

**RUISHTON AND THORN FALCON  
PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 1 JUNE 2005  
Commencing at 7.30 pm

**Present:** Cllr Marshall (Chairman), Anderdon, Bulgin, Faulkner, Hancock, Hill, House, Lowe, Mullins, Rexworthy, Small and Walker. Cllr. Clark (County), Durdan and Leighton (District), 3 parishioners, Mr David Grieg (Parish Liaison Officer) the press and Mary Grootage (Clerk)

**Apologies:**

06/05.01

**MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS**

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 May 2005 having been circulated, were taken as read and were duly agreed and signed by the chairman.

06/05.02

**PLANNING MATTERS**

31/2005/006 - ERECTION OF SINGLE STOREY EXTENSION AT 6 MARKS CLOSE, RUISHTON (PC). Site notice posted 16.05.05

This application was passed, subject to there being no objections received by 7 June 2005.

06/05.03

**CLERK'S REPORT**

LICENCE - An application has been made for 'Grant of Justices' Licence' by Knight Bros., Thornfalcon Garage for the sale of Intoxicating liquor of all descriptions for consumption off the premises. This will be heard at 10 am on Tuesday, 14 June 2005 at Taunton Deane Magistrates' Court, St John's Road, Taunton.

COMMUNITY ACCESS FUND APPLICATION - There will be a meeting to discuss this at North Curry Village Hall on 8 June 2005. Cllr. Lowe will endeavour to attend.

PARRETT CATCHMENT PROJECT NEWSLETTER - It was agreed that we still wish to receive this newsletter, which is circulated to our members.

SCHOOL GOVERNORS are still required in Somerset. A notice to this effect will be posted on the notice boards.

FLOOD DEFENCE IMPROVEMENTS - A letter has been received from David Mann (Flood Defence Improvements Engineer) stating that the Environment Agency still await assurance that the design is acceptable to the Somerset County Council. There are a few minor points which need resolution, but this should not prevent the scheme going ahead this year. However it looks as though the contractors will not be on site until the autumn.

NICHOLAS MARKS TRUST - Rev. Goodfield has resigned as a trustee.

Cllr. Bulgin agreed to take his place in the short term.

The clerk is to write to the Charity Commission regarding the possibility of merging the trust with the John Thorn Trust, as agreed at the Annual Parish Meeting.

06/05.04

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

**SMALL PARCELS OF LAND OFFERED FOR SALE** - A letter has been received from Cllr. Williams (Leader of TD Council) clarifying the position that could arise. Although it is technically possible to seek pre-emptive action through the Courts to prevent specified land uses where it is thought these will be in breach of regulation, in practice it is extremely difficult to achieve.

If the landowner is known, and agreeable, some protection can be gained by the inclusion of covenants in the sale of the land. This would preclude certain uses and would be made binding on all subsequent purchasers and provides some form of protection against the siting of mobile homes on land that is to be sold. Parish Council representatives can contact TDBC out of hours should an unauthorised

encampment or other event occur by ringing 01823 351411 . Members can also contact Cllr. Leighton in an emergency.

**RURAL POLICING** - Cllr. Williams has attended a meeting with Colin Port, the new Chief Constable of Avon and Somerset Police, when the concern over the lack of visible policing and the rapid turnover of community beat officers was expressed. Also, the growing perception that it was not worth reporting crimes, unless very serious, because the police just did not bother attending. Mr Port was concerned by this and stated his intention to ensure that all reports are properly followed up. A follow-up of reported crime would be prioritised so that urgent cases were dealt with immediately and, with less urgent cases, appointments booked as police became available on later shifts.

**LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 2006/2011** - The chairman has written to the Transport policy Team at SCC expressing our opposition for any plans for a Park and Ride situated on the A358 next to junction 25 of the M5 before a Henlade bypass has been constructed.

He also pointed out that a section of the A358 through Henlade has been designated an Air Quality Management Area by TDBC due to the high levels of nitrogen dioxide from traffic emissions along this stretch of road and that a Park and Ride accessed from the A358 would only generate more traffic on this stretch of road.

In conclusion he stated that any plans for a Park and Ride must be dependent on access from a Henlade bypass and as this is highly unlikely to be in place within the time scale of this transport plan then the East of Taunton site should be deleted.

**SPEED READINGS** - We have received the results of the speed readings undertaken in the parish

between 14 and 19 April, showing the 12 hours between 0700-1900 and the 85% speeds. The 85% speed is the speed that the Police consider the average driver to be driving. Therefore from the findings, drivers are well over the 30mph limit on Stoke Road, Cheats Road and Ruishton Lane. Bushy Cross Lane and Lower Henlade speeds are acceptable. This information has been passed to the police and the clerk will write to them on the matter, she will also write to Somerset Highways asking for a more prominent form of traffic calming as the road marking scheme does not appear to have made any improvement.

It was also agreed to ask for the number of vehicles using the roads at these times.

There are many options but in conclusion the report states that little could be done in terms of short-term improvements and that TDBC would have to wait for the outcomes of larger studies. The clerk is to invite a member of the Environment Protection Team to attend a meeting to give parishioners an update on the issue.

VILLAGE OF THE YEAR COMPETITION - It was agreed not to enter the competition this year, but, to study the questionnaire and look to making improvements in the village in the future.

06/05.05

### **HIGHWAYS**

BUSHY CROSS LANE JUNCTION WITH A358 - This path has now been cleared.

DROPPED KERB AT DINHAMS - TD state that it would not be safe to position another dropped kerb in the vicinity of the post box. Cllr. Leighton will look into this on our behalf.

A358 - Cllr. Lowe reported that markings are in place for several minor works to be carried out, especially where drains are sinking.

CHEATS ROAD - Cllr. House asked that when the verge is cut in Cheats road, the saplings planted along the new fence are not damaged again this year.

06/05.06

**RECREATION FIELD** The clerk has asked Richard Gudge to now paint the play equipment as per his quotes of £543.46, she has also asked Lee Constable to contact Cllr Bulgin with a view to inspecting the play equipment.

Cllr Bulgin stated that the fence around the toddlers' play area needs some remedial work and kindly agreed to see that this is done, the cost being in the region of £30 being only the cost of the timber required for the purpose. This was approved by council members.

06/05.07

### **PROPOSED RUISHTON INN FOOTBALL CLUB**

A request has been received from the newly formed Ruishton Inn Football Club to use the pitch and changing room facilities for its home matches every two weeks on Sunday mornings between September and May.

Also, present at the meeting was Mr Jones who runs Holway Ladies Football Club, who wish to use the pitch on Sunday afternoons next season.

The pitch requires some remedial work, which Mr Jones is prepared to carry out at no cost to the parish council.

Cllr Bulgin reported that Mr Poole has expressed his concern over the football posts being erected again and balls being kicked into his garden. It was discussed whether easily removable goal posts are available in order that they could only be erected for matches. The clerk will enquire from the DLO as to whether these are available and the cost involved.

The clerk suggested that she call a meeting between the two football clubs and a representative of the parish council in order that timings etc. can be agreed.

06/05.08

### **COMMEMORATION SHRUB BED**

It has been confirmed that this bed was designed and planted by TDBC as a one off request and that maintenance is the responsibility of the parish council.

With regard to the replanting of the shrub bed, Monkton Elms Garden Centre have donated a £10 voucher towards the cost of plants. While Tarmac Construction have agreed to provide a stone showing the commemoration and following a Tarmac liaison meeting which the clerk and Cllr Mullins attended, she has written asking if they would also be prepared to sponsor the planting of the bed. No reply has been received from B & Q or Parsons Landscapes.

06/05.09

#### TRAFALGAR WEEKEND (21-23 October 2005)

It is possible that a beacon may be lit on Thorn Clump, thanks to Cllr. Small who owns the land. It would be too wet for parishioners to walk up to the beacon, but perhaps a Bar B Q could be arranged at a point from where the beacon could be viewed.

n appeal will be made for volunteers to organise an event.

06/05.10

**ELECTORIAL REVIEW TDBC (LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1992)** David Grieg explained that The Boundary Committee at electoral arrangements for the borough to make sure that, where possible, every councillor represents the same number of electors. It will also take into account the interests and identities of local communities in the area.

#### ACCOUNTS

The Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2005 was duly completed and signed by the chairman and clerk. The Notice of Appointment of date for the Exercise of Electors' Rights will be posted on the notice boards tomorrow, 2 June 2005. Any person interested may inspect the books and records by application to the clerk from 16 June to 12 July 2009 between the hours of 1 Oam and 8 pm.

The following accounts were passed for payment:

Vale Labels	15.00	Newsletter
Parsons Landscapes	226.78	Maintenance
Allianz Cornhill Insurance	1712.31	Annual insurance
R. Bulgin	35.16	Purchase of padlock and sign

Mr Brian Jones has agreed that the money (£234.34) held on behalf of Ruishton Cricket Club be transferred into Parish Council funds. But asked that if a cricket club was ever reformed in the village, that the PC would be prepared to award a grant towards the purchase of new kit/equipment.

06/05.12

#### PARISH LIAISON OFFICER (MR DAVID GRIEG)

Mr Grieg reinforced the 2001 Code of Conduct and stated that it was most important that members declare an interest, especially where the council has delegated planning authority.

Members must supply details of their interests and any changes within 28 days.

Hospitality or gifts if over the value of £25 must be declared to the Monitoring Officer, whether taken up or not.

Those present were given copies of the Code of Conduct and guidance notes.

Guidance will be given by TD for any parish wishing to have a Parish Plan, now that it will not be led by the Countryside Agency.

06/05.13

#### **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

The new county councillor, Cllr. Nobby Clark was introduced by the chairman.

Since taking office he had attended Ruishton School and was most impressed with the work done there. It is reported that the grant they receive for special needs children may be reduced and said he would do all in his power to prevent this happening.

Cllr. Mullins asked him to support the proposal for the cyclepath from Ruishton to Hankridge and the clerk agreed to send him copies of recent correspondence.

06/05.14

#### **DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

Cllr. Leighton stated that the planning application for the gypsy site at North Curry would be heard on 7 June 2005. She also explained that TD are to lease the Otterford site and expand it by six pitches.

The local plan is now on the website and also at the printers.

The chairman quoting from TD weekly bulletin, queried what was meant by the item that Cllr. Garner had agreed to vire £15,000 from the Private Sector Renewal budget to match fund the £15,000 sum recently awarded from the Crime and Disorder partnership for the development of a Handy person scheme in TD

Cllr. Durdan explained that the planning application for the Park and Ride at Cambria Farm was unlikely to be heard before 2008.

#### **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING - 6 JULY 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 9.15 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.**