

## **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 5<sup>th</sup> August 2020 held by Zoom conferencing.

**CLLRS PRESENT:** Bulgin, Dickinson, Fudge, Garbutt, Harper, Marshall and McEvans.

**ALSO, PRESENT:** County Councillor John Thorne, District Councillors Sue Buller & Phil Stone and the Clerk, Heather Bryant.

*Cllr Marshall, as Vice Chairman was in the Chair as the Chairman was not present.*

### **PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME (ON GENERAL PARISH MATTERS)**

There were no public present.

#### **20/8/1 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND APPROVE THE REASONS GIVEN**

Received from Cllrs Laws, Mullins, and John.

**RESOLVED:** to approve the apologies for the reason given.

#### **20/8/2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None received.

#### **20/8/3 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1<sup>st</sup> JULY 2020**

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

#### **20/8/4 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

C.C. John Thorne referred to his written report which was emailed to Cllrs.

One Somerset - In Business Case the plan is to create 15-20 Local Community Networks which will group together parish councils in a particular area and include voluntary organisations etc and where localised decision-making can take place. It is being emphasised that no parish council will have to take on any extra responsibilities if it does not wish to.

Cllr Marshall commented that it appears that One Somerset is just replacing the 4 District Authorities with 15-20 local groups- each group would be mini DC's

D.C Sue Buller reported on the following:

- Council meetings are being held by Zoom Conferencing at present.
- There is free parking at Somerset West & Taunton District Council car-parks to drum up business.
- Somerset West & Taunton District Council is against 'One Somerset'.

D.C. Phil Stone reported on the following:

- A very large site at Orchard Portman was sold very cheap with no conditions.
- One Somerset – A large number of Parish Councils have not got the necessary resources with part-time Clerks to form a Local Group.

*Cllr Fudge arrived at 7.52pm*

#### **20/8/5 RUISHTON LANE ROAD CLOSURE**

Alun Griffiths will not be placing traffic control on the junction of Lipe Lane and the A358 while Ruishton Lane is closed despite strong requests from the Parish Council. If anyone encounters problems that may come up due to the closure of Ruishton Lane, they can contact their Public Liaison Officer.

Cllr Marshall reported that he has contacted the Contracts Manger, Dafydd Evans, at Alun Griffiths who has agreed they can contact him direct on his mobile number or his email.

The Clerk reported that she had already contacted the Contracts Manager asking for a report from their team as to their findings at the end of the 5-week closure and how they will use this experience in relation to the 3 months+ closure of Ruishton Lane next year.

It was agreed to ask Alun Griffiths and Somerset County Council for traffic counts in different places in the parish (Lipe Lane, Bushy Cross Lane) Also, to contact the Clerk at Creech St Michael to ask if this village is experiencing an increase in traffic.

**20/8/6 S106 AGREEMENT £27209.75 FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION**

Cllr Fudge reported that there is no further progress.

**20/8/7 RECREATIONAL GROUND**

The Clerk reported that there was no interest for the purchase of the logs.  
Cllr Bulgin is willing to remove the logs and give a donation as he thinks fit.

Cllr Fudge reported that the goal posts require some minimal work to bring them up to a good standard. It is hoped that volunteers will be willing to help and will require some money from the parish to cover cost of paint, wire brushes, PPE (gloves and masks).  
It was agreed a sum of up to £100.

**20/8/8 VILLAGE PUMP**

Report from Cllr Mullins (Cllr Mullins was not present – report by email)  
He is awaiting a response from Claire Thackray regarding the fixing of a ‘Swan Neck’ visible outlet.  
and the ‘Autotext’ notifications for fault conditions from the pump cubicle.  
D.C. Buller said she would follow this up with Claire Thackray.

**20/8/9 PLANNING**

31/20/0015/LB Replacement of roof to outbuilding at the old Vicarage, Church Street Ruishton  
The Council had no comments.

31/19/0024 Outline planning application with all matters reserved, except for access for erection of 4 No. dwellings on land adjacent to Highcroft, Bushy Lane, Ruishton.

The Clerk reported that she had submitted the Council's comments (via email consultation) on 31.7.20 as follows:

The Parish Council's comments on the additional drawings as follows:

- The additional drawings do not address the unsuitable access and egress from Bushy Cross Lane to the A358 and vice versa.
- The access from Bushy Cross Lane onto the A358 is already restricted where in places there is only room for one car.
- Bushy Cross Lane is already a restricted road at this junction of the A358, a new access road in this location would add potential hazards to this location.
- The proposed access will impose on the adjacent property "Cranmere" which has a drive way/garage, making this proposed junction a dangerous location, especially to traffic entering Bushy Cross Lane from the A358.
- The proposal for refuse vehicles to enter is a concern for safety. Any refuse vehicle reversing into the proposed new access road will endanger pedestrians and cause a temporary obstruction to oncoming vehicles.
- Concern as to why another access into the field behind the application site is needed, this field already has an access and does not require another one.
- As Ruishton Lane is subject to an 18month road closure order with effect from 1st August. Bushy Cross Lane will be subject to a major increase in traffic by villagers trying to get out and into the village so if permission to build is given it must not be permitted to start until the end of the closure order.

**20/8/10 CLEANING THE DEFIBRILLATOR**

There is a problem in that the defibrillator gets covered in bird mess from an overhanging tree  
The Tree Warden (Cllr John) has previously stated that she is against the removal of this tree and suggested forming a rota to clean the defibrillator.

Cllr Mullins reported by email that he cleans the defibrillator once a month.

After discussion, it was suggested that Cllr Mullins and Cllr John clean the defibrillator between them.

**20/8/11 COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BID**

NAGS HEAD

The Clerk reported that there had not been any interest in the Parish of forming a Community Interest Group but it only been advertised for a short period.

Cllr Marshall reported that the Parish Council could submit an ‘expression of interest’ to trigger the full period and then, if there is an interest, the valid group could bid within the 6 months. This does not bind the Parish Council into making a bid.

After discussion, this was agreed. The Clerk will submit a ‘Expression of Interest’ from the Parish Council by 14.8.20.

LAND AT THE BACK OF THE VILLAGE HALL

The Clerk reported that she had submitted an application on the above land to be recorded on the Register of Assets of Community Value.

**20/8/12 HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS ISSUES**

Cllr. McEvans reported that the hedge to the left of the junction of Lipe Lane needs cutting back as it is overgrowing on the footpath. Ideally it needs to be removed completely.

**20/8/13 WALKING AND CYCLING MANIFESTO FOR SOMERSET**

After discussion, the manifesto was agreed in principle but there needs to be a less 'broader brush' approach in regard to the 20mph in built up areas.

**20/8/14 CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE**

Wildlife Trust letter 22.7.20 – Noted

The hedges at that were only cut back to a height of 4ft at Ruishton Lane and Lipe Lane have been reported to County Highways stating that anyone walking who is taller than 4ft would be forced towards the middle of the road to avoid the overhanging growth.

**20/8/15 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman had given her apologies for not attending the meeting.

**20/8/16 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Cllr Marshall reported that the Steering Group met on 17.7.20. They are looking into at responses received from an informal consultation.

**20/8/17 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

**RESOLVED:** that this Council approves the schedule of cheques and the Financial Report subject to the requirements of our Risk Assessment Document.

**20/8/18 MATTERS TO REPORT (for information only) OR FOR THE AGENDA AT THE NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next scheduled meeting is 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 at 7.30pm by Zoom Conferencing.

*The Chairman closed the meeting at 20.55pm.*