

RUISHTON AND THORNFALCON PARISH COUNCIL

CLERK: HEATHER BRYANT, NORTHAY HOUSE, NORTHAY, CHARD, SOMERSET. TA20 3DN

EMAIL: ruishtonpc@gmail.com. TEL: NO: 01460 234770

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th March 2020.

CLLRS PRESENT: John (Chairman), Bulgin, Fudge, Harper, Laws, Marshall, McEvans and Garbutt (after co-option)

ALSO, PRESENT: District Councillors Sue Buller & Phil Stone, County Councillor John Thorne, Peter Gregory (Broadway Parish Council) 2 members of the public and the Clerk, Heather Bryant

PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from the public

20/3/1 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND APPROVE THE REASONS GIVEN

Received from Cllrs Dickinson and Mullins

RESOLVED: to approve the apologies of Cllr Mullins as he is at evening class for a couple of months on a Wednesday

20/3/2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received

20/3/3 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5TH FEBRUARY 2020

RESOLVED: the approval of the minutes as a true record

20/3/4 MATTERS ARISING NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA

There were no matters arising

20/3/5 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLORS TO FILL THE VACANCIES ON THE COUNCIL

RESOLVED: to co-opted Mrs Susan Garbutt as a Councillor for Ruishton & Thornfalcon Parish Council. Mrs Garbutt duly signed a Declaration of Office form

20/3/6 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS

County Council Report

C.C. John Thorne went through his written report of which was emailed to Cllrs before the meeting.

Cllr Marshall made the following comments:

- First bus is withdrawing the service No 29 Taunton to Wells but haven't stated a reason. This service goes through Ruishton
- The traffic lights at the end of Ruishton Lane were not working over the week-end. He tried to report this to Somerset County Council via their website but he found it not possible and had contacted C. C. John Thorne.

District Council Report

D. C. Sue Buller reported on the following:

- Now that Taunton bus station is closing, the Park & Rides will be varying their routes.
- The District Council has set its budget for Financial Year 20/21
- Somerset Council Council's move towards Unitary Council – the four District Councils in Somerset are not in favour of the move.

20/3/7 HIGHWAY ENGLAND - A358 TAUNTON TO SOUTHFIELD SCHEME (HE)

Peter Gregory, the Chairman of Broadway Council introduced himself as the convener of an informal group of PCs which are concerned at the HE's plans for the dualling of the A358.

Mr Gregory continued that the group comprises the PCs of Ashill, Beercrowcombe, Broadway, Donyatt, Hatch Beauchamp, Horton, Ilton and West Hatch.

Their focus of interest has been Section 2 of the HE Preferred Route from Southfields Roundabout to Thornfalcon, since the issues here are pretty common to all villages. H.E. are proposing to the severing of routes to, from and across the dualled A358. The Group are discussing the impact on the increased use of unsuitable local roads also the lack of any significant improvement to Southfields Roundabout. The Group would like to make the Ruishton & Thornfalcon P.C. aware of

its existence and to suggest to the Council to be kept informed of what they are up to, for instance by receiving copies of minutes.

It was agreed to keep in contact and to consider an informal meeting with all interested parties prior to the next meeting of the H.E's Community Liaison Forum

20/3/8 FLOODING

Update on the Village Pump.

The Chairman reported that the firm removing the tree mass in the drain from the pump to the garage need a dry spell of weather to carry out the work. However, during the recent spate of very heavy and prolonged rain, the pump had coped well.

Bushy Cross Lane (from the County Councillor's Report)

The issue at the top of Bushy Cross Lane has been identified as ingress by tree roots which have damaged and are blocking the drain, meaning surface water is slow to drain away. There have been a number of attempts to clear the blockages in the past few months but now it has been decided that a minor drainage engineering scheme is needed, which can take some time to design and will involve a road closure. With the flooding problems that have occurred this winter in many areas, County is putting together a repairs programme and Bushy Cross Lane will be on the list.

20/3/9 PLANNING

31/20/0002/LEW Application for a lawful Development Certificate for the existing change of use of land to domestic garden at Gabrieli, Greenway Lane, Lower Henlade

The Council had no comments

31/19/0023 Variation of Condition No 10 & No 4 of application 31/11/0026 to allow for the two temporary tents to be removed from site before 31st May 2022 at Woodlands Castle, Ilminster Road, Ruishton. Application WITHDRAWN
NOTED

20/3/10 S106 AGREEMENT £27209.75 FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION

Cllr Fudge reported that Cllrs Bulgin, Laws and himself met up to discuss the S106 money and have proposed purchasing the land at the back of the Village Hall for an extension to the Recreation Ground. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the owner of the field to see if he was interested in selling.

Other ideas put forward:

- If the extension is possible, to include a car-park area
- New fence around the Recreational Ground
- Adult exercise equipment
- Ball wall

Cllr Fudge left the meeting at 8.50pm

20/3/11 MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR YEAR 20/21

To consider the two quotations

RESOLVED: to accept the quote from Somerset West & Taunton Council for £5153.52 plus VAT (This includes emptying of three dog bins and the inspection of the play equipment)

It was further agreed to accept the quote from S. Thorne of £160.00 for cutting of the grass around the village hall.

20/3/12 RECREATIONAL GROUND

Cllr Bulgin reported that he was meeting a representative from GB Sports for the repairs to the rope bridge as he has some parts.

The Clerk reported that due to the weather, Arbortect has not been able to carry out the work on the trees. The work has now been planned for the end of March

20/3/13 HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS ISSUES

Blackbrook bridge lift – a major milestone on the M5 Junction 25 improvement scheme

The beams for the new Blackbrook Bridge were lifted into place. The Council was invited to view the lift. Cllrs Marshall, Fudge and Bulgin attended.

Creech Castle improvements and update of J25

Somerset County Council has invited the Council to a meeting to discuss

- Update on the progress of the J25 works,
- Providing a briefing on the Toneway/Creech Castle project
- Update on the strategy/approach to highway works in the WMPC and CSMPC areas in light of the Toneway/Creech Castle project.

The meeting will take place on 12.3.20 at 6.30pm in the meeting room of the Village Hall with representatives from Somerset County Council.

Parish Path Liaison Officer

The Chairman reported that Mrs Pat Pike had agreed to be the PPLO for Thornfalcon

20/3/14 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REPORT

Cllr Marshall reported that the Steering Group had recently met. It had been agreed for the text for the Character Policy

20/3/15 CONSULTATIONS

- Somerset West and Taunton Council Local Plan consultation - Issues and Options document. Monday 13th January to Monday 16th March 2020.

Cllr Marshall reported that he was very disappointed that only the Chairman, Cllr Bulgin and himself submitted a response to the Local Plan consultation.

The Clerk will collate the responses and send in to Somerset West and Taunton Council

- Employment Local Development Order (LDO) for small scale industrial development. Consultation Monday 13th January to Monday 16th March 2020.

Cllr Marshall had submitted a response and the Chairman stated that she would try to do a response before the deadline date. The Clerk will collate the responses and send in to Somerset West and Taunton Council

New Public Consultation – District Design Guide for Somerset West & Taunton

This document sets out how the Council wants to improve design quality across the area. The consultation will take place from Wednesday 5 February to Monday 30 March 2020.

This was noted

Cllr Laws left the meeting at 9.15pm

20/3/16 CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence from Cllr Federica Smith-Roberts, Leader of Somerset West & Taunton Council, in regard to Somerset County Council's proposal to a Unitary Authority. She has offered to come to a parish meeting to discuss the proposal. NOTED

20/3/17 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reported that she had been contacted by a resident at Goosey Lane in regard to a Chestnut Tree that the resident considers is in danger of falling on their property. Claire Thackery is arranging Somerset West and Taunton Council's Arboriculturist to look at the tree but there is a problem with who will take on the responsibility, as Goosey Lane does not appear to be the responsibility of Somerset County Council or Somerset West and Taunton Council.

20/3/18 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.

20/3/19 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Clerk reported that the main hall is free on Wednesday 15th April and 29th April. It was agreed a topic for the APM could be 'Creech Castle improvements and update of J25' if representatives of Somerset County Council are willing to hold a public presentation. If the answer is positive, to ask them which date would suit.

20/3/20 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 9.40pm

DATE OF THE NEXT SCHEDULED PARISH MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 1ST APRIL 2020 HAS BEEN CANCELLED.

