

**RUISHTON AND THORNFALCON  
PARISH COUNCIL  
O MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 3 MARCH 2004 COMMENCING AT 7.30 PM**

**Present:** Coun. Marshall (Chairman), Anderdon, Hill, House, Lowe, Mullins, Rexworthy, Shattock, Small and Walker. DC. Bryant and Durdan. CC Watson. 5 Parishioners, Alex Graves (TD Planning Officer) and Mary Growtage (Clerk)

**Apologies:** Coun. Bulgin and Jelks

04/04.01

**MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2004, having been circulated, were taken as read and were duly agreed and signed by the Chairman.

04/04.02

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

31/2004/001 - ERECTION OF EXTENSIONS AT THE FIRS, BARTON LANE, RUISHTON (PC)  
This application was deferred from the last meeting.

Coun. Shattock declared an interest

One letter of objection had been received from the next door neighbour on the grounds that the proposal would be close to their new extension leading to maintenance problems and concern as to how the roof of the proposed extension be joined to the garage. Maintenance is a private matter and not a planning consideration and the concern regarding the roof will be dealt with at the Building Regulations stage.

The scale and design of the extensions are considered to be acceptable by the Planning Officer and permission was granted.

31/2004/006 - ERECTION OF DWELLING ON LAND TO THE REAR OF THE HYDE, HENLADE (REVISED SITE PLAN) -TD

The application had previously been refused and there was a minor alteration to the plans.

The meeting was still against the application on the grounds that it is a backland development, shared access and too close to the boundary. Besides meaning additional traffic onto the A358.

TEL/02/004 - The installation of a 15m mast at Thornwater Farm has been approved by TD.

31/2004/002 - Permission has been given for the Conservatory at 33 Alexavia Park.

331/2004/04 - Erection of 2 storey extension at 9 Knightstone, Henlade. Since we approved this application, TD have received a letter of objection on the following grounds: intrusion of privacy, as it would overlook their garden; close space and the view to the front of their house, being detrimental to security; increased noise.

The Planning Officer considered that the extension is acceptable and should not lead to an unreasonable loss of privacy, security or cause unreasonable noise nuisance. Therefore the scheme is considered acceptable.

The present Delegation Agreement between TDBC and our parish is due to expire on 31 March 2004. Under the terms of the Agreement we should have been notified of this by 31 January this year, but due

to an oversight TD failed to meet this deadline, therefore the current agreement will continue until 31 May 2004. The Council agreed that they wish to continue with the Agreement after that date for another two years (expiring 31 March 2006)

04/04.03

#### **CLERK'S REPORT**

**FUTURE FUNDING OF PARISH PLAY FACILITIES** - New arrangements proposed by TD cover: Refocusing the priority on facilities for older children and teenagers. Increasing the sum available in grants by 50% to a total of £31,000. Encouraging Parishes to set up a Playing Field Association or Community

Group to run local facilities.

Offering 33% grant of the total cost of the project. This would mean a decrease from 85%.

These proposals have been reviewed by the Review Board and are now being considered by the Executive.

**BROADBAND ROADSHOWS** - The nearest to us is at WPA, Blackbrook Business Park on Monday 29 March . Sessions are 10am - 12.30pm., 2 - 4.30 pm and 7- 9.30 pm

**LOCAL INVESTIGATION AND DETERMINATION OF MISCONDUCT ALLEGATIONS AND DRAFT GUIDANCE** - Copies of consultation papers which set out proposals to issue Regulations and guidance relating to the arrangements by which local authority monitoring officers may investigate allegations of misconduct by members referred to them by ethical officers are being circulated to all members. Responses have to be in by 18 May 2004 and will be drafted by Coun. Hill and the Chairman.

**VISION FOR TAUNTON** - D. Coun. John Williams has called a meeting with neighbouring parishes to inform us on 'Vision for Taunton for 2025 and Beyond' This will be held at Creech St Michael Village Hall on 31 March commencing at 7.00 pm. Seven members are interested in attending.

**RURAL WEBSITE** - Coun. Rexworthy agreed to complete a questionnaire of local facilities to go on a 'Rural Website'

**STOCK OPTION BRIEFING SESSION** - A briefing session will be held on 24 March at Deane House. No one from the parish will be attending.

**VILLAGE OF THE YEAR COMPETITION** - It was agreed not to enter this year.

**SALC MEETING** - Coun. Anderdon will attend this meeting on our behalf.

**INSPECTION OF PLAY EQUIPMENT** - As Coun. Bulgin is ill, Coun. Mullins will carry out this weekly inspection until he is well.

**CLEANING BUS SHELTERS (A358)** - It was agreed that this will be reviewed at the next meeting.

04/04.04

#### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

**TAUNTON TRANSPORT STRATEGY REVIEW** - The Chairman reported on a Stakeholder Workshop that he had attended. With ever increasing traffic, the main objectives being to 'Develop an efficient transport system to support the growth of the local and regional economy, including tackling congestion. This could include a Northern Inner Distribution Road to relieve Greenway Road, an Inner Relief Road and pedestrianisation of North Street. Long term a create a Northern Outer Distributor Road to relieve roads east of Taunton. Individually, they could reduce over-capacity queued time by up to 10% in AM peak (15% in PM): and together, by up to 20% in AM peak (25% in PM) Parking

facilities were also reviewed.  
Public exhibitions will take place in March 2004.

SIGN POST- RUISHTON LANE - This has been vandalised but will be replaced.

HIGHWAY AGENCY REPORT ON A358 - The Chairman spoke on the current dualling debate on whether to dual the A358 or A303 and has prepared a draft information letter for parishioners on the matter for distribution to parishioners, together with a questionnaire for them to complete, if they so wish. The idea being to inform parishioners of all the options.

04/04.05

**TRAFFIC CALMING - RUISHTON LANE, CHEATS ROAD AND BUSHY CROSS LANE.**

The scheme has been progressed to include Bushy Cross Lane. Site visits have necessitated the adjustment of the original scheme (prepared by David Monk (WSA) some time ago.) because of limiting road widths.

The new plans were approved.

The works will cost c. £4000 in total, which requires a funding element from the Parish Council of £1600. The Clerk has already confirmed that we have the necessary money in hand. High Walker (LTP Implementation Officer -SCC) will now 'take the scheme and its cost in front of the relevant County Council Committee and see whether there is anything to be done here.'

04/04.06

**FLOODING AT LOWER HENLADE (SH)**

Coun. Hill has been in contact with various landowners and local authority departments in an attempt to stop flooding in Lower Henlade. To pipe the ditch at the end of the lane to Stones Cottage would cost in the region of £4000, but at the same time ditches across farmland need to be cleared. It is understood that some funding would be available.

This is still at an early stage and Coun. Hill is hopeful of arranging a site meeting of all agencies involved, enabling him to bring full details to a future Parish Council meeting.

04/04.07

**ACCOUNTS**

The Clerk reported that the balance in the Nat West A/C at 31 January 2004 was £8433.77 with £11000 in the A/C with Scottish Widows. These figures have been verified by the Chairman. There is currently a VAT repayment due of £199.

The following accounts were passed for payment:

	£	
M. Marshall	250.00	Chairman's allowance
M. Growthage	3834.72	Clerk's salary
Ruishton Village Hall	22.10	Hire of hall
D. Duke	102.20	Website/2 years
Vale Labels	15.00	Newsletter
Parsons Landscapes Ltd	22.04	Ground Maintenance

A quote has been received from DLO in the sum of £227 + VAT for turfing the goal mouths of the football pitch. This does not include any irrigation that maybe required after it is laid. Parsons Landscapes' quote is for £215 + VAT, no mention is made of any aftercare. It was unanimously agreed to accept Parsons quote for this work.

04/04.8

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

At the last meeting we received a request from the Village Hall Committee to find a temporary replacement for Coun. Jelks on their committee until she is well enough to attend meetings.

Coun. Jelks has informed the clerk that she should be able to recommence her duties in April 2004

04/04.9

#### **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS**

Coun. Watson confirmed what had already been said by the Chairman regarding the A358 and A303. He stated that neither he nor anybody at the SCC or TDBC have seen any plans, although it is understood that SWEB and WW may have done so.

With regard to the proposed cycleway from the village to Hankridge, the Chief Executive is eager to see this brought to a satisfactory conclusion.

#### **04/04.10 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT/S**

Coun. Bryant said she would co-operate with Coun. Hill with regard to the flooding at Lower Henlade.

She also gave the date for Broadband to be received by Henlade exchange numbers as 5 May 2004.

The Parish Council is aware of their implications of Sec. 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 2000 and have considered the act in their decision making.

**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.15 PM**

**THE NEXT MONTHLY MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 7 APRIL 2004**

**DATES FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETINGS**

**THORNFALCON - 21 APRIL 2004**

**In The Village Hall Committee Room commencing at 7.00 pm**

**RUISHTON - 22 APRIL 2004**

**In The Village Hall commencing at 7.30 pm**