

**RUISHTON AND THORNFALCON
PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2 MARCH 2005**

Present: Cllr. House (Chairman), Anderdon, Bulgin, Faulkner, Hill, Lowe, Mullins, Rexworthy, and Walker. District Cllr. Durdan, 2 Parishioners, the press and Mary Growtage (Clerk)

Apologies: PC Ben Hicks (Avon and Somerset Constabulary Beat Officer) did not attend.
Cllr. Hancock, Marshall and Small. County Cllr. Watson.

03/05.01

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2005 having been circulated, were taken as read. There was one amendment, 02/05.11 to read 'Proposed Cycle Path from Church Lane to Hankridge'. Minutes of the Planning meeting on 22 February 2005, were also taken as read. There was one amendment being to delete Cllr Anderdon under apologies. Both sets of minutes were then agreed and signed by the chairman.

03/05.02

PLANNING MATTERS

Taunton Deane Planning Committee refused consent for the Conversion of Woodlands and erection of retirement flats - 31/2004/028LB and 029.

They did grant permission of the barn to residential use at Lower Manor Farm, Thornfalcon - 31/2005/001

03/05.03

CLERK'S REPORT

The SALC Marsh meeting has been cancelled, due to a shortage of agenda items and poor attendance at the last area meeting.

A joint Spring Conference with Avon Association is being held at Henton Village Hall, Wookey Hole on Saturday 19 March from 10.30 am to 3.00 pm.

Members were reminded of the Strategic Planning meeting at St. Andrew's Church Hall on Thursday at 7.00 pm

The Parrett Catchment Project have a 'Fact Finding Day' on Monday, 14 March starting at the Langport Arms Hotel in Langport at 9.00am

There will be a Flood Warden Open Day At North Wessex Area office, Bridgwater on Thursday 7 April, commencing at 2.30 pm*

* Names to be given to the clerk if you wish to attend.

Taunton Deane have set Ruishton and Thornfalcon 2005/06 Council Tax Base for Band D at £617.41.

03/05.04

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

In the absence of the Chairman, Cllr. Bulgin reported on the meeting that they both attended regarding the Strategic Planning meeting they had both attended.

They had also attended the Planning meeting when 'Woodlands' development was discussed and were appalled to learn some members of the committee did were not conversant with the local plan.

The 'Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Bill' will be considered at the next meeting, if deemed necessary by the chairman.

03/05.05

RECREATION FIELD

Parson Landscapes had written stating that they would ensure that the litter bins are emptied on a regular weekly basis in the future. They also pointed out that the litter bins are still being used for the disposal of dog waste.

Environmental Heath Officer had written stating that TD are able to fund the purchase and emptying of a further 10 Dog Bins. It was agreed that the parish council would submit their bid for one of these bins to be situated next to the fence by the main gate into the recreation field. (Cheats Road)

The clerk stated that she had been in contact with various people with regard to insurance. It appears that we are insured with the most competitive, there being very few options. In view of this fact, she will have to submit all replacement costs of the play equipment to the Cornhill Allianz Insurance Co. by the end of the month.

03/05.06

HIGHWAYS

Somerset Highways have promised to reinstate the road side markers together with road markings on the 'S' bend between Lower Henlade and Holway, following mane accidents in this area.

The owners of 'Cranmer' were been given 28 days to clear their overhanging vegetation. This was not done and so they have been given a further 14 days, after which the Highways Agency will take further action.

The trees opposite Nare Cottage have been cleared as they were infested with dutch elm disease. Cllr Lowe reported that some major patching work has been undertaken and more should be done by the end of the month.

03/05.07

FLOODING PREVENTION UPDATE

The work in Cheats Road should commence this summer and will include a footpath, also, new fencing alongside the recreation field.

Some remedial work will also be undertaken at the end of Church Lane.

03/05.08

ACCOUNTS

The following accounts were passed for payment:

	£	
Mike Marshall	250.00	Chairman's allowance
Vale Labels Ltd	15.00	Newsletter
Parsons Landscapes	28.20	Maintenance
Ray Hancock	33.80	Travel expenses (40ppm)
Mary Growthage	3940.32	Clerk's salary (SCP 19)

The balance at Nat West will now be £1331.55, with £13500 at Scottish Widows.

03/05.09

EXTERNAL AUDIT

It was agreed to ask Mr A Bullen to carry out the external audit again this year. Costs will be slightly more than last year.

03/05.10 COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT/S

In the absence of County Cllr. Watson, a draft report was handed to the meeting by the Environment and Transport Policy Advisory Panel on his behalf.

This will be put on the next agenda if deemed necessary by the chairman.

District Cllr. Bryant urged members to attend the Strategic Planning meeting tomorrow and stated that Mr Ralph Willoughby Foster will speak at the meeting. She stated that she would be supporting us in resisting development to the east of the motorway.

District Cllr. Durdan told members about the River Parrett Road Show at North Curry Village Hall on Saturday, 14 May 2005 from 11.00 am to 4.00 pm.

He also explained the work of a new charity 'Somerset Waterway Development Trust' which is to raise funding for the improvement and extension of our waterways. A meeting is being held at The Boat and Anchor on Wednesday 16 March 2005 commencing at 7.00 pm.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING - 6 APRIL 2005

Parishioners question time will continue to be at 7.20 pm
prior to the commencement of the Parish Council meeting at 7.30 pm

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.05 PM

**THE COUNCIL IS AWARE OF THEIR IMPLICATION UNDER
SEC.17 OF THE CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 2000
AND HAVE CONSIDERED THE ACT IN THEIR DECISION MAKING.**