

## **RUISHTON AND THORNFALCON PARISH COUNCIL**

CLERK: HEATHER BRYANT, NORTHAY HOUSE, NORTHAY, CHARD, SOMERSET. TA20 3DN

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The minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2017

**CLLRS PRESENT:** Lowe (Chairman), Anderdon, Bowey, Dickinson, Hancock, McEvans, Murphy & Mullins

**ALSO PRESENT:** County Councillor Ross Henley, two members of the public and the Clerk, Heather Bryant

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

### **PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME**

The Village Hall Committee have asked for permission to use the Recreational Ground on the weekend of 17/18<sup>th</sup> June between 2-4pm. The Council considered that there should be no problems with this request, however, to include it on the next agenda for a formal agreement

### **17/5/1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

**RESOLVED:** to re-elect Cllr Lowe for Chairman for the forthcoming year. Cllr Lowe duly signed an Acceptance of Office form

### **17/5/2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Received from Cllr Marshall, Harper, Powell and Bulgin

### **17/5/3 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

**RESOLVED:** to re-elect Cllr Marshall as Vice-Chairman for the forthcoming year.

### **17/5/4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None declared

### **17/5/5 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2017**

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

### **17/5/6 TO APPOINT COUNCILLORS TO SPECIFIC AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY**

**RESOLVED:** to approve the following appointments

FOOTPATHS: Cllr Hancock

HIGHWAYS: Cllrs Bulgin, Lowe and the Clerk

RECREATIONAL FIELD: Cllrs Bulgin & Hancock

SAFETY ISSUES: Cllr Mullins

POLICE CONTACT: Cllr Marshall & the Clerk

PRESS: Cllr Lowe & Marshall

HENLADE: Cllr Anderdon

THORNFALCON: Cllr Mullins

RIVERBANK: Cllr Murphy

LOCAL STRUCTURE PLAN: Cllr Bulgin & Marshall

VILLAGE HALL REP: Cllr Harper

FLOOD COMMITTEE REP: Cllr McEvans

TREE WARDEN: Cllr Harper

KIJILSTRA LIAISON GROUP. Cllr Marshall

### **17/5/7 TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO SERVE ON A PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED:** To reaffirm that all Members of the Council shall serve on the Personnel Committee

### **17/5/8 COUNCIL POLICIES, TERMS OF REFERENCE, RISK ASSESSMENTS**

#### POLICIES:

STANDING ORDERS – adopted 7.9.26 Min No 16/9/11. Recommend to review in19/20

FINANCIAL REGULATIONS –adopted 5.11.15 Min No 11/14/12. Recommend to review in 2017

PUBLICATION SCHEME (Freedom of Information Act) adopted 4.2.15 Min No 2/15/13 Recommend to review in19/20

EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERNAL AUDIT - adopted 1.2.17 Min No 17/2/15 It is recommended to review each year

CASUAL VACANCY POLICY – adopted 20.5.15 Minute No 15/05/12. Recommend to review in19/20

COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE- adopted 7.10.15 Minute No 15/10/13. Recommend to review in19/20

COMMUNICATIONS POLICY – adopted 2.11.16 Min No 16/11/10. Recommend to review in19/20

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY - adopted 2.11.16 Min No 16/11/10. Recommend to review in19/20

#### TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR COMMITTEES

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – adopted 4.2.15 Min No 2/15/13. Recommend to review in19/20

#### RISK ASSESSMENTS

GENERAL AND FINANCIAL – adopted Feb 2015 Min No 2/15/13. Recommend in 2017

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

OPEN SPACE POLICY – adopted 3.8.16 Min No. 16/08/08. Recommend to review in19/20

**RESOLVED:** 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.

**RESOLVED:** a have a Data Protection Policy to take into account of the new regulations in 2017

**17/5/9 PLANNING**

31/17/0004 Erection of a single storey extension to rear of Orchard Cottage, Ruishton  
Agreed that the Council had no comments to make

1/31/17/0006 Extending the existing 4 bay modular unit by 2 bays to increase the current capacity of the unit and therefore alleviate the increasing demands. Ruishton C of E Primary School, Newlands Road. Ruishton

Agreed that the Council had no comments to make

Outstanding items:

Stoke Road Affordable Housing – attenuation tank

The Chairman reported that he was still waiting for Tim Burton of Taunton Deane Borough Council to arrange a date for a meeting.

**17/5/10 COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

County Councillor Ross Henley reported on the following

- There is an illegal encampment of travellers on the Park & Road. The usual steps are being taken to remove the travellers.
- He has been to three public meetings (West Hatch, Neorche, Stoke St Mary) in regard to the proposed upgrade of the A358 Taunton to Southfield Roundabout.
- He has in hand the speed count for Newlands but he believes he has had an email about the Bushy Cross Lane speed count. He will check his emails
- He met with the Chairman for an arranged meeting with the Speed Enforcement Team but unfortunately Speed Enforcement Team did not turn up.

**17/5/11 FLOODING ISSUES**

It was reports that some work has been carried out on the village pump as workmen have been seen. The Clerk will chase up for an update and remind Taunton Deane Borough Council that the information plate needs updating to indicate that the red light means that the pump is working to full capacity and not that the pump is not working.

**17/5/12 HENLADE STRATEGIC EMPLOYMENT SITE AND ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE AND A358 TAUNTON TO SOUTHFIELD SCHEME**

M5 Junction 25 Public Consultation Report

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

The Clerk reported that she needs input from Councillors on their views on the above scheme so she can collate a Council's response that could be amended if necessary after the Highway England's presentation from David Stock at the APM, 17<sup>th</sup> May. Cllrs Marshall and Lowe have already submitted their response.

The Councillors requested for the Clerk to send in the email link again

It was agreed to request to extend the consultation period as information has been curtailed due to purdah that Highways England were placed under 13<sup>th</sup> April – 6<sup>th</sup> May due to local elections

**17/5/13 RECREATIONAL FIELD**

**RESOLVED:** to agree with the request from the Village Day Committee for permission to use the field on 15.7.17 for the Annual Village Day event and to withdraw the 'No Dogs allowed' byelaw

The football team has reported that the long grass has been obstructing football matches. The Clerk will ask Taunton Deane Borough Council for the schedule of dates for cutting the grass.

Playing Pitch Strategy – Consultation by TDBC. The Clerk reported that she had forwarded this on to the football team.

**17/5/14 DEFIBRILLATOR FOR THE VILLAGE**

The Clerk reported that Community Foundation were not ready to issue grant applications as yet. The Clerk continued that she had been talking to Lawrence of Heartstart who would be prepared to come to the June meeting to advise on the equipment, purchasing and siting. It was agreed to invite Lawrence to the June meeting

**17/5/15 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING**

Cllr Lowe reported that the Community Council for Somerset are in the process of collating the responses and the results are expected in May.

**17/5/16 HIGHWAYS MATTERS**

Outstanding items:

Pavements around Newlands – Work is still ongoing

20mph Newlands – C.C.Henley has this in hand

Humps along Ruishton Lane – The Clerk will chase up

Traffic count including the speed for vehicles on the road near the School and Bushy Lane – C.C. Henley has this in hand

Any new Highway issues

- The white lines need repainting on the bend from Creech St Michael turning into Ruishton. Also the hedges are very overgrown.

**17/5/17 CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk reported that there is evidence that an established crab apple tree has been deliberately destroyed along the verge at Lawn Meadows. The tree had been 'ringed barked' and weed killer was applied. The Police have been contacted and issued an incident number. The tree has now been felled. The tree was originally planted by County Highways but unfortunately they do not have a budget anymore for replacing the tree.

It was agreed in principle to replace the tree probably with a flowering cherry and fund this from the vandalism reserve from the 17/18 budget. This matter will be formally on the agenda for June. The Clerk will prepare an article for the newsletter.

**17/5/18 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman reported that the matters that he had to report had been covered elsewhere on the agenda

**17/5/19 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

VILLAGE DAY GRANT

**RESOLVED:** a grant of £100

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.

Q4 of the 16/17 budget was noted

**17/5/20 MATTERS TO REPORT (for information only) OR FOR THE AGENDA AT THE NEXT MEETING**

The Chairman asked for help from other Cllrs to set up the chairs for the APM

*The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00pm*

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

DATE OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2017 IN RUISHTON VILLAGE HALL. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME. 7.30pm