

**RUISHTON AND THORNFALCON
PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 4 JANUARY 2006
Commencing at 7.30 pm**

Present: Cllr Marshall (Chairman), Anderdon, Bulgin, Faulkner, Hancock, Hill, House, Lowe, Mullins, Rexworthy, Small and Walker. Cllr. Durdan (District), 2 parishioners, David Grieg (Parish Liaison Officer, TDBC), the press and Mary Growthage (Clerk)

Apologies:

01/06.01

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2005, having been circulated, were taken as read and after an alteration to 12/05.04 will be signed by the chairman.

01/06.02

PLANNING MATTERS

40/20051006 - ERECTION OF TWO STOREY AND SINGLE STOREY EXTENSION TO REAR OF 9 GLEBE COTTAGES, THORNFALCON.

There have been no neighbour objections received by the clerk or TD.

At the request of the planning officer, the height of the side elevation is to be reduced from 4.5M to 3.75M. The amended plans have not yet been received.

Subject to the amended plans being as agreed, the planning application was approved. The planning applications approved at the last meeting have been confirmed by the planning officer.

01/06.03

CLERK'S REPORT

RUISHTON FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME - The clerk has heard from Mr David Mann (Flood Risk Management Engineer - EA) explaining the current position regarding the commencement of this work. The Agency's Project Assessment Board have requested further information before providing the additional funding required for the scheme. A report is being prepared and will be circulated to the Board members and approval is expected within a fortnight. Once the supplementary expenditure is approved, the contact can be let and work should commence in February.

TD STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT - An acknowledgement has been received for our reply to the statement of Community Involvement'. TD hope to be in a position to report SCI responses to the Strategic Planning meeting -on 14 February 2006. Any report will be available on 6 February 2006.

VILLAGE OF THE YEAR COMPETITION - It was agreed to apply for an entry form.

TD NEW RURAL AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER-Mr Alex Stevens has been appointed to this post. He will be responsible for providing advice and support to parishes get funding for a varied range of development projects, as well as helping communities produce and implement parish plans.

It was agreed to ask Alex Stevens to attend our next meeting.

LAMP AND PCP - The proposed structure for a new partnership to replace LAMP and PCP was discussed and agreed at the Full Partnership meeting before being taken to the PCP meeting for their consideration.

PLANNING TRAINING FOR PARISH COUNCILLORS - The next training session will be held in the Principal Committee Room at The Deane House on 31 January 2006 at 7 pm. Three members will endeavour to attend.

MEMORIAL SHRUB BED - Development Control (TD) has informed us that planning permission should not be required for the commemorative stone or the advertising stone. Approval of the Housing Officer has already been received.

01/06.04

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

SOMERSET'S LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 2006 - 2011 was discussed and the questionnaire on Investment Priorities was completed at the meeting as follows: -

1. Reduce numbers killed or seriously injured.
2. Maintain the road network with better traffic management and improved pedestrian crossings.
3. Transport investment to support economic regeneration in Taunton.
4. Promote cycling, walking and car sharing.
5. Increase the number using public transport.
6. Ensuring lorries use appropriate routes to improve quality of life in rural areas.

HENLADE PO NOTICE BOARD - This now urgently needs replacing.

PLAYING FIELD - Interest has been shown in forming a committee to run the playing field.

SCOPING REPORT - The deadline for comments is 9 January 2006, this will be undertaken by Cllrs. Marshall and Bulgin.

01/06.05

PROPOSED BOUNDARY CHANGES

David Grieg explained that The Boundary Commission are proposing the merger of

Ruishton and Thonfalcon with the current Neroche district ward, being based solely on elector numbers. This ward would have an electorate of 3056, with two District Councillors.

The Borough Council had previously submitted a borough-wide scheme, proposing to increase the number of members from 54 to 56, serving 26 wards.

We had not previously submitted an opinion as we had been lead to understand that our parish would not be affected in the changes.

It was agreed that our objection to the proposal should be centred on the community aspect, including our dose ties with Creech St Michael and the sewerage works at Ham which borders both parishes. Our involvement with the levels, which would be of no interest to parishes on the Blackdowns.

Our objections will be prepared for the next meeting, in order that they may be with TD early in February and with the Boundary Commission by 6 March 2006. Copies to be sent to all the other parishes in the proposal and Creech St Michael.

01/06.06

HIGHWAYS

FOOTPATHS T17/64 and T27/8 THORNFALCON - The Environment Department (SCC) have informed us that at the moment these routes are classified as Roads Used as Public Paths (RUPPs) on the Definitive map, not footpaths and as such may carry vehicular rights. The Government has introduced legislation to reclassify all RUPPs as restricted byways at some point in the future, which will mean that members of the public would no longer be able to drive over them.

At the moment these routes are still classified as RUPPs and it is not an offence for a member of the public to drive a vehicle along them. Therefore adjoining landowners are not entitled to put gates across these routes and it is not permissible for any existing gates to be locked, as this would be classed as an obstruction.

The clerk will ask Waste Control to remove the beer cans and other rubbish dumped at the end of footpath T22/4 and in Lower Henlade.

CYCLE PATH - Cllr. Lowe has reported the bad state of the cycle path on the A358 from the telephone exchange to Ruishton Lane to Neil Pincombe (Somerset Highways)

MERGER OF TRAFFIC OFF THE M5 ROUNDABOUT - There is still concern about this layout and Cllr. Hancock suggested that perhaps the answer would be to make the distance of the merger shorter, so that by the time vehicles reached the double white lines they would already be in one lane.

DEER SIGNS, RUISHTON LANE - There is still concern regarding deer crossing this road.

A358 - A letter has been received from Mr Peter Lye regarding the traffic on the A358 at Henlade and Thonfalcon, this will be forwarded to the Somerset Highways.

01/06.07

POLICE MATTERS

The first Taunton Deane newsletter has been received from Sector Inspector Mike Ashwin and was read to the meeting. As a result it was agreed to request the presence of our beat Officer at the Annual Parish meeting in April.

The clerk will also mention that a mini motorcycle being driven on the pavement, was involved in a near miss with a dog in the Newlands area of Ruishton over the Christmas period. The matter was reported to the Police at the time.

01/06.08

QUOTATIONS

Quotations for the upkeep of the recreation field and other areas were as follows:

	£	£
Parsons Landscapes	1767.34	(1812.96 inc. Memorial shrub bed)
DLO	3686.27	(2722.19 inc. Memorial shrub bed)

Mr. Bulgin proposed and it was unanimously agreed that the quote from Parsons Landscapes be accepted.

The quotation from Richard Gudge for the redecoration of the bus shelter in the sum of £367.89 was proposed and unanimously agreed. No other quotes were received.

The clerk had received details of various notice boards, mostly in the region of £1000. One actual quote was received from Llewellyn Scott Carpentry in the sum of £490 plus VAT, this to include a five year warranty against deterioration from weather and it would be oiled after two years and again after four years, if required, under warranty. It was unanimously agreed to accept this quote.

01/06.09

PRECEPT

Members present at the last meeting had been given draft expenditure figures for 2006/07.

These were discussed at length and it was unanimously agreed to request a precept of £10,000 for 2006/07.

Included in the figures is a grant of £655 to Ruishton School for the purchase of a piece of play equipment (Burma Bridge) and £500 for a new Notice board. There being no cost of election expenses in the past year, thus reducing the figures by

£1000.

Copies of the new figures are attached and will be given to all members prior to the next meeting.

01/06.10

ACCOUNTS

The following accounts were passed for payment:

	£	
Vale Labels	15.00	Newsletter
SPFA	10.00	2005/06 subscription

Current balances stand at £19,300

01/06.11

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT/S

Cllr. Durdan was asked about the proposed bus fare increases.

It is noted that the Deane have an extra million funding from the Government but still has a budget gap of £279k.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING -1 FEBRUARY 2006

(Apology from Or. Anderdon for both the February and March meetings)

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 9.25 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**