

## **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 6 September 2017

**CLLRS PRESENT:** Lowe (Chairman), Anderdon, Bulgin, Dickinson, Harper, Marshall, Mullins, McEvans and Powell

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

**NOT PRESENT:** Borough Councillors Kelly Durdan and Dave Durdan. (No apologies received.)

### **PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME**

There were no public present

### **17/9/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Received from Cllrs Bowey and Hancock

### **17/9/02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None declared

### **17/9/03 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2 AUGUST 2017**

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

### **17/8/04 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT ORDER NEXUS 25 STRATEGIC EMPLOYMENT SITE (TDBC)**

Cllr Marshall reported on the following:

- A Taunton Deane Borough Council spokeswoman had made a statement in the Somerset Gazette's online news that the selection of the site for Nexus 25 was subject to a public examination by an Independent Inspector. Tim Burton has revised the statement and the report online and in the newspaper is now correct
- Mike Farrell (Stoke St Mary Parish Councillor) and himself had met with a Barrister who advised the following:
  - Under the Freedom of Information ask for all reports, sustainable appraisals, notes of meetings relating to the identification of the site that is subject to a LDO. The Clerk confirmed that this action had been carried out
  - Contact Mott MacDonald and ask what is the purpose of the road counters that they have in place and why no road counters have been placed in Ruishton and Creech St Michael. The Clerk confirmed this had action had been carried out
  - Contact the EA and ask them for their thoughts on the LDO and ask for it in writing. The Chairman confirmed that this action had been carried out.
  - Contact the S.C.Gazette and see if they can be persuaded to take a closer look at what the LDO might mean to Taunton. (Action by Mike Farrell)
  - Check and question the width of the Primary road into the site as being suitable for a development of this scale. Contact Mike O'Dowd Jones and ask for his assistance with information re: the primary road width suitable for this scheme. (Action by Mike Farrell)
- The Barrister also advised to consider commissioning our own Transport Assessment regarding the effect on the A358 of the scheme

*Cllr Dickinson arrived at 7.45pm*

### **PLANNING APPLICATION – 4/38/17/0205 CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW ROAD SCHEME (SCC)**

This application is scheduled to be considered by the Regulation Committee in September.

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

Highways England stated that they have listened to the feedback received, and realise that more work is needed to find the right solution for section 1 as there has been some frustration that only one option for section 1 was taken to consultation They are addressing this by holding a supplementary consultation with more options. The supplementary consultation will be launched and completed this calendar year and will be supported by a series of public exhibitions. The Clerk reported that H.E. has agreed to come to a P.C. meeting in October or November to present the options and answer any questions.

Cllr Marshall reported that this Council has been asked to join Stoke St Mary, West Hatch PCs and Killams & Mountfield Ward to progress a Stage 4 complaint against Highways England on how the one route option was initially selected.

It was agreed not to support this request as there would be no point as H.E. will be consulting on further route options

#### **17/9/05 CLOSURE OF THE PARK AND RIDE ON SATURDAYS**

Cllr Marshall reported on the following:

- It was reported in the newspaper that Somerset County Council are closing the P&R on Saturdays to save £50,000 per annum
- The Neighbourhood Plan survey results on the questions on the P&R were that 45% wished for the P&R to be open on Sundays and Bank Holidays. 25% wished for later opening times.
- He has had an email some time ago stating that there is now a budget for clearing the site of overgrown vegetation but has not heard anything since

After discussion, it was agreed to write to Taunton Deane Borough Council of our concerns and with the following reasons:

- People do work on Saturdays
- No connection to the bus service to the hospital
- It should be encouraged for people not to drive into Taunton
- At present, the P&R does not encourage users with the overgrown vegetation and general neglect as it looks more like a derelict site.
- The P&R needs to be more inviting for users such as the provision of toilets and covered waiting area.
- It could be signposted better

Cllr Marshall reported that the clear up after travellers unauthorised encampments has cost the Council £58,000 which includes the legal costs but does not include Officer's time

#### **17/9/06 PLANNING**

There were no planning matters to report

#### **17/9/07 COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

County Councillor John Thorne reported on the following:

- Highway England has placed Automatic Traffic Counts at a number of locations along the A358 corridor to collect data for the Highway England A358 Taunton to Southfield Scheme. H.E. will repeat the process in October. Cllr Marshall reported that this Council has emailed H.E. to ask why there are no counters in Ruishton and Creech St Michael
- There is a Somerset County Council online portal to report vehicles parking on restricted areas for example double yellow lines.
- The Small Improvement Scheme will be launched at the end of this month. C.C. John Thorn asked for details of any minuted wishes for this parish. The Clerk will action.
- Parishes can purchase a Speed Indicator Devices for their own use. The Clerk reported that she has some recent details of how to purchase a SID and the restrictions of use.

The Chairman asked C.C. John Thorne to chase up the site meeting with Jo Sharp from County Highways in regard to the site meeting at Bushy Cross Lane and Ruishton Lane as there have been further accidents and near misses at this corner

#### **17/9/08 FLOODING**

A large drainage ditch that runs long the back of properties in Newland Grove

It has been reported to the Parish Council that some residents are obstructing the drainage ditch by dumping rubbish into it or filling it in.

It was agreed to include in the October newsletter to make these residents aware that this drainage ditch is there for a purpose and during periods of heavy rainfall, the drainage ditch may not be able to carry out its function resulting in flooding of the properties.

Cllr McEvans reported that he would get in touch with the Environment Agency as he has a contact there.

The Clerk will also write a letter to the Environment Agency, Internal Drainage Board and Somerset County Council.

Flood Group training

The Chairman reported that the Flood Group did not think it was necessary for the training to be 3 hours long and have asked the trainer if it can be shorter.

**17/9/09 BENCH**

A parishioner has asked if a bench could be provided near the bus stop in front of Dinhams Bungalows.

It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Taunton Deane Borough Council Housing Department to ask if the bench situated at Coronation Close could be moved to the grass verge in front of Dinhams as the bench at Coronation Close is little used.

**17/9/10 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING**

Cllr Marshall asked for the following agreements from the Parish Council:

1. Anne Rhodes of TDBC has advised that MINTUK has information that they can use to produce details by Parish of the existing employers for the NDP area which will assist in the Neighbourhood Plan process This commercial database of business is free to access for groups such as Parish Councils to either subscribe to or take out a free trial

It was agreed to sign up the PC for a free month's trial

2. The Neighbourhood Plan Committee will now need to talk to possible developers and Persimmon Homes has already requested a meeting with the Council

This was agreed

**17/9/11 HIGHWAYS MATTERS**

The Clerk reported that she has received a reply from Highway England in regard to the traffic light sequence at Junction 25. H.E. has agreed that there is a problem there. The Clerk will scan the letter and forward it to the Councillors

**17/9/12 CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk reported that she has now received the defibrillator grant application form which has to be submitted by 30 September. The grant form asks for a location of where the defibrillator would be installed.

After discussion, it was agreed that a suitable location would be on the outside wall of the Village Hall. The Clerk will write to the Village Hall Management Committee for permission.

**17/9/13 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman reported that when he was on private business he saw and said hello to D.C. Dave Durdan but Dave Durdan did not acknowledge him

The Chairman reported that he would not be able to attend the next meeting and gave his apologies.

**17/9/14 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.

**17/9/15 MATTERS TO REPORT (for information only) OR FOR THE AGENDA AT THE NEXT MEETING**

There were no further matters to report

DATE OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 4<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2017 START IN RUISHTON VILLAGE HALL.  
PUBLIC QUESTION TIME. 7.30pm