

RUISHTON AND THORNFALCON PARISH COUNCIL

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PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME (ON GENERAL PARISH MATTERS)

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th September 2022 at 7.00pm held in the Village Hall observing the Council's Covid-19 Risk Assessment.

CLLRS PRESENT: Mullins (Chairman) Duke, Fudge, Richard Harper, Liz Harper, Preston and Marshall

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

PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME

A member of the public reminded the Council that the concrete base of the notice board at Henlade is smashed. The Clerk will look into getting it repaired

COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

County Councillors Ross Henley, Sarah Wakefield was not present. They had previously sent a report by email. District Councillor Sue Buller was not present at this point

22/9/1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Cllrs van Bussel and Bulgin

22/9/2 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLORS TO FILL THE VACANCIES ON THE COUNCIL (3)

No candidates have come forward

22/9/3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received

22/9/4 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3RD AUGUST 2022

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

22/9/5 CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reported on the following:

- He had been to the sites for possible Speed Indicator Device locations and Cllr Duke and himself went through the three quotes for SID's received (See Highways & Footpaths)
- The Council had a report last month in regard to speeding along the A358. It has been reported by the Parish Council but the Police will want to know where is the evidence and not just individual personal perception and they had nothing reported from the public. The Clerk will include in the October newsletter how Parishioners can report on line.
- There has been a Defibrillator recall. The problem being that if the battery was low charge, it would read high charge. DPD was supposed to pick up the device but didn't turn up on the day they stated but did turn up a few days later. It has all been sorted now and the Clerk has purchased a new battery for the device, at a cost of £199, as the five-year battery replacement is due October 2022.

22/9/6 LOCAL COUNCIL NETWORKS

Consultation period – 5th September – 17th October 2022

Unfortunately, the consultation did not arrive until the 6th September giving little time for consideration and a reply. The Clerk has sent a paper version of the questions and if Cllrs can send their responses to the Clerk before the October meeting, the Clerk can then collate ready for the October meeting.

It was agreed to defer until the October meeting.

22/9/7 PLANNING

31/22/0014 Demolition of garage and erection of a single storey extension to the side and rear for a garage at 1 Woodland Drive. (amended plans)

Ruishton and Thornfalcon Parish Council objects to this application on the following grounds:

- The proposed structure is significantly bigger than the original garage and will take this new construction to the full boundary with the neighbouring bungalow and therefore will impact this neighbouring property regarding light and proximity.

- The driveway has also been significantly widened with a dropped kerb which will likely cause more parking problems along an already congested area for parking.
- The large extended driveway and dropped kerb again will not be in keeping with other properties in Woodlands Drive, and as such may set a precedent for others to enlarge their driveways in a similar manner in this small cul-de-sac.

22/9/8 HIGHWAY AND FOOTPATHS

Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs)

The Chairman reported that had three quotes as follows:

Solarg £10,000 Westcotec £14,000 Elan City £6750

Recommendation from the Chairman and Cllr Duke is the quote from Elan plus the fact that the Chairman and the Clerk have had favourable reports from other Parish Councils who have purchased from Elan City.

RESOLVED: to purchase three Indicator devices from Elan City at £6750 to be sited at the following locations:

Cheats Road in the vicinity of the old garage.

Middle of Bushy Cross Lane.

The incline of road at Stokes Road

The Council will still need a Chapter 8 trained person to turn the SID's (incoming & outgoing) and replace the batteries.

The Chairman will contact County Highways for to approve the sites and the cost of the poles.

The Clerk will check with our Insurance Company

Community Watch Scheme

After a full discussion, it was stated that vehicles do slow down anyway if they see people in high viz jackets standing at the side of the road as experienced by other councils and this Parish Council.

Plus, the fact that these schemes, although enthusiastic at the start, fold up after a period of time due to a lack of volunteers.

It was agreed to take off the agenda

Any other Highway or Footpath issues

The following problems were reported:

- A 'Give Way' warning sign along Ruishton Lane has faded
- White lining on all the roads in the parish need re-doing
- There has been no further news on the Small Improvement Scheme. The Clerk will contact Andrew Nellist for an update especially the situation in trimming the vegetation on the trees now that the bird nesting season is over.
- There is still a problem with the pedestrian lights at the Ruishton Lane junction on the A358 as motorists can be mislead that the light is on green (for pedestrians to cross) when the road light is still on red. It was agreed that it had been several months since an informal meeting with Andy Coupe. The Clerk will arrange another meeting.

22/9/9 PARISH COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

Ideas put forward at the last meeting (In no particular order)

Speed Indicator Device (SID) 20mph speed limit Haydens Lane and Stoke Rd

Speed control in village

Cycle route from Church Lane to Hankridge

Signage & routes of footpaths

New Notice Boards at Ruishton & Thornfalcon

Refurbish Queens Jubilee bench in RG

Extension to the RG,

Welcome pack

Completion of the Neighbourhood Plan

Anti-Social Behaviour – engage with the youths

Promote the older community

Engage with Lower Henlade, Henlade and Thornfalcon Welfare for the whole community.

Improve communication with the Church

Climate emergency and Ecological emergency,

Village Fete and Farmers Market

Facebook

It was agreed that the Council could aim to improve communication with organisations in the parish and support a Village Fete or Farmers Market if they were held

It was further agreed that the person who suggested the objective should do the

research/investigation and bring back to the Parish Council

22/9/10 RECREATIONAL GROUND

Anti-Social Behaviour – There had been no problems since last reported and the litter situation also has eased.

Tree Inspection – the Clerk reported that it had been three years since the last tree inspection of the Recreational Ground. The priority list 1 (urgent) & 2 (within 3 months) had been completed but priority 3 (within 6 months) had not been carried out.

It was agreed to contact Arbortect to carry out a fresh tree inspection and at the same time ask Arbortect to trim the branch of an elder that is overhanging the footpath or fell the tree.

22/9/11 CONNECTING GARDEN COMMUNITIES

Cllr Duke reported that he attended the on-line consultation session but it was not relevant to the parish of Ruishton and Thornfalcon

22/9/12 SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL – COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2023/24

Consultation date ends on 19th September

This was noted as it was not very clear from the letter what it would mean for Parish Councils

22/9/13 FINANCIAL MATTERS

FINANCIAL REPORTS AND CHEQUES FOR PAYMENT

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

Insurance

Renewal notice: £1329.00 (Year 2 of a 3-year deal) - Noted

22/9/14 CORRESPONDENCE

Police – how to contact your Neighbourhood Teams – It was agreed to send dates of forthcoming meetings and hopefully the Police would be able to attend one of them.

Police Fraud & Cybercrime meeting – The Clerk reported that event was booked in for Wednesday 30th November at 7.00pm. The Clerk will advertise in the October & November newsletter.

Somerset Prepared Community Resilience Day at West Monkton Hall, October 10am – 4pm
Cllr Duke said he would attend

Chairs award for service to community – noted
Somerset Day 2023- noted

22/9/15 CLERKS REPORT

5-year SAAA central auditor appointment – recommendation to opt in.

RESOLVED: to remain opted in.

22/9/16 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr Marshall reported that the Steering Group is working towards getting the documents ready for Parish Council approval

22/9/17 MATTERS TO REPORT (for information only) OR FOR THE AGENDA AT THE NEXT MEETING

D.C. Sue Buller had arrived and stated that despite attending a couple of meetings in regard to Local Council Networks, it was still not clear on the timescales and how they would work in practice.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45 pm

DATE OF THE NEXT SCHEDULED PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5th OCTOBER 2022 AT 7.00PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL