the meeting

22/3/21 INTERNAL AUDITOR

The Clerk reported that the Council's Internal Auditor has resigned due to health problems so a new IA is now required. The Chairman reported that she sources a suitable person but will need to get this confirmed.

It was agreed to approve the Terms of Reference and to pay £20 an hour for 5 hours

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.05pm

DATE OF THE NEXT SCHEDULED PARISH MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 6th APRIL 2022 AT 7.00PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL.