

RUISHTON AND THORNFALCON PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the meeting held 4th October 2023 at 7.00pm held in the Village Hall.

CLLRS PRESENT: Mullins, Duke, Fudge, Liz Harper, Richard Harper, Tarr, Marshall and van Bussel

ALSO, PRESENT: Somerset Councillors Sarah Wakefield and Ross Henley 5 members of the public and the Clerk, Heather Bryant.

PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME (ON GENERAL PARISH MATTERS)

Members of the public had the following questions/comments

- Homes and Horizons residential unit -concerned how much this is costing as there seems to be regular problems at this home
- 20mph speed limit – Stoke Road in Henlade suffers from speeding vehicles will the 20mph extend to Henlade and not just Ruishton. The Chairman replied that the Council is due to have a site visit with County Highways and he will mention Henlade.

SOMERSET COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

The Council received a written report from the Somerset Councillors before the meeting.

S.C. Ross Henley reported on the following

- He had visited the new Headmaster of Ruishton School and one of the problems discussed was the school pick up and drop of times and non-working flashing lights. Cllr Tarr reported she is waiting for Highways Lighting Team to come back in regard to the non-working flashing lights
- The problem with flooding at the top of Bushy Cross Lane should be fixed after work was carried out last month.

23/10/1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Cllr. Bulgin

23/10/2 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLORS TO FILL THE VACANCIES ON THE COUNCIL (3)

No candidates have come forward

23/10/3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared

23/10/4 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6TH SEPTEMBER 2023

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

23/10/5 LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORKS

Next meeting is on 23rd October at 7.00pm. No venue has been advised as yet

23/10/6 PLANNING

It was agreed to consider the planning application for 150 dwellings at Brookfield Nurseries on 1st November 2023 in the main hall and have a PC meeting for other agenda items on 8th November in the meeting room. The Clerk reported that both dates were available

23/10/7 FLOODING MATTERS

Community Response Group

Cllr Duke reported that he is working closely with Richard Dunn, Somerset Council in getting the village pump working to its optimum capacity to cope with any future flooding. It may mean replacing the pump.

Cllr Duke further reported that he was attending a Somerset Prepared meet on 5th October at Wincanton. He will be taking another volunteer

Flood Activated Signs

There has not been a very heavy deluge of rain to see if the signs work or not.

Flood Alleviation Scheme

The Clerk reported that she has asked under the Freedom of Information Act a completed schedule of works for 2022/23

Bushy Cross Lane flooding near the junction with the A358

See S.C. Henley's report

23/10/8 HIGHWAY AND FOOTPATHS

Speed Indicator Devices (SID's)

Chapter 8 training will be taking place on 26th October at Ruishton Village Hall. This Council is sending five delegates – Cllrs Mullins, Fudge & van Bussel. Two volunteers from Ruishton will also be attending so they can work on refurbishing the 'old' finger posts in the parish. The Clerk reported that the training could be paid for from the CIL reserve.

Small Improvement Scheme

The Chairman reported that the National Grid should be starting work on the week beginning 9th October.

A358 National Highways meeting 30th August 2023

Cllrs Marshall & Bulgin & Jim Claydon (All members of the N.P. Steering Group) recently met with N.H. on behalf of the Parish Council to discuss the areas of agreement and disagreement with issues this council has made to N.H. Public Consultations. The goal is to provide a joint statement to be agreed by both parties to be put forward to the Planning Inspectorate.

The main area of disagreement is that traffic coming from Ilminster will be guided down the existing A358 through Henlade to reach the Park & Ride. The Neighbourhood Plan anticipates considerable change to the old road will need to be undertaken to make it more pedestrian friendly and adding unnecessary P&R traffic through Henlade which will adversely affect this aspiration. N.H. should provide a right turn at the Nexus cross-roads to enable access to the P&R from the new road and reconfigure the access to the P&R.

Also, R&TPC views should be considered separately from those of other Parishes. R&TPC favours the scheme which provides a by-pass to Henlade which is currently subject to considerable disruption through traffic volumes and air pollution. The "by-pass" (as it is viewed locally) provides an opportunity to regenerate the environment of Henlade to make the village more liveable and safer. These are the aspirations of the NP.

It was agreed to approve the recommendations from the N.P. Steering Group. The Clerk will forward the comments to National Highways

20mph Speed Limit

The Clerk reported that she thinks that an email had been received from Garry Warren regarding the site visit dates and times. She will check.

Various Highway works in the parish

The Clerk will ask S.C. Ross Henley if he has managed to arrange a meeting with Kate Brown of Somerset Highways

23/10/9 BUS STOP – STOKE ROAD

The Clerk reported that the Planning Department need further information as the number she had quoted was just the enquiry number and doesn't provide any information. She will contact the Planning Office with further details and a photograph.

23/10/10 RECREATIONAL GROUND

The new bench celebrating the Coronation of King Charles III has been ordered

23/10/11 COMMUNITY EVENT

Creech St Michael Parish Council are proposing a Community Event possibly next June with R&T PC, North Curry and West Monkton.

After discussion it was agreed in principle to get a team together for a tug of war event but it will be dependant on volunteers. The Chairman stated that he would attend any meetings.

23/10/12 FINANCIAL MATTERS
Q2 Budget – NOTED

FINANCIAL REPORTS AND CHEQUES FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED: that this Council approves the schedule of cheques/invoices and bank statements with the Financial Report subject to the requirements of our Risk Assessment Document

23/10/13 CORRESPONDENCE AND CLERKS REPORT

The Clerk had nothing to report

23/10/14 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr Marshall reported that once the Examiner has submitted the final report, Somerset Council then has 5 weeks to accept the report and publish a statement. Then the Neighbourhood plan can go for a referendum which has to have a 51% positive vote from the residents who have responded.

23/10/15 MATTERS TO REPORT (for information only) OR FOR THE AGENDA AT THE NEXT MEETING

Cllr Tarr stated that she will change her email address for the Council to ruishton.org.uk

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00pm

DATE OF THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WHICH WILL BE A PLANNING MEETING WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 1ST NOVEMBER 2023 AT 7.00PM. IN THE VILLAGE HALL. THE COUNCIL'S NOVEMBER MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 8TH NOVEMBER AT 7.00PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL'S MEETING ROOM