

**RUISHTON AND THORN FALCON
PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 6 APRIL 2005**

Present: Cllr Marshall (Chairman), Bulgin, Hancock, Hill, House, Lowe, Mullins, Rexworthy, Small and Walker. County Cllr. Watson, 4 Parishioners, the press and Mary Growtage (Clerk)

Apologies: Cllr. Anderdon and Faulkner. District Cllrs. Bryant and Durdan

04/05.01

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2005 having been circulated, were taken as read and were duly agreed and signed by the chairman.

04/05.02

PLANNING MATTERS

DEMOLITION OF AN EXISTING SITE OFFICE BUILDING AND CONVERSION OF AN EXISTING 'MESS ROOM' TO A GENERAL STORAGE BUILDING; THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW OFFICE AND AMENITIES BUILDING WITH THE ASSOCIATED CAR PARKING AND UNDERGROUND WATER AND SEWERAGE PIPES AT HAM TREATMENT WORKS, HAM, THORNFALCON, CREECH ST MICHAEL. Grid ref. 328558-142537 (SCC)

There were no objections - this application being for comment only.

31/2005/004 - ERECTION OF 2 STOREY EXTENSION TO BUNGALOW AT 1, ORCHARD RISE, RUISHTON - AS AMENDED. (PC)

Coun: Rexworthy declared an interest and left the meeting for this agenda item.

This application was approved, subject to there being no objections received the 26 April 2005.

37/2005/005 - ERECTION OF EXTENSION AND EXTERNAL ALTERATIONS, INCLUDING THE PROVISION OF DORMER WINDOWS AT DAIRY HOUSE FARM, HENLADE (S St. M)

Coun. Hill declared an interest and left the meeting for this agenda item.

There were no objections to this application, the final decision on this application rests with Stoke St. Mary Parish Council.

OTHER PLANNING MATTERS

The chairman reported that we had received a letter from Baker Associates, who have been appointed as consultants to TDBC to carry out an Urban Potential Study of the Borough.

The purpose of the letter was to ask us to submit details of any site capable of accommodating 6 or more dwellings within Ruishton.

The meeting knew of no suitable sites within Ruishton.

The clerk has received details of the amendment to the original planning application relating to the Former President's Health Club. These will be passed to Cllr. Anderdon, who requested them.

Despite our comments, TD Planning committee have granted permission for the erection of a bungalow and garage on land to the north of 18 Newlands Grove, Ruishton. Stating that the site lies within the Settlement Limit Boundary and the proposal is in accordance with policies S7, 1-11, S1 and S2.

TD have put a Tree Preservation Order on the trees at 'Woodlands'

04/05.03

CLERK'S REPORT

The Flood Warden Open Day at North Wessex Area office, Bridgwater on Thursday 7 April has been postponed due to lack of interest.

Application will be made on 12th day of April 2005 at the transfer sessions, TD Magistrate's Court, Taunton, to include Barbara Loadwick as joint licensee, with Nicholas Romano, of The Mount Somerset Hotel.

As from 1st April 2005 the Rights of Way service will be carried out by Somerset County Council. Tamsyn Matthews will be transferring from TD to SCC and will continue her current role as Rights of Way Officer responsible for Taunton Deane District.

Code of Conduct Order - The Parish Liaison Officer reminds Parish Councils that under paragraphs 7 - 11 the responsibility of members is defined and if any councillor has a prejudicial interest in any matter which is brought up at a meeting, they must not only declare the interest but also withdraw from the meeting room. The old rule, which merely required a member not to take part in the meeting, no longer applies and they must leave the room whilst the item is being discussed.

It was agreed to accept the offer from David Grieg (PLO) to give us a brief refresher session on the Code, as it imposes very strict requirements on each and every Parish Council. The Standard Board for England takes any breaches very seriously and has imposed severe penalties where the Code has not been observed.

Notice was given of a Business Fair to take place in Wellington tomorrow, 7 April.

The clerk has received a map showing Traveller's sites in Taunton Deane, this will be kept on file.

04/05.04

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The chairman read a letter that he had received from the local WI stating that 16 members had recently undertaken a clean up of the village, some 16 sacks of rubbish being collected. During the course of this task it had been found that plastic bags which owners use to clear up after their dogs are often being thrown into the hedgerow after use. This is not acceptable and will be mentioned in the newsletter. A letter of thanks to the WI will be sent to Mrs Cann.

04/05.05

CLEAN NEIGHBOURS AND ENVIRONMENT BILL

CIlr. Hancock explained the Clean Neighbours and Environment Bill, which was formally introduced on 7 December 2004.

The Bill will play a key role in Governments plan to create cleaner, safer, greener communities. Also, the many problems affecting the quality of our local environment, which form a continuum with the anti-social behaviour, vandalism, disorder and levels of crime.

The Bill increases parish council powers, containing new powers for parish councils to issue fixed penalty notices for litter, dog control, graffiti and fly posting. These are powers, rather than duties, so no council is under an obligation to use them. There are also sections on crime and disorder, nuisance and abandoned vehicles, waste and noise, which could be of benefit to the community.

This Parish Council will wait for advice from SALC and speak with other neighbouring councils, before making a decision.

04/05.06

STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING

Members who attended this meeting were pleased to learn that TD supported our view that there should be no large development east of the motorway.

SCC also have the same view.

04/05.07

RECREATION FIELD

Coun. Bulgin has obtained a new sign for the toddler's area, while a sign stating 'Dog waste should not be put in this bin' are still to be done.

Slabs will be placed in front of the seat, where the grass has been worn away. Someone has padlocked a swing seat, making it unusable. This will be attended to. Daffodils planted alongside the recreation field have been much admired.

04/05.07b HIGHWAYS

Rosie Darch (SCC- Environment Department) has replied to Tarmac Precast Concrete regarding their letter supporting our request for a cycle path on the northern side of the A358 from Ruishton Lane to their works. The request has been considered and is now included on the Minor Improvements List ranked No. 21. The budget being limited allows only three or four schemes each year (County wide). So will not be considered in the foreseeable future.

Tarmac were asked to consider a contribution to bring the cycle path forward sooner than may be possible, pointing out that the cost would be significant.

The owners of 'Cranmer' have still not cut back their hedge.

The clerk will ask Parsons Landscapes to cut down the height of the shrubs alongside Virginia Orchard. Complaints have been received from a resident whose bank is being threatened by vehicles driving on it, to allow other vehicles to pass. The clerk will ask the Highways Agency if anything can be done to prevent this happening. The water tap in the bank is to be concreted around.

04/05.08

MEMORIAL SHRUB BED

The manager of Tarmac has agreed to help with the funding to replant this bed, while Monkton Elms have offered a gift voucher of £10 towards the cost.

No reply has been received from Parsons Landscapes.

It was suggested that the clerk should write to the Housing Department (TD) to enquire whether or not they are maintaining this bed, as it would appear that they are doing it as well as Parsons Landscapes.

*TDBC

*SCC

*Parsons Landscapes Mary Growtage SALC

Vale Labels
Parsons Landscapes PJ Signs

Coun. Mullins suggested that the clerk approach B & Q for help towards funding.

04/05.09

ACCOUNTS

The following accounts were passed for payment:

	£	
*TDBC	231.48	Turf around new slide
*SCC	1681.81	Towards traffic calming (40%)
*Parsons Landscapes	28.20	Maintenance
Mary Growthage	97.53	Postage etc 2004/05 Affiliation fee 2005/06
SALC	282.46	Newsletter
Vale Labels	15.00	
Parsons Landscapes	205.63	Maintenance
PJ Signs	24.68	Signs (Toddler's area)

*These cheques were drawn before the end of the financial year.

£1500 has been transferred from the Scottish Widows to the Nat West a/c leaving balance of £12,000 (06.04.05)

04/05.10

COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT/S

There were no District Councillors present.

Coun. Watson had nothing further to report and stated that this would be the last meeting he would be attending as our County Councillor, as he is standing down at the coming election in May.

The chairman thanked Coun. Watson for his service to the parish over the last four years.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING - 4 MAY 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 9_10 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.**