

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 January 2018

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

ALSO PRESENT: County Councillor John Thorne, one member of the public and the Clerk, Heather Bryant

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

PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME

The following were reported:

- Dogs have been chasing sheep in Henlade. The Clerk will include an article in the newsletter to remind parishioners to keep their dogs on a lead and the danger that farmers are entitled to shoot dogs that are worrying sheep
- The Village Agent post for this area is now vacant.
- There were around 100 used needles in a hedge along Bushy Cross Lane. The Clerk will contact Taunton Deane Borough Council.
- Vehicles parked on pavements. The Clerk will include an article in the newsletter to ask people not to park their vehicles on the pavement as pedestrians especially people with pushchairs can be forced into the road, which can result in an increased risk of an accident.
- The resignation of Councillor Robert Powell as from the end of the meeting tonight. Unfortunately, Cllr Powell could not attend this meeting as he was held up in London. The Council agreed that Robert would be greatly missed and wished him all the best in his training to be a Police Constable with the British Transport Police.

18/1/1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Cllr Dickinson and Cllr Powell

18/1/2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared

18/1/3 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6 DECEMBER 2017

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

4 BUDGET FOR YEAR 18/19:

RESOLVED: setting a precept of £21,852 for the above year under the power of Local Government Finance Act 1992 Section 41. This equates to £36.89 for a Band D property which is a 1.6% rise from last year. (The vote was recorded as 8 in favour and 1 abstention)

18/1/4 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT ORDER NEXUS 25 STRATEGIC EMPLOYMENT SITE (TDBC)

Cllr Marshall reported that he attended a Taunton Deane Borough Council Full Council meeting on 12 December 2017. The Borough Councillors for this ward were not present. Cllr Marshall asked that TDBC either defer a decision on the LDO until HE's preferred route has been decided along with a Henlade bypass or to adopt the LDO in principle only and refer it to an Inspector to confirm that it is fit for purpose. In the debate, Borough Councillor Ross Henley spoke on our behalf and asked for a recorded vote. The Council resolved (29 for, 6 against, 11 abstentions)

to delegate the decision to adopt the Nexus 25 Local Development Order to the Assistant Director Planning and Environment conditional on planning permission being granted for the M5 J25 junction improvement. So, Nexus 25 will go ahead in isolation from any decision on the route of the A358.

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

This application will not be considered by the Regulation Committee before February 2018

HIGHWAY ENGLAND - A358 TAUNTON TO SOUTHFIELD SCHEME

Consultation starts 16 January 2018 – 27 February 2018. According to the letter delivered to all residents in the parish, there will be 7 public exhibitions at various locations where the public can see the proposals and ask questions to the members of the Project Team. It was noted that for Ruishton and Stoke St Mary, the public exhibition does not extend into the evening whereas the

other 5 events extend to 20.00. The Clerk is to contact HE and state that the timing of Ruishton and Stoke St Mary events will exclude the working person.

The Clerk to contact HE for a presentation with a question and answer session for the parish as provided during the previous consultation (now superseded by this consultation)

18/1/5 PARK AND RIDE

It was reported that the P&R signs still haven't been changed to inform users that it is not open on Saturdays.

18/1/6 PLANNING

40/17/0006 Conversion of a cattle shed and barn into one 3 bedroom dwelling at Lower Manor Farm, Thorne Lane, Thornfalcon
The Council had no comments

14/17/0033 LANGALLER LANE, CREECH ST MICHAEL Outline Planning Application from Messrs Gladman's

RESOLVED: to object to this application and to fully support the objections submitted by Creech St Michael Parish Council. Further objections are as follows:

- A housing development of 200 plus houses will bring considerable more vehicles, especially commuter traffic, on the road between Creech St Michael, through Ruishton, to the A358 to access the M5 at junction 25, and into Taunton. Plus, the fact that in the future, Nexus 25 will attract more vehicles
- Ruishton already suffers greatly with severe flooding and the impact of this development which will only exacerbate this problem
- This development is not identified in the Local Plan and is outside the settlement limits of Creech St Michael

Other Planning matters

Listed Pill Boxes on Lipe Lane – The Clerk reported that she had a letter from the Enforcement Officer who has stated that she had recently passed by the site but could not see anything obvious which appeared to be new development or recent works on the land. Before further investigations information would need to be provided as to the nature of the complaint and the alleged breach. After discussion, it was mentioned that on the top of the canal bank there has been development of the building of doors and a chimney. The EO would need to gain entry to the site to see if any other works have been taken place as this cannot be seen from the road.

18/1/7 COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORTS

County Councillor John Thorne reported on the following:

- Speed Indicator Devices – Somerset County Council are terminating the SID's from 31.3.18. SCC are looking into a revised scheme for Town/Parish Councils that would be willing to contribute
- The Government's Financial Settlement for Local Authorities. The Government chose not to award Pilot Business Rate Retention to Somerset, but did give it to Devon and Cornwall. This will mean that SCC will now have to find an additional £4million of savings on top of the £12 million savings already identified.
- Ultra-fast Broadband-

18/1/8 FLOODING

Village Pump – Cllr Marshall reported that he had a report from TDBC Engineer who says the pump keeps tripping out and will trip out again if Ruishton gets a heavy rainfall. The TDBC Engineer says the fault lies in the electric control board. The Clerk is to contact TDBC as a matter of urgency stating that this problem has been apparent for at least 3 months but nothing has seen to been done to rectify the problem and to ask what steps will be taken and the timescale

Lipe Lane – The Chairman reported that 3 cuts had been made in the bank

18/1/9 DEFIBRILLATOR

Cllr Mullins reported that Lawrence Rayment of Heartstart had advised that the wall of the electrical sub station is not suitable as it is substandard. A good position could be on Dinham Bungalow

garden section situated on the verge in which the Parish Council maintain. A metal post would be required. After discussion, it was agreed to go with Lawrence's preferred site.

18/1/10 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

Cllr Marshall reported as follows:

- Vision for Ruishton & Thornfalcon with objectives and aims, draft will be looked at in detail on 15.1.18
- Report for the Business Survey will be available soon
- The NP Group has details on Atmospheric Pollution in regard to vehicle exhausts. They will send on to the Parish Council
- Awards for All has an allowed variation where the NP Group can use the unspent funds from the Housing and Business Focus Group surveys on a Housing Needs Survey

18/1/11 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

Road Closure – Thorn Lane from the junction of White Street southward for a distance of 130 metres from 29.1.18 for 6 weeks.

Lower Henlade – The drains are blocked at Stoke Hill

Newland Crescent – drain blocked on the corner opposite the garage

18/1/12 CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

A letter has been received from Richard Bryant, Democratic Service Manager for Taunton Deane and West Somerset in regard to the proposed new Council for Taunton Deane and West Somerset. Before the Secretary of State makes his final decision, there is a period until 19.1.18 when interested parties can make further representations. It was agreed to send the Council's previous representation in again although a copy was sent to the Secretary of State last November

The Clerk reported that she had not received a reply from TDBC in regard to the bench at Newlands being moved in front of Dinhams Bungalows. It was agreed for the Clerk to send another letter stating that the Council will move the bench unless we hear to the contrary

18/1/13 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman had nothing to report.

Cllr Bulgin reported that he had not done the small jobs contained in the safety audit as yet. It was agreed to ask G.B Sports and Leisure to do the jobs that Cllr Bulgin cannot do.

18/1/14 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

18/1/15 MATTERS TO REPORT (for information only) OR FOR THE AGENDA AT THE NEXT MEETING

February 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 7 FEBRUARY 2018 START IN RUISHTON VILLAGE HALL.
PUBLIC QUESTION TIME. 7.30pm