

RUISHTON AND THORNFALCON PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st December 2021 held in the Village Hall observing the Council's Covid-19 Risk Assessment.

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

ALSO, PRESENT: County Councillor John Thorne, DC's Buller & Rigby, 2 members of the public and the Clerk, Heather Bryant.

PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME (ON GENERAL PARISH MATTERS)

There were no questions from the public

21/12/1 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND APPROVE THE REASONS GIVEN

Cllrs Marshall, Dickinson and Fudge sent their apologies

RESOLVED: to approve their apologies for the reasons given

21/12/2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received

21/12/3 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3rd NOVEMBER 2021

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

21/12/4 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS

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

D.C. Sue Buller reported that it had just been announced that the Unitary elections will take place in May 2022 although it has not been announced as yet if the Parish Council elections will be brought forward to May 2022.

Cllr Mullins arrived at 7.35pm

D.C. Barrie Hall sent his apologies. D.C. Mike Rigby spoke on his behalf.

D.C. Mike Rigby gave an update of the Local Plan:

- Taunton Deane is still working on the evidence base. It will form a basis for a new Local Plan when the Unitary is invested in 2023
- They had previously called for sites of possible development however there are still 10,000 houses to be built from the 17,000 houses allocated in 2011
- Taunton Deane does have a 5-year land supply.
- There will be a series of consultations on the next Local Plan.

21/12/5 PLANNING

31/21/0021/T Application to carry out management works to one oak tree included in Taunton Deane Borough (Ruishton No 1) Tree Preservation Order 2008 to the rear of 40 Newlands Road Taunton (TD1051)

The Council had no comments.

40/21/0011/LB Various internal & external repairs at Harmens Cottage, Thorne Lane, Thornfalcon. The Clerk reported that this application arrived too late for the agenda.

The Council agreed to note the application.

21/12/6 FLOODING MATTERS

Cllr McEvans reported that he had a meeting with Ian Tucker and Richard Sargent who will be working together with volunteers known to Ian and Richard. Also, to use R&T Facebook page to inform the public of future flooding incidents. They plan to undertake an Action checklist every year. The Clerk will check on the progress of the automatically flooding activated signs.

21/12/7 VILLAGE PUMP

The Chairman reported that the responsible landowner opposite the pump still has not contacted this council so the ditch remains uncleared.

21/12/8 HIGHWAY AND FOOTPATHS

Increase in traffic now that the Creech Castle Road is closed

The Parish Council met with two representatives from Somerset County Council who said that the works are going very well and the scheme is on track. They said that the traffic flow was as expected but there is more traffic at the extremities of the scheme. The extra traffic and sometimes chaos that the closed Bridgwater Road has caused through Ruishton and Henlade was the main topic of the meeting and especially when opposing vehicles get stuck long Ruishton Lane. They were well aware of the problems as they had experienced it themselves but they were struggling to find an answer as solving a problem in one area, will have a knock-on effect of bringing the problem somewhere else. However, after discussion, they will investigate putting in more signage to encourage traffic from Creech St Michael to use Lipe Lane, temporary traffic lights at the pinch points in Ruishton Lane and getting the hedges cut back along Ruishton Lane.

Cllr Mullins stated that something more needs to be done in regard to the speeding along Cheats Road such as a 20mph speed restriction. It was reported that County Highways would require the Council to pay for a scheme. The Clerk will look into 20mph speed restrictions zones. She will also ask in the next newsletter if there would be any volunteers for a Community Speed Watch scheme.

A358 Southfields to Junction 25 scheme

The Clerk reported that the consultation had been sent in. (See Chairman's Report)

Small Improvement Scheme (SIS) Ruishton Lane

The Clerk will chase up Andrew Nellist (SCC Project Manager, Infrastructure Programmes Group) for an update

Finger Post at the boundary of North Curry and Thornfalcon

The Chairman reported that she had been contacted by Phil Stone who is a Councillor at North Curry. North Curry PC is presently in the process of renovating the finger posts in their parish. However, there is a finger post on the boundary of North Curry that is in the parish of Ruishton & Thornfalcon. North Curry PC has received two quotes for renovation of £545 and £800. Cllr Stone has asked if R&T would consider paying half of the cost with North Curry. After discussion it was **RESOLVED** to pay half of the cost on the basis that we go with the lower estimate of £545 and that we settle the amount owing in the next financial year.

21/12/9 RECREATIONAL GROUND

The Clerk reported that the signage wording was agreed last month which included clauses of "No glass bottles" and "No alcohol". The Clerk continued that the Council could not enforce these clauses. It was agreed to delete these clauses from the wording of the sign.

21/12/10 QUEENS JUBILEE WEEKEND- 2ND – 5TH JUNE 2022

Report from the Jubilee meeting held on 4.11.21 sent by Cllr Dickinson by email refers.

- Letters and a survey were posted to all households with the Village Newsletter
- Ten surveys were returned and all were in favour of a village event with a party/picnic on the Recreational Ground.
- Six people attended the meeting, apologies were received from a further three
- There were no responses from Community Groups
- Although all present expressed a willingness to help to organize any event, no-one was able to assume responsibly for taking plans further.
- The meeting concluded that sadly, there was insufficient interest in taking a plan forward for a community event at this time.

21/12/11 PURCHASE OF LAND

The Clerk reported that the seller still wants a Covenant with no prospects of development. However, he is happy to adapt the Covenant to allow structures which may be required for the parish use of the land.

After a full discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Covenant be amended to enable the Council to erect structures associated with the use of Community Recreational Facilities.

21/12/12 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr Bulgin reported that all Councillors will receive by email a copy of the draft Neighbourhood Plan before the meeting in January 2022. It is very important that all Cllrs read the NP before a resolution in January approving the NP and submitting it to SW&T.

21/12/13 CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported that the Notice Board at Thornfalcon is not fit for purpose. It will only take two A4 sheets of paper and the backing is wood and it is extremely difficult to use a drawing pin. Also, the glass has been smashed.

It was agreed to look at purchasing a new notice board at the budget meeting and in the meantime the Clerk will source prices.

21/12/14 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reported that she attended a Remembrance Service on behalf of the Council. She had organised the information collated by Cllr Marshall from the few Cllrs that responded onto the A358 consultation document on behalf of the Council ready for the Clerk to submit to National Highways by the deadline date.

12/12/15 POLICY REVIEWS AND RISK ASSESSMENTS

RESOLVED: adopt the Open Space Risk Assessment with the exclusion of "No glass bottles" and "No alcohol"

21/12/16 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.

21/12/17 MATTERS TO REPORT (for information only) OR FOR THE AGENDA AT THE NEXT MEETING

There were no matters to report

January 2022 Agenda - Budgets

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.05pm

DATE OF THE NEXT SCHEDULED PARISH MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 5th JANUARY 2022 AT 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL.