

**RUISHTON AND THORNFALCON
PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 6 JULY 2005
Commencing at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllr Marshall (Chairman), Anderdon, Faulkner, Hill, Lowe, Mullins, Rexworthy, Small and Walk-r. Cllr. Clark (County), Leighton (District), 5 parishioners, the press and Mary Grootage (Clerk)

Apologies: Cllr. Hancock, House and District Cllr. Durdan.

07/05.01

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 Jun- 2005, having been circulated, were taken as read and were duly agreed and signed by the chairman.

07/05.02

PLANNING MATTERS

31/2005/007A - DISPLAY SIGNS, PREMIER LODGE INN, RUISHTON.

There were no objections to this application, providing the Highway Authority have no objection to the illumination.

07/05.03

CLERK'S REPORT

CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOODS AND ENVIRONMENT ACT 2005 - The clerk read a letter from DEFRA stating that the act would directly impact parish councils in two ways.

1. Allowing them to issue fixed penalty notices for litter, graffiti, fly posting and dog offences.
2. It would also allow parish councils to introduce dog control orders for a range of offences (effectively replacing the current by-law system).

It was agreed to wait until final guidance is given, possibly in Spring 2006.

PARKS AND OPEN SPACES - We have received a copy of both the Green Space Strategy Executive Summary and Parks and Open Spaces Questionnaire, for our information. The questionnaires are to be distributed throughout Taunton Deane, no member of the parish council has yet received a questionnaire.

Taunton Deane aim is that all its residents live within walking distance of a good quality park or open space and that every child lives within 300 metre walking distance of a quality play area.

PROPOSED WESSEX CYCLE ROUTE /RUISHTON TO HANKRIDGE - Somerset Highways state that planning permission was granted to 'Sustrans' for this cycle route in March 2003.

We are now advised that they are undertaking further investigations into the detail required by the planning conditions for the scheme. In particular issues such as land ownership, environment and wildlife. Design and construction details are to be investigated. Affected landowners, and residents of Church Lane will also be contacted separately to alert them to their investigations.

ELECTORAL REVIEW OF TDBC WARDS - There do not appear to be any changes recommended for the Ruishton and Creech electoral ward boundaries.

MEMORIAL SHRUB BED - Advice will be sought before a final decision is made on the future of this shrub bed. Tarmac Precast Construction have expressed an interest in being involved with the cost replanting of the bed.

NEW COUNCILLORS' COURSE at West Buckland on 13 July at 7.30 pm. Cllrs. Faulkner and Hill will attend.

07/05.04

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

HIGHWAY AGENCY PRESS RELEASE - It has been announced that the A303 will be closed at Marsh (Somerset/Devon county border) for 15 weeks commencing 5 September 2005, for major road repairs.

Diversions will be in place, including the diversion of HGV onto the motorway and A358.

The chairman is concerned that there are no plans to control traffic movement and that the AQMA is already unacceptable. More information will be sought from the Project Manager.

Cllr. Bulgin arrived at 8.05 pm

PARISH PLAN - The idea behind a parish plan is that it gives everyone in the community a chance to say what they think about the social, economic and environmental issues affecting the life of their community; a chance to say how they'd like to see it improved in the future, and a chance to actually do something about it.

The chairman explained that it was important that we proceed with this, as it will be beneficial when the new planning system comes into force.

It was agreed to apply for funding and to call a meeting of people to assist in drawing up the plan.

TD AGM WITH PARISH COUNCILS - The chairman had attended this meeting, where many issues were discussed. Included was the New Local Development Framework. This is a group of separate but interrelated planning documents, which will contain policies and proposals that guide development within Taunton Deane.

The Core Strategy sets out the overall vision and strategy for the Borough, including the spatial policies fixing general areas that may be used for future development, or protected from it.

TD must prepare a Statement of Community Involvement saying how it will involve individuals, communities, businesses and other parties.

Cllrs. Bulgin and Marshall will prepare draft responses, which will be discussed fully at the next meeting.

07/05.05

DINHAMS - REQUEST FOR DROPPED KERB

The clerk told the meeting that, thanks to District Cllr. Leighton, TD had agreed to provide this dropped kerb, (near the post box) at a cost of £200 to the parish council (the actual cost involved being over £600)

It was agreed to accept this offer and it is understood that work will take place in a matter of weeks.

There has now been a request for a dropped kerb in the lay-by outside no.4

07/05.06

HIGHWAY MATTERS

SURFACE DRESSING PROGRAMME - The following roads will be surfaced - dressed during the current season:

Ash Road, Thornfalcon

Church Lane, between Stoke Road and Higher Hatch Lane, Thornfalcon.

Surface dressing is a low cost method of maintenance and is used to waterproof surfaces, which are showing deterioration, prior to the development of potholes or failure of the road structure.

TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES - Stoke Road, Cheats Road and Ruishton Lane.

A letter has been received from Somerset Highways stating that there was no funding available for traffic calming on these roads. Funding for future years is likely to be targeted at accident reduction and is, therefore focussed on sites where there are high numbers of personal injury accidents.

WAITING RESTRICTIONS - A358 HENLADE. Following a meeting between Somerset County Council Accident Investigation Officer and the management of Tarmac, it is proposed to introduce a 'No Waiting At Ant Time' restriction on both sides of the feeder road on the north side of the A358 outside Tarmac Precast Concrete Works.

07/05.07

BT's PROPOSALS TO RE-ALIGN PAYPHONE PROVISION

There are currently two street based payphones in the parish, both identified with very low use.

BT are proposing that should Ofcom's review remove the obligation to provide cash payment facility, then the boxes at Henlade crossroads and Dinhams, Ruishton should be converted to a cashless payment facility.

In view of the fact that both of these boxes are near retirement settlements it was agreed to request that cash payment facilities remain as at present.

07/05.08

HIRE OF FOOTBALL PITCH - CHARGES

After a long discussion, it was agreed by 8 to 2, with 1 abstention to fix the following charges for the coming season:

Seniors - £13 per match

Juniors - £6.50 per match

NB - The Village Hall charge £7 for the use of the showers.

07/05.11

ACCOUNTS

The following accounts were passed for payment:

	£	
Vale Labels	15.00	Newsletter
Parsons Landscapes	453.56	Maintenance

The clerk reported that the bank balances were Scottish Widows £15,000 and Nat West accounts £1336

07/05.11

CORRESPONDENCE

The meeting was asked if there were any objections to the 'Huddle being painted red and blue, none were given.

07/05.12

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr. Clark was meeting with the headmaster of Ruishton School to formally object to the reduction in allowances in the funding for disadvantaged children.

Concern was also expressed at the proposed A303 diversion.

07/05.12 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr. Leighton informed the meeting that Stoke St Mary were already carrying out a Parish Plan.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING - 3 AUGUST 2005

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

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.20 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.**