

RUISHTON AND THORNFALCON PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2017

CLLRS PRESENT: Lowe, Bulgin, Dickinson, Fudge, Harper, Hancock, Marshall, McEvans and Mullins

ALSO PRESENT:, Two members of the public and the Clerk, Heather Bryant

NOT PRESENT: County Councillor John Thorne (Apologies received) Borough Councillors Kelly Durdan and Dave Durdan. (No apologies received.)

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from the public

17/12/1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Cllrs Anderdon and Powell

17/12/2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Harper declared an interest in application no 31/17/0018 as she was the applicant

17/12/3 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1 NOVEMBER 2017

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

17/12/4 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT ORDER NEXUS 25 STRATEGIC EMPLOYMENT SITE (TDBC)

The Chairman and Bulgin attended Taunton Deane Borough Council Scrutiny Committee Meeting on 14.11.17. where the LDO was endorsed for the adoption by the full Council on 12.12.17. Cllr Marshall will attend this meeting on behalf of the Parish Council.

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

It is proposed that this application will be considered by the Regulation Committee in February 2018

HIGHWAY ENGLAND - A358 TAUNTON TO SOUTHFIELD SCHEME

Highway England have taken the decision to consult again on the whole route from early 2018 and will be presenting a number of options for consideration. Further detail regarding scheme options will be presented when the consultation is launched.

17/12/5 PARK AND RIDE

Cllr Marshall reported that a good job has been made on the cut back of the overgrown vegetation in the site

County Councillor John Thorne reported by email that SCC has decided that the Park & Ride last Saturday service will be on 30 December 2017. It is not known if the service will be restored for the big events on Saturdays such as the Taunton Flower Show. The concern about access to Musgrove Park Hospital has been addressed, with Buses of Somerset adding a new Saturday service from town centre stops to Musgrove with a 20-minute frequency from 7.30 am to 8 pm.

County Councillor John Thorne will campaign vigorously to press the case for retaining the Saturday service especially as £50,000 is a small saving when set against the £19 million savings needed by SCC

After a full discussion, it was agreed to write to Somerset County Council a 'strong' letter against the closure as this could cause more traffic and congestion through Henlade and in the recent Neighbourhood Survey, 45% of respondents wanted the Park & Ride open on Sundays and Bank Holidays, and 25% respondents wanted later opening times.

17/12/6 PLANNING

40/17/0005 Removal of front door and canopy over and erection of porch to front of 7 Glebe Cottages Glebe Lane Thornfalcon

It was agreed that the Council had no comments

31/17/0017 Conversion of garage to dwelling, erection of single storey extension to side and demolition of store to create parking at Drakes Farm, Church Road, Ruishton

It was agreed to object on the following grounds

- Over development of the site as all the development is at the front
- Too near the boundary
- Inappropriate conversion
- In 2009, the applicant stated that there was no proposal to change the proposed garage, which was granted, into living accommodation
- Concern that with two extra bedrooms could result in more vehicles movement at the site with access onto a narrow lane

31/17/0012 Replacement of rear extensions, raising the roof to create first floor, reconstruction of roof, relocation of chimney stack, alterations to existing windows, insertion of dormer windows and widening of vehicular access at Greenbanks, Ruishton Lane, Ruishton
It was agreed that the Council had no comments

Cllr Harper left the room

31/17/0018 Erection of single storey extensions to front and rear of 20 Newlands Road Ruishton
It was agreed that the Council had no comments

Cllr Harper returned to the room

31/17/0019 – 31/17/0020/LB Conversion and change of use of former care home to offices (Class B1a) with removal of conservatory and formation of additional parking at Ruishton Court, Ilminster Road

It was agreed to object on the following grounds

- No Traffic Management Assessment
- Change of Use to offices would create more vehicle movement in and out of the site especially in the mornings and afternoons at work start and finishing times. This will be when the A358 will be at its busiest and will cause further congestion
- Vehicles leaving the site is particularly dangerous when turning right
- Question whether traffic management has been considered in relation to the proposed Taunton Deane Borough Council's LDO – Nexus 25 or Somerset County Council's proposed planning application 4/38/0205 Construction of a new road scheme

17/12/7 COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORTS

County Councillor John Thorne sent in a written report on the following topics:

- **Ultrafast Broadband**
- **A358** - Although we still await details of Highways England's re-consultation, which they have said won't be before the New Year, the scrutiny committee on which I sit has an item in its forward workplan to look at the county council's response to the consultation, at its meeting on January 30. It remains to be seen whether that is an optimistic timeframe.
- **Road safety** - Somerset's roads are now the safest they have ever been. However, while the number of people seriously injured on our roads dropped by almost 16 per cent to 158 last year, there was an increase of three to 25 for those killed. For the period January to June this year, the stats are 13 killed and 91 seriously injured. A detailed look is taken at any trends in the statistics, which inform road safety delivery programmes. An example is, based on provisional 2017 figures, a 53% increase in people aged 60+ killed or seriously injured, meaning this will be a target group. I should shortly be offered an information session to show what road safety initiatives are available for communities in my division.
- **Teacher-training**
- **Adult Social Care**

Taunton Deane Borough Council matters

Cllr Marshall reported that Councillor John Williams, Leader of Taunton Deane Borough Council and Councillor Anthony Trollope-Bellew, Leader of West Somerset Council have announced that the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, the Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP is minded to approve the proposal to create a single new council to serve the people of Taunton Deane and West Somerset. Since the proposal was submitted, work has been carried out in anticipation of this decision by looking forward to developing the proposals still further in the interests of the communities. Parishes will be contacted in the near future on how this will be achieved.

17/12/8 FLOODING

Village Pump – The Clerk reported that a non -return valve has been ordered. The TDBC Engineer is waiting for a heavy deluge of rain to see if the pump is working to the required capacity
Ditch behind Newlands – Cllr McEvans reported Somerset County Council’s Flood Risk Management Engineer has this in hand

17/12/9 DEFIBRILLATOR

Lawrence Rayment of Heartstart sent a report stating that a Fire Service colleague and himself surveyed the Dinhams area and found it was unsuitable as this area is liable to flood. They are going to continue to survey the Newlands Road area perhaps near the School.
After a full discussion, it was agreed that the Dinhams area is still the preferred location as it is central to the village and serious flooding only occurs occasionally. It was thought an idea position would be on the wall of the electrical sub station but the defibrillator would be facing south although it may be possible to shield the defibrillator from the sun by a canopy. The Clerk will arrange a site meeting with Cllrs Hancock and Mullins and Lawrence Rayment to discuss options.
The Clerk reported that a parishioner is willing to donate £766 towards the project but wishes to remain anonymous. Cllr Bulgin handed over a cheque for £500 from the Village Day Committee as a contribution towards the project

17/12/10 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

Cllr Marshall reported:

- There have been two Steering Group meetings since the last PC meeting. The Project Teams have also had a meeting
- There has been a review of the Vision Policies and Procedures
- A local Estate Agent has been invited to a Project Meeting
- There will be a Housing Needs Survey early in the new year

17/12/11 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

The Clerk reported that she still needs the addresses of the offending properties to send a letter asking politely to cut back the vegetation

17/12/12 CLERK’S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

Criminal Activity in Ruishton

Cllr McEvans reported that his son’s bike was stolen from Newlands Crescent. It was spotted underneath the Obridge Link where a make shift camp has been set up. The Police are now dealing with this matter.

Fly Tipping at the hall

Cllr Marshall reported that fly tipping has been occurring at the village hall car park. It has happened on 3 occasions. The Police and Taunton Deane Borough Council has been informed.

17/12/13 CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

The Chairman had nothing to report

17/12/14 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

BUDGET 18/19

The Council undertook a preliminary consideration of the budget. The setting of the 18/19 budget will be considered at the January 2018 meeting

17/12/15 MATTERS TO REPORT (for information only) OR FOR THE AGENDA AT THE NEXT MEETING

January meeting -Presentation from Highways and Transport Commissioning Team for a highway improvement scheme at Creech Castle Junction in Taunton. Followed by a question and answer session

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.05pm

DATE OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 3RD JANUARY 2018 START IN RUISHTON VILLAGE HALL.
PUBLIC QUESTION TIME. 7.30pm