

RUISHTON AND THORNFALCON PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st March 2023 at 7.00pm held in the Village Hall meeting room

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

ALSO, PRESENT: District Councillor Sue Buller, 1 member of the public and the Clerk, Heather Bryant.

PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME (ON GENERAL PARISH MATTERS)

There were no questions from the public

COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

Not present. A report had previously been sent by email from the County Councillors.

D.C. Sue Buller was not present at this point

23/3/1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Cllrs Fudge and Marshall. Cllr Bulgin was not present

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

No candidates have come forward

23/3/3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared

23/3/4 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1ST FEBRUARY 2023

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

23/3/5 CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair reported that he had been contacted by the Chairman of Creech St Michael to invite this parish to their King Charles III Coronation celebrations and a contribution would be greatly appreciated. Creech St Michael will celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III with a picnic and cream tea. They will be showing the Coronation event live on a big screen TV in the park.

After discussion, it was agreed that under the Clerk's delegated powers to donate £200 to be ratified at the next meeting. A parishioner generously donated a sum of money towards the celebrations.

23/3/6 LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORKS

The Clerk reported that the last Clerk's workshop was cancelled.

23/3/7 PLANNING

37/23/0003 Erection of a single storey extension to the side of Foxwell Cottage. Greenway Lane, Henlade

No objections

SCC/4033/2023 Condition 11 – To extend the operating hours for local registered bus services to operate 24/7 over seven days of the week

Gateway Park & Ride Ilminster Road, Ruishton

No objections

SOMERSET STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT CONSULTATION

The new Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) will set out how Somerset Council (as a Unitary Authority) will involve our communities, organisations, and other interested parties in the planning process. This includes when they prepare and consult on their future planning policy documents, including their Local Plan, and how they will involve people and organisations when they assess and decide on planning applications for new development. They are consulting on the draft SCI from 1st February 2023 to 16th March 2023.

It was agreed to object the proposed one single three-minute speaking period for objectors as undemocratic.

CONSULTATION ON REVISING THE NATIONAL POLICY FRAMEWORK (NPPF)

Consultation deadline 11.45pm on March 2 2023- NOTED

DEVELOPMENT ORDER

Kate Murdock SW&T Service Manager – Planning Policy and Implementation has replied as follows: In terms of any update on the Nexus Local Development Order, we understand the site owners (HBD) are exploring alternative options for the Nexus site, in light of the changing market conditions for office development. However, at this stage, the Local Planning Authority has not received any formal request to implement or amend the LDO.

23/3/8 FLOODING MATTERS

Report from Community Response Group

Cllr Duke reported that the committee have not yet heard from the engineer in regard to a possible upgrade to the pump outside the Village Hall.

Civil Contingency Unit – The Committee are looking for people to help in the time of a crisis which could be emergencies in the parish other than flooding. They will advertise on face book and the website.

Flood Activated Signs

No further updates since the last meeting. The Clerk will chase and ask C.C. Ross Henley to chase up as well.

Flood Alleviation Scheme

The Clerk reported that she had emailed the Environment Agency for a copy of Schedule of Checks – Operators Check list for 2022. However, the contact is away until March

23/3/9 HIGHWAY AND FOOTPATHS

Speed Indicator Devices (SID's)

Cllr van Bussell reported that full Chapter 8 training is not required to place and maintain SIDs; this qualification is aimed mainly at road maintenance staff digging holes and placing traffic lights etc. What we need is a more basic level of training focusing on awareness and safety. Relevant training sessions at Rooks Bridge (North Somerset) are around £195 plus VAT. The Clerk will enquire. Cllrs Richard Harper and Gower stated that they would also be willing to be trained.

Small Improvement Scheme

No further updates. The Clerk will chase and ask C.C. Ross Henley to chase up as well.

Any other Highway or Footpath issues

- Park & Ride – It was reported that there is no height barrier on entering the Park & Ride but there is a height barrier exiting the P&R. Therefore, a high sided vehicle can get in but cannot get out without using the bus lane.
- A358 Taunton to Southfields Dualling Scheme – There will be a Community Forum meeting on 8th March. Doug Lowe will be attending.
- It was reported that there is still a problem with the pedestrian lights at the Ruishton Lane junction on the A358 as motorists can be misled that the light is on green (for pedestrians to cross) when the road light is still on red. County Highways has stated that the louvres on the lighting have been optimised as far as they can be to reduce any see-through effect. It was agreed for the Clerk to arrange another meeting with Andy Coupe to discuss this and other matters in regard to the upgrade of the junction 25 roundabout.

23/3/10 PARKING AT THE VILLAGE HALL

The Chairman reported that if there is a large event being held in the Village Hall, there may be a problem with parking as if the Village Hall car park is full then patrons will park their vehicles alongside the Recreational Ground causing a continuous line of parked vehicles. This then creates a problem for drivers of vehicles, using Cheats Road, coming in or going out of the village and find they cannot pass unless one of them backs up. This problem is exacerbated if there is football match on the Recreational Ground at the same time.

After discussion, it was agreed a permanent solution is required such as double yellow lines or hatching. The Clerk reported that Kate Brown, County Highways, is due to visit the village in March and this could be added to the list. Cllrs Duke and Harper agreed to go around with Kate Brown if they were free.

In the meantime, it was agreed that the Clerk should formally write a letter to the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee asking to supply information in regard to parking in their hiring pack. For example, to leave a gap between the parked cars, to allow vehicles to pull in so another vehicle can pass.

23/3/11 RECREATIONAL GROUND

The Clerk reported that she had not heard back from SW&T in regard for a quote for repairing the defects highlighted by them at a playground inspection. The Clerk will ask GB Sports & Leisure for a quote.

It was agreed to defer the toddlers gate closing in less than 4 seconds until the next meeting as Cllrs Fudge and Bulgin were not present.

23/3/12 MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE FOR 23/24

The maintenance schedule contact for 22/23 ends on 31.3.24

The Clerk reported that she had not heard from SW&T

23/3/13 FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

23/3/14 CORRESPONDENCE

An email had been received stating the Notice Board at the Post Office has not been updated recently. Cllr Liz Harper kindly agreed to post Council documents on the Notice Board.

23/3/15 CLERKS REPORT

The Clerk reported that the repairs on the Notice Board at Ruishton would cost £175.

Cllr Duke reported that emails to the Clerk from himself and the Chairman bounced back. He will look into changing the Clerk's email address to ruishton.org

23/3/16 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group had a meeting with Somerfield Homes in line with the Council's Protocol on Meeting with Developers Policy. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss how their proposal of 150 houses would fit in, or not fit in, with our emerging Neighbourhood Plan

23/3/17 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The APM will be held on Wednesday 5th April at 7.00pm followed by the scheduled Parish Council meeting.

23/3/18 MATTERS TO REPORT (for information only) OR FOR THE AGENDA AT THE NEXT MEETING

Cllr Duke reported that he attended an Airband Fibre online meeting. Cllr Duke asked several questions and was not impressed with the replies. Unfortunately, it seems that the parish has very little control.

D.C. Sue Buller was present at this point. This will be the last meeting for Sue for this Council. The Chairman, on behalf of the Council, gave his sincere thanks to Sue for her help and support she has given to the Council and wished her all the best for the future.

The Chair closed the meeting at 9.40pm.

DATE OF THE NEXT SCHEDULED PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5th APRIL 2023 AFTER THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING STARTING AT 7.00PM