

## **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 5th July 2017

**CLLRS PRESENT:** Lowe (Chairman), Bowey, Bulgin, Marshall, Mullins, McEvans and Powell

**ALSO PRESENT:** County Councillor John Thorne and the Clerk, Heather Bryant

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

### **PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME**

There were no public present

#### **17/7/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Received from Cllrs Anderdon, Dickinson, Harper, Hancock and Murphy

#### **17/7/02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None declared

#### **17/7/03 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 JUNE AND 21 JUNE**

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

#### **17/7/04 PLANNING**

4/38/17/0205 Construction of a new road scheme including the widening and enlargement of Junction 25 roundabout, the widening of Toneway over approx. 200m length from J25, the construction of a new roundabout to the South Western corner of the Gateway Park and Ride site and the construction of linking sections to J 25 and the A358/Ruishton Lane junction, junction alterations, provision of pedestrian and cyclists facilities and associated street furniture.

The Clerk had previously drafted a written response from Councillor's observations before this meeting.

**RESOLVED:** to submit the draft as presented with two additions

- Somerset County Council plans are prejudicial to a Henlade bypass as identified in the Highway England's consultation.
- Ruishton & Thornfalcon Parish Council are concerned on the disruption of traffic while construction work is carried out. The access and egress on the roundabout to and from J25 and the strong possibility that Hayden's Lane will be more of a 'rat run' than it is at present. Ruishton & Thornfalcon Parish Council would like to be informed of Somerset County Council's plans to minimise the disruption of traffic if this planning application is granted and before the work is carried out.

(Ruishton & Thornfalcon's response to the Consultation – Appendix 1)

#### Outstanding items:

Stoke Road Affordable Housing – The Chairman reported that he had not heard anymore

#### **17/7/05 HENLADE STRATEGIC EMPLOYMENT SITE AND ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE**

Update- there were no updates

*Cllr McEvans left the meeting at 7.55pm*

#### **HIGHWAY ENGLAND - A358 TAUNTON TO SOUTHFIELD SCHEME**

The Clerk had previously drafted a written response from Councillor's observations before this meeting.

**RESOLVED:** to submit the draft as present. (Ruishton & Thornfalcon's response to the Consultation – Appendix 2)

#### **17/7/06 RECREATIONAL GROUND**

##### Grass cutting

Ruishton Football Club has asked if the Council could arrange extra cuts of the Recreational Ground which they are willing to contribute financially. The Clerk reported that the grass is contracted for 20 cuts a year. The Clerk will enquire how the 20 cuts is arranged throughout the

year. The Clerk will also ask for the grass to be cut early in the week of 10.7.17 ready for the Village Day on 15.7.17

Ruishton Football Team Youth Club are looking for a ground to fit 2 full size football pitches and possibly other sports like cricket. It was agreed that the Council suggest that a representative from the Football Club should join the Neighbourhood Plan's Leisure & Facilities Group

#### **17/7/07 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING**

Cllr Marshall gave an update:

- The Project Teams are looking at the responses relating to their areas and formulating their next steps.
- A flyer with the summary of results from the consultation will be printed to distribute at the Village Day and issued with the September Village Newsletter

#### **17/7/08 HIGHWAYS MATTERS**

##### Outstanding items:

There were no further updates on:

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.

##### Any new Highway issues

Cllr Mullins reported that the Highway England camera is not monitoring the slip road going off the M5 as it is pointing in the Henlade direction. The slip road is subject to queues which back up on the M5 which is dangerous. If the camera was pointing on the slip road, the traffic lights could be adjusted accordingly. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Highway England

Cllr Marshall reported that Ruishton Lane will be closed for three days in July to allow Wessex Water to carry out work on a sewer and the route that they show for vehicles wishing to leave Ruishton and head towards Taunton and M5 is to use Lipe Lane and turn right onto the A358 without any sort of traffic control to allow them to cross the road. This will be extremely dangerous if not indeed impossible! It must also be borne in mind that it is not only traffic from Ruishton which will be affected as there is a substantial amount of daily traffic from Monkton and Creech St Michael that normally uses Ruishton Lane as a cut through to access the M5 and Taunton.

If this route is to be used then traffic controls will need to be put in place at the junction of Lipe Lane and the A358.

The Clerk will contact Wessex Water and County Highways

#### **17/7/9 CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE**

##### Update on defibrillator

The Clerk reported that she had still not heard from Taunton Deane Borough Council in regard to grant application forms. She will chase up

It was considered that the preferred sites for the defibrillator would be the Village Hall or Ruishton Inn Public House. The Clerk will write to the owners of Ruishton Inn and the Committee of the Village Hall to ask for permission.

#### **17/7/10 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Park & Ride – no further updates

SID on the A358 -The Chairman has had an email from Alyn Jones, Somerset County Council Interim Director of Economic and Community Infrastructure Operations who has stated that as safety cameras in Somerset are managed by Avon and Somerset Police and they are the only authority who can enforce speed limits. They have asked the SEU management team their view of the report prepared by a member of that team. They are still to respond in detail, but have confirmed that currently they are not considering installing any new permanent safety enforcement cameras in Somerset at this time.

Ruishton School – traffic and parking – Cllr Marshall reported that the Chairman and himself attended a meeting at the School on 8<sup>th</sup> June in regard to safety issues. Cllr Marshall continued that he attended a further meeting at the School on 4<sup>th</sup> July that was attended by Jo Sharp from

Somerset Highways. Jo Sharp was able to observe the situation first hand as the meeting coincided with the end of the school day. At the moment parking on the yellow zig zag lines outside the school cannot be enforced as there is no signage in place. Jo will respond to the meeting with a list of suggestions of ways to help alleviate the ongoing problem, suggestion may include extending the zig zag lines and putting in signage, she will find out whether NSLI traffic wardens would come to the village once the signs are in place to enforce parking restrictions. Cllr Marshall pointed out that she must be aware of the possibility of pushing the parking problem further back the road.

**17/7/11 COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

County Councillor John Thorne reported on the following

- Small Implementation Scheme training has been put back until September
- There is training for repairing and repainting of finger posts on the 18<sup>th</sup> July for volunteers.

To apply, contact Jo Sharp of Somerset Highways

Cllr Marshall asked the County Councillor if he could find out how much it cost Somerset County Council to clear up the Park & Ride site after the last unauthorised encampment by Travellers

Cllr Marshall reported that he was concerned that the Somerset County Council's application for alterations to J25 roundabout( Min 17/7/04) may be determined by delegation to an Officer and not by the Regulation Committee.

**17/7/12 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.

**17/7/13 MATTERS TO REPORT (for information only) OR FOR THE AGENDA AT THE NEXT MEETING**

There were no matters to report.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.25pm

DATE OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 2<sup>ND</sup> AUGUST 2017 START IN RUISHTON VILLAGE HALL.  
PUBLIC QUESTION TIME. 7.30pm