

## **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 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022 held in the Village Hall observing the Council's Covid-19 Risk Assessment.

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

**ALSO, PRESENT:** County Councillor John Thorne, District Councillor Buller, 3 members of the public and the Clerk, Heather Bryant.

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

A comment was made about the dangerous situation at Cheats Corner where overgrown vegetation obscures the bend on Lipe Lane coming from Cheech St Michael.

#### **22/4/1 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND APPROVE THE REASONS GIVEN**

None received

#### **22/4/2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None received

#### **22/4/3 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2<sup>nd</sup> MARCH 2022**

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

#### **22/4/4 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

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

District Councillor Barrie Hall sent his apologies

#### **22/4/5 PLANNING**

31/22/0005/A Display of 1 No externally illuminated fascia sign, 1 No externally illuminated projecting sign illuminated and 5 No internally illuminated signs sat Blackbrook Tavern, Ilminster Road.

The Clerk will use her delegated powers. There were no comments from the Council

31/22/0004 Demolition of garage and erection of a single-story extension to the side and rear for a garage and dog grooming parlour (private use) with formation of dropped kerb at 1 Woodlands Drive  
The Clerk will try to get an extension

#### **22/4/6 HIGHWAY AND FOOTPATHS**

Speeding Vehicles through-out the parish

No updates

20mph and a Community Watch Scheme update

The Chairman reported that at least six volunteers are required and a co-ordinator. Volunteers can be trained on-line. It was agreed to advertise for more volunteers in the newsletter.

A358 Southfields to Junction 25 scheme-

There will be another forum with National Highways in May

SIS consultation

County Highways has confirmed the hedge cutting which is a part of this scheme will be carried out in Autumn.

Parking along Cheats Road when football is being played on the Recreational Ground

One Saturday, the football teams did use the car-park at the Village Hall as advised by the Parish Council, as long as permission is sought by the Bookings Secretary. Unfortunately, an event was booked for the Village Hall that Saturday morning with the car park full of Football Team vehicles. Cllr Harper will have a word with the Village Hall Committee for any further options.

#### **22/4/7 RECREATIONAL GROUND**

Vandalism to the picnic table and to consider any actions

The Chairman reported that a group of Cllrs will need to have a look at the table to see what damage has been done.

The Police has been out to the Recreational Ground to offer advice on the anti-social behaviour. The Police advised that the fence around the site is not high enough. To install a robust lock & chain on the main entrance RG gate. To look at fencing with a gate at the Village Hall end of the field. This then could be locked up at night (with other gates) so any late evening gathering of youths would be breaking and entering the RG.

#### Planting of a Platinum Jubilee tree

To look at planting a tree this Autumn.

#### **22/4/8 FLOODING MATTERS**

Cllr McEvans reported that two volunteers could be on call if a flood were to happen. However, more volunteers are needed.

The Clerk will chase up Somerset Rivers Authority for progress on the activated flood signs.

#### **22/4/9 CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE**

Noise at Tarmac site- A complaint has been received in regard to excess noise at the Tarmac site at unsociable hours. The Clerk will refer this complaint to Alun Griffiths Ltd.

Finger Posts – An email has been received from a resident in regard to the 'shabby' state of fingerposts in the parish. He would be willing to join a team of volunteers to restore these signs. The Clerk will investigate further.

Stream Lower Henlade – An email has been received from a resident in Lower Henlade in regard to a stream that is extremely overgrown. The Clerk will investigate further.

Electric Pole – An email has been received from a resident in Bushy Cross Lane in regard to existing electric poles being left in place when new electric poles were installed. The Clerk will investigate further.

#### **22/4/10 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman had nothing to report

#### **22/4/11 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Cllr Marshall reported that the Habitat Regulation Assessment will be updated to take into account the phosphate situation

#### **22/4/12 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.

#### **22/4/13 MATTERS TO REPORT (for information only) OR FOR THE AGENDA AT THE NEXT MEETING**

There were no matters to report

**RESOLVED:** *Under SO 1C the press and the public be instructed to leave the room.*

#### **22/4/14 PURCHASE OF LAND**

Update- The geotechnical survey and ground investigation with trial pits cannot now go ahead as permission from the landowner has not been granted to carry out the survey.

It was agreed to ask the landowner again for permission.

#### **22/4/15 PAY REVIEW**

National Salary Award 2021-2022 now agreed

Clerk's present Contract is SPC 8 £10.65 an hour x 480 hours a year

2021-22 pay per hour is £10.84 which is a 1.75% increase

**RESOLVED:** to update the Clerk's pay according to the National Agreement backdated to 1.4.21

NP Administration Assistant present Contract is SPC 5 £10.04 x 288 hours a year

2021-22 pay per hour is £10.21 which is a 1.75% increase

**RESOLVED:** to update the NP Administration Assistant pay according to the National Agreement backdated to 1.4.21