

RUISHTON AND THORNFALCON PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th April 2017

CLLRS PRESENT: Lowe (Chairman), Anderdon, Bulgin, Dickinson, Hancock, Harper, Marshall, McEvans, Murphy, Mullins & Powell

ALSO PRESENT: County Councillor Ross Henley, one member of the public and the Clerk, Heather Bryant

NOT PRESENT: Borough Councillor Kelly Durdan, Borough Councillor Dave Durdan. No apologies received.

PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME

Cllr Harper mentioned that the grass on the recreation field had not been cut and the football team had complained. The Clerk will contact Taunton Deane

17/4/1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Cllr Bowey

17/4/2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received

17/4/3 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1ST MARCH 2017

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

17/4/4 PLANNING

31/17/0003 Erection of a single story side extension and two storey rear extensions at Avonlea, Stoke Road.

The Council had no comments to make.

Outstanding items:

Stoke Road Affordable Housing – attenuation tank

The Chairman reported that Tim Burton still had not got back to him with a date for a meeting. The Clerk will chase up.

17/4/5 COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORTS

County Councillor Ross Henley reported on the following:

- That he heard that some people who attended the Highway England public exhibition on 28.3.17 received a parking fine for not registering their vehicles at the reception at the Holiday Inn. He will report this to Taunton Deane Borough Council and Somerset County Council as some of their public events are held at the Holiday Inn.
- Merger of Taunton Deane Borough Council and West Somerset into one District Council.

17/4/6 FLOODING ISSUES

The Chairman reported that Cllr Powell, Andrew Lukes (Flood Group Chairman) and himself had a meeting with Jennifer Godby - Project Officer- Communities Prepared on 29.3.17. Jennifer Godby stated that there are training packages available resulting with a certificate which will last 3 years. Andrew Lukes stated that the Flood Group will look at courses in August 2017.

The Clerk reported that she had contacted the Council's insurance company and the company insure 10 volunteers as standard. It may cost more to insure more volunteers depending on how many. Jennifer Godby will also look at insurance options.

17/4/7 HENLADE STRATEGIC EMPLOYMENT SITE AND ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE AND A358 TAUNTON TO SOUTHFIELD SCHEME

A358 Taunton to Southfields Scheme – Public Consultation from Tuesday 28 March – 20th May 2017 (Highway England)

The A358 Taunton to Southfields Scheme proposes to:

- A new roundabout at junction (Junction A) allowing all movements between the M5 and the new duel carriageway.
- A new junction which allows traffic to leave and join the new road using slip roads without hindering traffic remaining on the road to connect to the existing A358 near West Hatch (Junction B)
- A new junction which allows traffic to leave and join the new road (using slip roads without hindering traffic remaining on the road) at Park Barn (Junction C) east of Ashill.

After a full discussion and with the aid of two large maps the following points were made:

- The new dual carriageway will be 300 metres off Stoke St Mary
- A new junction on the M5, Highway England Officers stated that a connection to J25 had never been planned.
- The A358 through Henlade will still carry traffic to and from Taunton after Junction B although traffic could use the new junction on the M5 and travel back along the motorway to access Taunton and visa-versa.
- A question on how much traffic will be reduced through Henlade. R&T was told 30%, Somerset County Council was told 25%

M5 Junction 25 Public Consultation Report – Nexus 25

The Chairman had a meeting and with Taunton Deane Borough Council and Somerset County Council on 3.4.17 to discuss Nexus 25

The following points were made:

- Taunton Deane Borough Council and Somerset County Council were only aware of the proposed scheme when the scheme was published to the public by Highway England.
- Somerset County Council still intend to put in their planning application for the J25 Improvement Scheme in mid-April. They will have to test the new figures
- It is feasible that a new road from the new dual carriageway could link to the proposed employment site but further funds would need to be available from Highway England.
- Highway England may consider funding traffic control measures at Henlade crossroads as a Community Benefit.
- The Council's response to the Nexus 25 consultation has been submitted.

Actions

- The Clerk to request from Highway England a hard copy of the Traffic Assessment figures
- The Clerk to confirm with David Stocks, South West Major Route Manager, Highway England that he will be attending the Council's Annual Parish Meeting on 17.5.17
- The Clerk to chase up a large print copy of the Technical Assessment Report for the A358 Taunton to Southfields Scheme (TAR) assured by David Stocks.
- All Cllrs to respond to the Highway England Consultation on the proposed scheme. The closing date is 20.5.17 but David Stocks confirmed that this time scale could be extended.
- The Councillors to send their individual responses to the Clerk as well as submitting to Highway England. The Clerk will collate for the Council's response to the consultation ready for discussion at the PC meeting 3.5.17
- The Clerk will remind the Cllrs on the Monday 19.4.17 to send their responses that week.
- The Clerk will do a full report on the proposed scheme in the May newsletter using the back page as Neighbourhood Planning will not have anything to report in the May newsletter

17/4/8 DEFIBRILLATOR FOR THE VILLAGE

Cllrs Mullins and Bulgin gave a detailed report on an information event organized by Taunton Deane Borough Council. There are grants available between £1000 - £1600 towards the cost of the defibrillator. The defibrillator that was recommended is available on line for around £800. A storage cabinet would also be required as well as a connection to electricity supply. A qualified electrician would be required to carry out the electrical work

Discussion then took place on where a defibrillator could be located, with a supply of electric, which needs to be as central in the village as possible. Hairlines is not an option. It was generally agreed that Ruishton Inn or Dinhams Bungalow's car-park would be more preferable than the village hall. Cllr Bulgin agreed to formally ask the landlord. The Clerk will contact Taunton Deane Borough Council Housing Department to ask if the car-park is possible.

RESOLVED: to approve to the provision of a defibrillator for the village subject to procurement. It was further agreed that the Clerk would contact Andy Ridgewell of Community Foundation in regard to submitting a grant application as soon as possible

17/4/9 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

Cllr Marshall reported on the following:

- A workshop meeting has been held on Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats (SWOT) in regard to the Neighbourhood Plan

- There was a 41% return of the questionnaire from households. The Community Council for Somerset will collate the responses and the results should be known at the end of May.
- The Neighbourhood plan will have a stall at the Village Day

Cllr Marshall reported that Persimmon Homes had been asking for some time to meet with the Council in regard to land around the parish which Persimmon has secured as 1st option to purchase if the land was approved for development. Cllr Marshall asked the Council if the Neighbourhood Plan Group could have permission to set up a meeting with Persimmon Homes. After discussion, it was generally agreed to wait until the results of the responses of the questionnaire.

17/4/10 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

Outstanding items:

Pavements around Newlands,

20mph Newlands

Humps along Ruishton Lane

Traffic count including the speed for vehicles on the road near the School and Bushy Lane.

It was reported that some work had been carried out on the pavements but the pavement outside No 13 Lawn Meadows is very bad. There is no more information on the other matters.

Any new Highway issues

The Chairman reported that he is meeting the Police on 26.4.17 to discuss the speed of the traffic on the A358

17/4/11 CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported on the following:

- West Hatch are holding an extra ordinary meeting on 10th April to discuss the A358 Taunton to Southfield scheme. This Council has been invited to attend. Cllrs Anderdon and Powell agreed to attend.
- TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF FOOTPATH T22/14 IN THE PARISH OF RUISHTON- Somerset County Council propose to make an Order prohibiting all traffic from proceeding along footpath T22/14 from the A358 at Thornwater Farm and running in a northerly direction for 1.100 metres to its junction with footpath T 22/13 whilst an access road is constructed to the sewerage treatment works. The Clerk to include in the newsletter
- Sue Mountstevens cannot make the Annual Parish Meeting due to other commitments. It was agreed to invite Sue Mountstevens to a future meeting

17/4/12 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reported on the following:

- First Aid Courses- will not now be required as the Council is looking into a defibrillator
- Park & Ride -security & facilities, vegetation overgrowth on site – no further information
- A number of slides had been left to the PC after Mrs J. Jelks had died. Dave Duke has had a look through them and earmarked those that may be of local interest. It was agreed to donate the remainder to Somerset Archives.
- Problems with the sewage works at Mount Somerset – the EA have taken water samples. Cllr Anderdon reported that the sewage pit had been pumped out today.

17/4/13 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.

17/4/14 MATTERS TO REPORT (for information only) OR FOR THE AGENDA AT THE NEXT MEETING

There were no further matters to report

There were no public present

Cllr Bulgin declared an interest in the next two items as he is related to the Neighbourhood Plan Administrator

17/4/15 EMPLOYMENT ISSUES

A) The Appointment of the Neighbourhood Plan Administrator (Completed the 6 months' probation period)

RESOLVED: to formally appoint Mrs C Faulkner as the Neighbourhood Plan Administrator

B) National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and Society of Local Council Clerks have agreed a 1% annual increase for April 2017 – March 2018 for all Clerks and other employees

The Clerk reported that when Mrs C Faulkner was taken on the pay scales for 16/17 was not available so she as based on the 15/16 pay scales. NALC has since issued 16/17 (1% increase) & 17/18 pay (1% increase) pay scales so some back pay is due.

RESOLVED: to approve the 1% pay awards for the Clerk and Administrator for 16/17 & 17/18.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.45pm

DATE OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 3rd MAY 2017 IN RUISHTON VILLAGE HALL. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME. 7.30pm

DATE OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY 17TH MAY 2017 IN RUISHTON VILLAGE HALL. 7.00PM