

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 1st September 2021 held in the Village Hall observing the Council's Covid-19 Risk Assessment.

CLLRS PRESENT: Bulgin, Fudge, Garbutt, Harper, Marshall and Mullins

ALSO, PRESENT: County Councillor John Thorne and the Clerk, Heather Bryant

Cllr Marshall was voted in as Chair as neither Cllr John (Chairman) or Cllr McEvans (Vice Chairman) were present

PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME (ON GENERAL PARISH MATTERS)

There was no public present

21/9/1 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND APPROVE THE REASONS GIVEN

Cllrs Dickinson and John sent their apologies

RESOLVED: to approve the apologies for the reasons given.

Cllr McEvans was not present

21/9/2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared

21/9/3 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4th AUGUST 2021

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

21/9/4 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

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

C.C. Thorne also reported that he had complaints from a number of residents in regard to excessive noise coming from the Tarmac site. He has informed D.C. Buller as noise control is the remit of SWT. The Clerk will ask D.C. Buller for an update.

D.C. Barrie Hall sent his apologies.

Cllr Marshall reported that D.C. Hall had sent out a Liberal Democrat leaflet to households in the parish which stated that this Council received a grant from SWT for outdoor gym equipment. This is not correct as the funding for the outside recreation came from S106 money which was due to the Council. Cllr Marshall has asked D.C. Hall to correct his statement.

D.C. Sue Buller was not present

21/9/5 PLANNING

There were no planning matters

21/9/6 FLOODING MATTERS

As Cllr McEvans was not present, it was agreed to defer until the next meeting.

21/9/7 VILLAGE PUMP

The Clerk reported that she was still receiving emails (around 10 a day) from the text dialler system stating that the system has failed which she has reported to SWT. Claire Thackray has replied that the pumps need replacing and the necessary works to the site should start at the end of August.

The Chairman had previously reminded Claire Thackray last month that the ditch opposite the village pump should have been cleared by the land owner in January 2020. This still has not been done.

21/9/8 HIGHWAY AND FOOTPATHS

Increase in traffic now that Bridgewater Road at Creech Castle Road is closed

The Clerk reported that she had received a number of emails on the significant increase of traffic along Cheats Road and Ruishton Lane, using the roads as a short cut while Bridgewater Road is closed. Councillors have received verbal complaints as well.

C.C John Thorne reported that he has asked about diversion signage and traffic lights at the

junction of Lipe Lane and A358 and was told that Somerset County Council is reviewing what can be done.

Overgrown vegetation along roads making which is a danger for pedestrians and other road users
This topic has also received a lot of complaints of hedges that are growing out over pavements and into the roads. C.C. Thorne is pressing SCC to address the problem. The Clerk will include an article in the October newsletter of the landowner's responsibility for cutting back vegetation.

Completion of J25 meeting

The Clerk reported that Andy Coupe of Somerset County Council had sent his notes he had made from the questions this Council raised at the meeting held on 13.7.21. The notes have been forwarded to the Stage 3 Safety Audit Team for them to consider. However, it was stated that signs that are being obscured by vegetation should be actioned now. C.C. John Thorne will chase.

A358 Southfields to Junction 25 scheme

The Informal Group of Parish Councillors are meeting before the next Community Forum meeting held by National England (formally Highway England) to review the NE position on the PC's mitigation measures. Cllr Marshall or Cllr Bulgin will attend along with Doug Lowe if he can make the date which, as yet, to be decided.

21/9/9 CONCLUSION OF AUDIT 2000/2021

NOTED: Completion of the limited assurance review for the year ending 31st March 2021 with no matters to report

21/9/10 S106 AGREEMENT £27209.75 FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION

The Clerk reported that all the equipment had been received and been paid. There is a balance of £37.82 left which can be forwarded for the payment of signs. (Information & a disclaimer)
After discussion, it was agreed to ask the Playing Fields Association for advice. Cllr Fudge agreed to attend the Playing Fields Association's APM on 10th September.

21/9/11 RECREATIONAL GROUND

The Clerk reported that she deferred including an article for volunteers to serve on a Recreation Ground Committee in the September newsletter as she wanted to include, with confidence, that the project for the S106 money had been successfully completed. She will do a comprehensive article in the October newsletter

21/9/12 QUEENS JUBILEE WEEKEND- 2ND – 5TH JUNE 2022

Informal meeting with parishioners booked for 22nd September 2021 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm
The Clerk will organise a poster

21/9/13 PURCHASE OF LAND

The Clerk had no updates

21/9/14 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr Marshall reported that the Committee are still going through the responses from the Public Consultation. Their next meeting is on 6th September.

21/9/15 CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

Parish Council elections

Views on whether the 2023 Parish Council elections should be moved forward to 2022 as there could be a saving on Town/Parish elections costs if they were held at the same time as the elections for the new Unitary Authority.

After discussion, it was agreed that this Council would rather keep to the normal time-table of Town/Parish Council elections in 2023 as Unitary elections will be political whereas Parish Council elections are not.

Airband – Connecting Devon and Cornwall

The Community Liaison Executive for this region has offered to attend a Parish meeting to give an

overview of this project - Noted

Cold Calling signs

The Clerk will ask our PCSO's if they know where to obtain Cold Calling signs to replace the ones that are now faded.

Town and Parish Council Conference

Local Government Reorganisation Programme (LGR) are organising a conference on 7th October open to Clerks & Chairmen. The conference is to learn more about LGR in Somerset and the opportunities that it presents.

The Clerk reported that she did attend a Clerk's working group today (1.9.21) on line and it was stated that the Conference is going to be a face-to-face meeting although it may be hybrid as well. The Clerk stated that she would not attend a face-to-face meeting at present. The Clerk will check with the Chairman if she is available and happy to attend.

21/9/16 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman had previously informed the Clerk that two volunteers had come forward to help to 'tidy up' the village

21/9/17 FINANCIAL MATTERS

Village Hall

RESOLVED: to the release of a £20,000 legacy that the Council are holding on behalf of the Village Hall as it will be spent on capital expenditure and not towards running costs.

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.

21/9/18 MATTERS TO REPORT (for information only) OR FOR THE AGENDA AT THE NEXT MEETING

Next Agenda – Flooding

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00pm

DATE OF THE NEXT SCHEDULED PARISH MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 6TH OCTOBER 2021 AT 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL.