

RUISHTON AND THORNFALCON
PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 2 NOVEMBER 2005
Commencing at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllr Marshall (Chairman), Bulgin, Hancock, Hill, House, Mullins, Rexworthy, Small and Walker. Cllr. Clark (County), 2 parishioners, Sarah Taylor and Nigel Kerr (Air Quality Management, TDBC) and Mary Grootage (Clerk)

Apologies: Cllr. Anderdon, Faulkner and Lowe. Cllr Leighton (District)

PRESENTATION BY THE AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT TEAM

Sarah Taylor (Pollution Control Officer) spoke on the work of the team over the last few years, in monitoring part of the A358 through Henlade.

Members were given copies of the Nitrogen Dioxide levels as recorded in 2004, which we were told were lower than in 2003, Henlade being just below the 40 limit.

The chairman asked for a copy of the 2003 readings and also 2005 when available, stating that nothing other than monitoring the situation appeared to have been carried out.

11/05.01

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 October 2005, having been circulated, were taken as read and were duly agreed before being signed by the chairman.

Cllr. Durdan (District) arrived at 8.20 pm

11/05.02

PLANNING MATTERS

31/2005/013B - REMOVAL OF CEMENT RENDER AND REPLACEMENT WITH COB AND LIME RENDER, AND REPLACEMENT OF C20 WINDOWS WITH TRADITIONAL OAK MULLIONS AT ACKLANDS, BUSHY CROSS LANE, RUISHTON.

The work on this appears to be almost complete and members thought it was an improvement.

The clerk will write to Development Control regarding lack of information.

3-1/2005/014 - ERECTION OF 2 STOREY SIDE EXTENSION AND SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION AT 10 VIRGINIA ORCHARD, RUISHTON. (Site notice posted 18.10.05)

This application was approved, subject to no objections being received by 04.11.05

11/05.03

CLERK'S REPORT

MAPS - Maps of Thornfalcon have been given to members.

RUISHTON FLOOD IMPROVEMENTS - Tenders for the work are due back by 7 November 2005 and the contractor should be appointed by the end of the month, although he may well decide to start work at the beginning of January rather than before Christmas to avoid having to secure the site over the fortnight Christmas holiday. It is anticipated that the work will take 4-6 weeks with a 3 week road closure period being allowed for work on the highway. NB This may depend on weather conditions.

INTERIM PARISH PLANS - We have received an application form for funding which has to be completed by January 2006. This will be brought back to the next meeting.

It was agreed to ask Mr Freeman to attend the December meeting to give us some idea of the work and time involved prior to our considering the precept.

POLICING -The clerk has been informed that PC Ben Hicks remains in situ, however a Police Community Support Officer, Christine Scott, has been appointed to the area. Our comments re cyclists have been given to the Beat Officer.

COUNCIL TAX CONSULTATION - SCC is in the process on consulting the public as to what level of Council Tax is acceptable in order to preserve services. Public meetings will be held to discuss this, our nearest is at The Reform Church Hail, Wellington on Monday 14 November commencing at 6.30 pm and should finish no later than 8.30 pm.

HOME IMPROVEMENT LOAN SCHEME - In order to help people on low incomes TDBC has been working in partnership with Wessex Reinvestment Trust to provide a low interest loan (3%) catering specifically to their needs. The clerk has more details and will be mentioned in the newsletter.

TREE WARDEN SCHEME - For financial reasons the tree-planting scheme was cut two years ago. Opinion is sought on the proposal for the creation of a new initiative called 'Taunton Tree Town of the SW', looking to promote Taunton and the borough, as the tree capital of the SW through ideas, such as: Imaginative tree planting, joining a tree seed exchange scheme with partners from around the world; appreciation of the trees we already have; and creation of a mini arboreta. A website will be set up and a meeting called in November 2005. The projects would be mainly time limited and open to parishes or groups who wish to get involved. Training and expertise would be provided as and when required rather than just to new tree wardens.

STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT - The amended SCI will be published on 4 November 2005. There will then be a six-week consultation period.

The dead line for responses will therefore be 5.00pm on Thursday, 15 December 2005.

REMEMBERENCE DAY SERVICE - 13 November 2005 at St Mary Magdalene Church, Taunton. The clerk has details.

11/05.04

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The chairman reported that he had had a meeting with Mr Jeremy Callard (SCC) with regard to monitoring traffic through Henlade.

Traffic counts are now being undertaken in Stoke road and at Lower Henlade as requested.

If road surfaces are broken on minor roads are broken up by the extra traffic using the roads during the closure of the A303 at Marsh, then the Highways Agency will be responsible for their repair.

There is concern with regard to the build up of traffic on the southbound slip road from the M5.

With others, the chairman also attended a meeting at Tarmac Construction, who currently have 130 employees and are involved in supplying prison units.

11/05.05

RECREATION FIELD

DOG WARDEN - The Dog Warden has agreed to make her presence known.

Two names of offending dog owners have been passed to her and anyone knowing of any offenders should give their names to the clerk, in order that they may be passed to the Dog Warden who will then have a word with them.

Cllr. Bulgin stated that he has erected another sign, making a total of five in the field.

The cost of 'Cleanaway' providing two litter bins and emptying them would be £8.96 per week + VAT. They would not empty are current bins. (The quote from the DLO last year was £16.65 + VAT for each occasion.

The clerk pointed out that the play equipment had not yet been inspected this year; it is usually done in June. Cllr. Bulgin will make one final attempt to contact Lee Constable, failing that the clerk will ask SPFA for advice.

The Environment Agency will cut back the vegetation from behind the ball stop netting and have asked the clerk to notify residents in Overlands that it may result in their boundaries not being totally secure afterwards.

Cllr. Bulgin said that the ball stop netting would need attention after the work is carried out.

11/05.06

HIGHWAY MATTERS

The clerk has heard from Mr Ian Titcombe on the following issues: Coronation Close: 'Keep Clear' road markings will be provided.

A358 - Tarmac Lay by: Somerset Highways are waiting for TDBC to advertise the Traffic Regulation Order for the waiting restrictions here. They have a backlog of schemes to progress.

A358 - Henlade Speed Limits: It is proposed to start work to erect new streetlights and change the speed limit after Christmas (near Tarmac entrance).

Battlements Lay by: This lay by would not be considered for yellow lines, but Somerset Highways will discuss this with the Police to see if advisory road markings are necessary.

A358 - Merge in Turn Signs: The current signs were erected over ten years ago as advisory signing. There are no D of T approved signs for this situation. It is believed that they serve their purpose and there are no plans to replace them. The meeting felt that there was a real problem here and asked County Cllr. Clark to seek a remedy on our behalf.

Deer Warning Signs: Our request has been discussed with the Environment Officer, who is unable to agree with this. This road is within a 30 mph speed limit and has street lighting; these signs are used in open countryside on national speed limit roads. The meeting felt that some kind of warning needs to be given to motorists as deer have already been injured on this road.

Pot Holes - Lower Henlade: These have been repaired, many are edge deterioration and the contractors are instructed NOT to widen the road in repairing them.

There is a reduction in the available budget for delivery of the highway winter maintenance service. As a consequence the major school bus routes criteria that was used last year has had to be removed and this has resulted in some roads being omitted from the pre-salting network. In our area these are Stoke St Gregory to Thornfalcon road.

Finally, Neil Pincombe rang to say that there is nothing wrong with the bridge over Blackbrook stream, just settlement between the bridge and the carriageway; an order has gone out for remedial work to be carried out. This may involve night working.

11/05.07

MEMORIAL SHRUB BED (Dinhams area)

The clerk has obtained two quotes from Henlade Garden Nursery (Desert to Jungle). The first being for £730.00 and the second for £530.00 to include maintenance of the area as required at no extra charge, if a notice is displayed to this effect.

The clerk has also been in contact with 'Tarmac' who are prepared to fund this second quote and also to provide the stone required for inscription. The only cost to the parish council would be the engraving of the stone and planning permission should it be required.

Members were pleased with the details of planting and grateful to Tarmac for their financial support.

The clerk will contact the Housing Committee and Planning offices with regard to improvements, stone and notice.

11/05.08

ACCOUNTS

A quotation received from Parsons Landscapes to reduce the height of the hedge to the top of the fence alongside Virginia Orchard in Bushy Cross Lane at a cost of £280.00 + VAT was approved.

A quotation has also been received from Richard Gudge for decorating Ruishton bus shelter in the sum of £367.89. The clerk has been instructed to get a second quote.

The clerk presented the draft letter for quotations for the upkeep of the recreation field for the coming financial year, these will be sent out in the next week.

There is a request for a grant to Ruishton School towards their 'Rose Project' and details were given to the meeting. This will be discussed fully when the precept is discussed.

The following accounts were passed for payment:

	£	
Vale Labels	15.00	Newsletter
Parsons Landscapes	453.56	Maintenance 2mths

Current balances at Nat West are £3437.99, with £17k deposited with Scottish Widows.

The bank reconciliation at 30 September 2005 was checked and agreed by the chairman.

11/05.09

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr. Clarke stated that the saga of Ruishton School grant

11/05.10

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT/S

Cllr. Durdan had nothing to add.

Cllr. Bulgin asked Cllr. Durdan to enquire as to what land was now available for housing under the Local Plan as the he was concerned that the number of

completions were dropping over the last two years.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING - 7 December 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.