

## **RUISHTON AND THORNFALCON PARISH COUNCIL**

The minutes of the meeting held 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023 at 7.00pm held in the Village Hall.

**CLLRS PRESENT:** Mullins (Chairman) Duke, Bulgin, Fudge, Liz Harper, Tarr and van Bussel

**ALSO, PRESENT:** Unitary Councillors Sarah Wakefield & Ross Henley, 2 members of the public and the Clerk, Heather Bryant.

### **PRESENTATION FROM DAN MONCRIEFF, STRATEGIC MANAGER, CHILDRENS SERVICES, SOMERSET COUNCIL**

Dan Moncrieff reported on the development of new small / family sized children's homes in Somerset, alongside the development of new Higher Needs fostering and a therapeutic education service.

Somerset Council plan to locate a 4th home near Henlade.

He reported the following key points:

- There are 555 children in care in Somerset
- Some children cannot be placed in the usual Foster Homes
- There would be two or three children in the home looked after by two trained adults.
- It is important that the environment is part of the community and not institutionalized.
- Planning permission is not required as it is permitted development.
- There will be a Risk Assessment in place that will go through Ofsted.

After the presentation, Dan Moncrieff answered numerous questions from Councillors and the public.

### **PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME (ON GENERAL PARISH MATTERS)**

There were no public present at this point.

### **UNITARY COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS**

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

They further reported on the following:

- A date has been provisionally been arranged for 23<sup>rd</sup> May for a walk the route with Cllr Mike Rigby for a foot/cycle path from Ruishton to Hankridge. Cllr Duke & Cllr Tarr were interested in attending.
- U.C. Ross Henley is trying to arrange a date with the Headmaster for a School visit.
- U.C. Ross Henley has had a reply from Somerset Council in regard to the flooding at Bushy Cross Lane. He will forward to the Clerk
- Both U.C. Councillors has had a further briefing on the LCN's. Every member of the Area Groups will have a vote. There will be representatives from other interest groups on the panels as well, so the panels could have a lot of members. The meetings will be in person and on line. There are nine staff designated to the Area Groups which is roughly ½ a staff member each.

#### **23/5/1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

**RESOLVED:** to elect Cllr Mel Mullins as Chairman for the forthcoming year. Cllr Mullins duly signed a declaration of Office form.

#### **23/5/2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Received from Cllr Marshall

#### **23/5/3 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

It was agreed not to have a Vice-Chairman.

#### **23/5/4 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLORS TO FILL THE VACANCIES ON THE COUNCIL (3)**

No candidates have come forward

#### **23/5/5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None declared

#### **23/5/6 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2023**

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

#### **23/5/7 CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman had nothing to report

#### **23/5/8 LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORKS**

See Unitary Councillor's Report

**23/5/9 PLANNING**

The Clerk had forwarded a new style of response sheet which is recommended to follow when commenting on planning applications

**23/5/10 KING CHARLES III CORONATION**

Cllr Duke reported on a volunteer meeting at Creech St Michael he attended with another volunteer from Ruishton.

It was agreed to include on the next agenda, a Coronation bench either a new bench or to replace an existing bench.

**23/5/11 FLOODING MATTERS**

Report from Community Response Group

Cllr Duke reported that there is a meeting on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May in regard to upgrading the Village Pump.

Flood Activated Signs

The posts for the flood sign system have been installed. John Kitchen is now waiting for a date for the flood sign manufacturer to install and commission. U.C. Ross Henley was asked to chase up.

Flood Alleviation Scheme

The Clerk reported that she had received a blank template sheet from the Environment Agency which she already has in the files. The actual request was a completed sheet for 2022 and the date when it was inspected. She will contact the E.A. again.

**23/5/12 HIGHWAY AND FOOTPATHS**

Speed Indicator Devices (SID's)

After discussion, the Chairman stated that he will phone the training organization to establish what training is required for just turning the SID's

Cllr Duke reported that he had sent the Stoke Road speed results to the PCSO's who in turn advised to forward to County Highways. The Clerk will forward a possible contact email address.

Small Improvement Scheme

There is no further news. U.C. Ross Henley will continue to chase.

Bushy Cross Lane

See Unitary Councillor's Report

J 25 Upgrade

It was agreed to put individuals' observations in writing and forward to the Clerk

County Highways site visit around the parish

The Clerk has not heard any more despite sending emails. She will continue to chase.

Lawn Meadow – demise of a sapling planted a couple of years ago

An email had been received from a resident informing that the tree was dead. The Chairman checked the tree and confirmed it was dead, however Cllr Tarr also checked the tree and said it was showing signs of new growth. They will both take a look tonight after the meeting.

Other Highway or Footpath

It was reported that a pedestrian sign along Ruishton Lane near the Nursery was facing the wrong way round.

**25/5/13 RECREATIONAL GROUND**

Hot Air Balloon Launch

A request had been made to launch a hot air balloon from the Recreational Ground. After a full discussion, it was agreed to refuse the request for a number of reasons.

A complaint had been received that the goal post had been moved to the boundary of Overlands. Cllr Fudge reported that someone must have got the code to the padlock. The goalpost has been moved back to its original position and a new padlock had been purchased.

Cllr Liz Harper reported that she is storing two metal fence panels which was left over from when the new fence was erected. Cllrs Fudge & Bulgin will decide if the fence panels can be used in the Recreational Ground, if not the Council will make arrangements for their disposal

**23/5/14 VILLAGE DAY  
RESOLVED:**

- To grant the Village Day Committee permission to use the field on 15.7.23 for the Annual Village Day event.
- To withdraw the 'No Dogs allowed' byelaw for 15.7.23

The Clerk will check when the grass will be cut and litter bins emptied before the event.

**23/5/15 FINANCIAL MATTERS  
FINANCIAL REPORTS AND CHEQUES FOR PAYMENT**

**RESOLVED:** that this Council approves the schedule of cheques and the Financial Report (including Bank Statement figures) subject to the requirements of our Risk Assessment Document

**23/5/16 CORRESPONDENCE AND CLERKS REPORT  
Meeting with Airband – To note 7<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

Email from the Village Hall Chairman – The Chairman has stated that they do not know how many hirers will be parking in the car park and there is no guarantee that there would be gaps left for cars to pass in the road.

Community ready for Climate Change – Cllr Duke reported that the Council should take this on board starting with an assessment for the Parish. Cllr Richard Harper agreed to do an outline plan.

**23/5/17 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN  
There was nothing to report**

**23/5/18 COUNCIL POLICIES, TERMS OF REFERENCE, RISK ASSESSMENTS  
POLICIES**

STANDING ORDERS – adopted 7.9.26 Min No 16/9/11. Recommend to review in 23/24

FINANCIAL REGULATIONS – adopted 4.11.19 Min No 19/11/15 Recommend to review in 23/24

EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERNAL AUDIT - adopted 4.1.23 Min No 23/2/13. It is recommended to review each year.

CODE OF CONDUCT- ADOPTED 10.5.22 MIN NO 12/5/14. It is recommended to review if legalisation changes.

CASUAL VACANCY POLICY – adopted 20.5.15 Minute No 15/05/12. Recommend to review in 23/24

COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE- adopted 3.11.21 Minute No 21/11/17. Recommend to review in 23/24

COMMUNICATIONS POLICY – adopted 7.12.22 Min No 2/12/14. Recommend to review in 24/25

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY - adopted 7.12.22 Min No 2/12/14. Recommend to review in 24/25

PRIVACY POLICES – adopted 1.2.23 Min No 23/2/13 Recommend to review in 24/25

PROTOCOL ON PRE-APPLICATION MEETINGS adopted 4.1.23 Min No 23/1/11 Recommend to review in 24/25

**RISK ASSESSMENTS**

GENERAL AND FINANCIAL – adopted 7.12.22 Min No 2/12/14 Recommend to review every year

RECREATION GROUND PLAY EQUIPMENT – Independent Risk Assessment carried out every year

OPEN SPACE POLICY – adopted 1.2.23 Min No. 12/2/13. Recommend to review in 24/25

TO NOTE: the above recommendations as the aim for a review. Reviews can be carried out earlier if there are legislation changes, advised by NALC or the Council, a Cllr, Clerk requests a review.

The above policies, risk assessments and recommended review dates were noted and to consider the following new policies for 23/24

Bullying & Harassment Policy, Grievance Policy. Disciplinary Policy

**23/5/19 MATTERS TO REPORT (for information only) OR FOR THE AGENDA AT THE NEXT MEETING  
Agenda for June.**

To appoint Councillors to specific areas of responsibility. Coronation Bench

To remove Chairman's Announcements

There were no matters to report

*The Chair closed the meeting at 9.10pm.*

