

## **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 4<sup>th</sup> October 2017

**CLLRS PRESENT:** Marshall, Dickinson, Hancock, Harper and McEvans

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

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

*As the Chairman was not present, Vice Chairman, Cllr Marshall chaired the meeting*

### **17/10/1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Received from Cllrs Bowey, Lowe, Bulgin and Anderdon

(Cllr Powell sent his apologies after the meeting as he didn't get back in time from work)

### **17/10/2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None declared

### **17/10/3 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6 SEPTEMBER 2017**

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

### **17/10/4 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT ORDER NEXUS 25 STRATEGIC EMPLOYMENT SITE (TDBC)**

Cllr Marshall reported that Taunton Deane Borough Council has replied to the Council's Freedom of Information request on the cost of the preparation of the Nexus 25 LDO. TDBC has invested £180,000 and Somerfield Development £40,000 making a total of £220,000. The Council's funding has been sourced from a combination of New Homes Bonus and the Local Plan reserve.

Cllr Marshall continued that originally £100,000 was allocated to this task and this money was to come from solely from the New Bonus Scheme and not the Local Plan reserve. Nexus 25 was not in the Local Plan. He has put this question to Tim Burton, Assistant Director Planning and Environment. Tim Burton replied that should this site have been brought forward through the Site Allocations Plan as originally envisaged there would have been a cost to the Local Plan Reserve and in the absence of that he considered this to be an appropriate use of the reserve. This decision was signed off by Tim Burton and didn't need any Member approval.

Cllr Marshall reported that the long-awaited Transport Assessment Plan should be available via TDBC's website very shortly and Somerset County Council's comments on the Transport Assessment Plan are expected around 17.10.17. The LDO is on the Agenda for TDBC's Community Scrutiny Committee meeting on 14.11.17

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

Cllr Marshall reported that application will be considered by SCC Regulation Committee at a date yet to be made known.

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

Highway England will be holding a Public Exhibition at Ruishton Village Hall on 15 November 4pm – 7pm and afterwards attend a Parish 'Council meeting at 7.00pm to present the scheme and answer and questions

### **17/10/5 CLOSURE OF THE PARK AND RIDE ON SATURDAYS**

County Councillor John Thorne reported that he had raised the issue with the Cabinet member responsible for transport and with the Leader of Council, making the points as to why SCC should re-consider closing the Park and Ride on Saturdays. Cllr John Thorne continued that he is now able to report that the P&R will continue to operate until Christmas at least. SCC will be exploring ways to continue the service in the future and are talking to TDBC about any possible funding support.

The Clerk was asked to chase up the latest on the proposed maintenance programme for the P&R.

#### **17/10/6 PLANNING**

There were no planning matters to report

#### **17/10/7 COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

County Councillor John Thorne reported on the following:

- The County Council has to make 19 million savings to the budget which will prove very difficult.
- County Highways has a new machine, named 'Dragon Slayer' for dealing with pot holes
- He will submit a Small Improvement Scheme (SIS) bid for improvements to safer pedestrian use on Ruishton Lane

#### Ruishton Lane

C.C. John Thorne and Cllr Marshall reported on a meeting with Somerset Highways on 2.10.17 (Cllr Lowe was also present)

The following were discussed:

- Traffic priority at the junction – currently there is a give-way at the end of Ruishton Lane but drivers often exit and enter without looking. Cyclists are very vulnerable.
- Zig Zag yellow lines that were painted when the nursery school occupied the building on the corner opposite Ruishton Arms
- White lining that has been worn away and now is barely visible
- Overgrown vegetation along Ruishton Lane.
- The need to provide a safe route along Ruishton Lane for pedestrians and cyclists,

#### **17/10/8 FLOODING**

Cllr Marshall reported that a TDBC Engineer is concerned that the Village Pump keeps tripping out and he can't seem to get anyone to do anything to correct it. The Chairman has chased this up with the Flood Risk Engineer at Somerset County Council

The Clerk reported that the Flood Group will have training on 24.11.17 at Ruishton Village Hall with Jennifer Godby Project Officer- Communities Prepared.

#### **17/10/9 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING**

Cllr Marshall reported on the following.

- The County Councillor and the Borough Councillors for this Ward have been contacted to present work done so far and the for their involvement. The County Councillor has replied but there has been no response from the Borough Councillors.
- The Steering Group are looking at the topic papers and comparison with other Neighbourhood Plans.
- A business survey will be done very shortly
- The Government are changing the rules on housing allocation. The Housing Group will contact TDBC

#### **17/10/10 HIGHWAYS MATTERS**

Cllr Marshall reported on the County Highway's scheme to paint lining to stop parking on one side of the road outside of the School.

The Clerk reported that she was chasing up the missing air pollution recording tubes on the A358

#### **17/10/11 CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE**

Defibrillator – The Clerk reported that the Council's grant bid has been submitted. Cllr Harper reported that the Village Hall Committee has agreed that the defibrillator can be erected an outside wall of the Village Hall but they did not consider it was the best location in the village.

There is a CPRE (Campaign for the Protection of Rural England) meeting on Thursday 12.10.17 at St James Church, Taunton. Cllr Marshall reported that he would attend.

#### **17/10/12 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Cllr Marshall reported that there was overhanging vegetation on the Virginia Orchard Estate. The Clerk reported that she has a 'polite' letter to send out to residents asking them to cut back overgrown vegetation. The letter has been authorised by County Highways. The Clerk will send Cllr Marshall a copy.

**17/10/13 POLICY REVIEW**

**RESOLVED:** to approve the General and Financial Risk Assessment as presented

The Clerk reported that at a recent training meeting SALC had advised to set upper tender figure to £25,000 as according to EU rules any job of work over £25,000 has to advertised on a Contract Finder website

**RESOLVED:** to approve the Financial Regulations with an amendment to change the £5,000 figures to £25,000

**17/10/14 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

A) CLOSURE OF AUDIT 2016/17

The External Auditor's report and attached letter was noted

B) 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.

C) Q2 BUDGET 2017/18

Noted

**17/10/15 MATTERS TO REPORT (for information only) OR FOR THE AGENDA AT THE NEXT MEETING**

There were no further matters to report.

*The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45pm*

DATE OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 1<sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER 2017 START IN RUISHTON VILLAGE HALL.  
PUBLIC QUESTION TIME. 7.30pm