

## **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 7<sup>th</sup> October 2020 held by Zoom conferencing.

**CLLRS PRESENT:** Bulgin, Fudge, Garbutt, Harper, John (Chairman) Marshall, McEvans and Mullins

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

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

The following were raised under Public Forum:

- Water across the road at the top of Bushy Cross Lane – the Clerk will chase up.
- Inappropriate parking on pavements – See Min No 20/10/12, Highways and Footpaths

### **20/10/1 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND APPROVE THE REASONS GIVEN**

Received from Cllr Dickinson

### **20/10/2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllrs Bulgin and Marshall declared a personal interest in Application No 31/20/0020 as they are near neighbours

### **20/10/3 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020**

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

### **20/10/4 PLANNING**

31/20/0020 Replacement of conservatory with the erection of a single storey extension to the rear and erection of a two storey extension to the side of 18 Newlands Grove.

**RESOLVED:** that the Council had no comments.

31/20/0022 Erection of garage at Elm Grove, Lipe Lane, Henlade. (resubmission of 31/20/0008)

**RESOLVED:** that the Council had no comments.

31/20/0021 Change of use of buildings and associated land from agricultural to Class B1, B2 and B8 usage on land at Cambria Farm, Ruishton.

Cllr Marshall raised an issue that the access could generate extra traffic on the A358.

**RESOLVED:** that the Council had no objections. (The vote was recorded as 7 in favour, 1 against)

### **OTHER PLANNING MATTERS**

#### **Village Hall Extension**

*Cllr Harper declared an interest as she is a Trustee on the Hall Committee.*

After a full discussion, there was concern in regard to the lack of adequate lighting and ventilation. It was agreed to request details of how the lighting and ventilation will be achieved

### **20/10/5 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

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

Cllr Mullins asked the County Councillor for an update on the Small Improvement Scheme for Ruishton Lane and could this topic be a standard item on his future reports.

C.C. John Thorne replied that technically it can be done by thermal imaging. However, he has not heard back from the Department of Transport.

D.Cs Sue Buller and Phil Stone sent their apologies. Cllr Buller sent in a report by email

### **20/10/6 CONSULTATION**

PC11-20 – White Paper: Planning for the Future - Consultation ends on 29.10.20

The Chairman asked all Councillors to send in their responses as soon as possible to the Clerk so she can collate the responses ready to send by the deadline date.

### **20/10/7 VILLAGE PUMP**

The Chairman reported that AWP has confirmed that if a swan neck is fitted on the outlet pipe, water would be held in the pipe and would not allow it to free flow out as it should and that could then possibly trap foreign objects (ie crisp bags, twigs etc) in the pipe and could cause blockages, so AWP would not advise fitting this.

The text dialler will notify when the pump is not functioning as it should. The pumping station was installed by SCC and is to be maintained by SWT. Up until now, SWT has picked up the bill. Claire Thackray will get back to the Chairman when she is back in the office on 12.10.20 in regards to the funding of the text dialler.

Cllr Bulgin stated that it is pointless doing any improvements until the ditch is cleared of vegetation.

**20/10/8 S106 AGREEMENT £27209.75 FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION**

Cllr Bulgin reported that he had contacted two further firms who supply and install outside adult gym equipment. He will email the Councillors with the information.

It was agreed to use the back page of the newsletter to carry out a survey on parishioners' thoughts on this project.

**20/10/9 RECREATIONAL GROUND**

Update on actions taken/required in light of the Annual Inspection Report – the Clerk will send out the inspection report again and to defer until next month

The Chairman reported that Claire Thackray has the removal of the redundant rubbish bin in hand

**20/10/10 SOMERSET CLIMATE EMERGENCY COMMUNITY FUND 2020-2021**

Cllr Harper agreed to ask the Village Hall Committee if there were any energy saving projects that would be eligible for a grant of between £5,000 - £75,000

**20/10/11 ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT (Web Site)**

**RESOLVED:** to approve the Accessibility Statement

**20/10/12 HIGHWAY AND FOOTPATHS**

Inappropriate parking on pavements

It was reported that DPD vans are parking on the pavement close to the junction of Virginia Orchard. It had been already reported to the Depot Manager by a resident and it was agreed send a letter from the Parish Council to the Depot Manager to back up the resident's complaint.

Western Builders lorry is parking on the pavement at the back of the hairdressers while carrying out building work on a property The Clerk will contact the PCSO's

Crab Apple trees between 21 & 23 Lawn Meadow and the trees outside Dinhams Bungalows

The Chairman reported that the trees outside Dinhams Bungalows are for SWAT to maintain and are scheduled for work during autumn/winter. The crab apple tree outside Lawn Meadow is the responsibility of SCC. The Chairman will contact SCC

Ruishton Lane

Cllr Marshall reported that due to the good progress that Alun Griffiths has made during Covid lockdown they are now looking to close Ruishton Lane from sometime in November to the beginning of next year so that they can carry out the road realignment. It was agreed to ask Alun Griffiths to incorporate contingency plans to take into account times when Lipe Lane floods so that parishioners and emergency vehicles can access the village via Ruishton Lane if needs be. Also, to remind Alun Griffiths of the request the Council made a couple of months ago for a report on any problems encountered with traffic during the first Ruishton Road closure.

Other Highway matters

- Bushy Cross Lane is in a bad state of repair as traffic used this lane during the Ruishton Lane closure. The Clerk will contact County Highways.
- The pavement from Cheats corner to Creech St Michael is still very narrow. Also, there is a bush that blocks the visibility looking left as a vehicle comes out of Cheats Road onto Lipe Lane. Ideally, this bush needs to be removed. The Clerk will contact County Highways.
- Chevrons – Haydon Lane.

**20/10/13 CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE**

One Somerset – Invitation from the Leader of Somerset County Council for a Council representative to attend a virtual meeting. (4 meetings) The Chairman stated she would try to attend one of the meetings

Operation Gannex – The Clerk reported that she had been contacted by a OG Co-ordinator stating that the Police do not want the OG Team to close roads but to simply inform them when roads needs to be closed. The OG Co-ordinator understands that discussions have been or will be underway with the County Council to determine how road closures will take place in the future. The Flood Group Chairman has requested a virtual meeting with one or two PC Members to discuss future arrangements and funding. The Chairman and Cllr McEvans agreed to a meeting and to also to invite the County Councillor and District Councillors. This topic will be on the next agenda.

**20/10/14 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman reported that there is an opportunity for free trees up to the value of £50 for each Parish. It was agreed that the Chairman could apply for the trees.

**20/10/15 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Cllr Marshall reported that the Steering Group met on 16.9.20 and discussed Habitat & Environment Assessment reports

**20/10/16 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.

**20/10/17 MATTERS TO REPORT (for information only) OR FOR THE AGENDA AT THE NEXT MEETING**

There was a report of a possible rough sleeper on the footpath near the school. Cllr Harper reported that she thinks it was a 'camp' made by children during the school holidays. She will have a word with the resident.

*The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.36pm*

DATE OF THE NEXT SCHEDULED PARISH MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 4<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2020 AT 7.30PM