

RUISHTON AND THORNFALCON .
PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5 APRIL 2006

Present: Cllr. Marshall, Anderdon, Bulgin, Faulkner, Hancock, Hill, House, Lowe, Mullins, Rexworthy, and Walker. County Cllr. Clark, District Cllr Durdan, 5 Parishioners and Mary Growtage (Clerk)
Apologies: Cllr. Small

04/06.01

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 March 2006, having been circulated, were taken as read and after two amendments were duly agreed and signed by the chairman.

04/06.02

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

31/2005/015 - ERECTION OF CONSERVATORY, SHED AND SUMMERHOUSE/CABIN TO REAR OF 28 CORONATION CLOSE, RUISHTON - AMENDED PLANS (PC)

Cllr. Mullins arrived at 7.40 pm.

The Planning Authority has no objection to the amendments. The meeting had no objection to the amended plans.

31/02/2006 - ERECTION OF CONSERVATORY, LITTLE THATCH, BUSHY CROSS LANE, RUISHTON (PC)

Again, The Planning Authority has no objection to this application.

OTHER - The Enforcement Officer has received one complaint for the first quarter of 2006. Namely, the raised roof to holiday let at Arundels Farm, Lower Henlade.

04/06.03

CLERK'S REPORT

PARISH MEETINGS - The clerk reminded the meeting that the Parish Annual Meetings will be held on Thursday, 25 May 2006, with Thornfalcon meeting commencing at 7.00 pm and Ruishton following at 7.30 pm

HINKLEY NUCLEAR POWER STATION - There will be a drop-in session at Priory Conference Centre - Room 1, Cannington Centre for Land Based Studies, Cannington on 9 May between 3-8pm. The session will give you a chance to ask questions and find out more the current review of the power station.

04/06.04

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman and Cllr. Bulgin attended the Parish Council Training Event on Planning Enforcement and were of the opinion that this is a very drawn out business with little result.

The Chairman will attend the Annual Meeting of Parishes with the SCC in Bridgwater on 5 June 2006.

The Somerset Statement of Community Involvement - Submission to the Secretary of State has been received. The main changes are to Section 4, Minerals and Waste Strategic Planning. The Chairman considered that there was nothing further to address.

Cllr. Mullins suggested that the clerk should contact Norton Fitzwarren for advice regarding the Parish Plan.

04/06.05

RECREATION FIELD

MAINTENANCE BEHIND THE HIGH FENCING IN THE RECREATION FIELD

- Some concern has been raised about the condition of some of the garden fences at the rear of Overlands, which may result in fences collapsing due to their age.

It is unlikely that the work would be undertaken if the outcome would place the Agency in a position where all the fencing would need to be replaced at their cost.

The clerk has asked Kevin Coombes of the Environment Agency to write to those residents affected. Before Christmas she notified residents that the work would be taking place at some point in the future.

Cllr. Faulkner commented on how well used the recreation field has been used recently.

Now that the main work has been completed on the flood protection in Cheats Road, the chain link fence will be replaced and the gate to the recreation field rehung by the Environment Agency. The fir trees by the streetlight at the end of the new footpath will also be cut back. It is expected that this work will be undertaken in the next fortnight or so.

04/06.06

HIGHWAYS

'MERGE IN TURN' SIGNS - A Safety Review has now been completed on these signs.

The review recommends that as these signs are not approved signs for the highway use. So Somerset Highways will either remove and replace them or gain permission from the Department for Transport to leave them in place, but they do not believe the Department would be forthcoming and therefore replacement is the only option.

It is therefore intended to take down the signs and replace them with approved signs that will give a similar message but without the legend 'merge in turn'. These

replacement signs will be green and white with a distance plate underneath. This particular sign would not have been available for use when the original signs were erected.

These signs will be ordered in April and should be in place by the end of June.

The meeting felt that this would not solve the problem and that the length of road for the merger should be reduced.

CYCLE NETWORK/ RUISHTON TO HANKRIDGE - A letter written to Jeremy Browne MP states that all schemes in the Local Transport Plan 2 have been assessed against the relevant criteria, and this scheme achieved a medium priority rating.

Whilst clearly a desirable scheme, this has been offset against its high cost and is it therefore within the programme for construction within the next five years.

RUISHTON LANE - Our request for a footpath in Ruishton Lane has been passed to the LTP Team who hold and rank the minor improvements list. We should hear from them in due course.

ROAD CLOSURE A378 AT FIVEHEAD - This road will be closed for night works for ten days starting 5 May 2006 for resurfacing and associated works.

REPAIRS - The clerk agreed to contact Neil Pincombe on several matters which still need attention. These include the drains and footpath on the A358, potholes in Ruishton Lane and the resurfacing of the hammerhead at Ruishton School.

04/06.07

REVIEW OF THE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND THE PRODUCTION OF THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

The Chairman has read the review and Cllr. Buigin will also do so and they will then make recommendations to the Parish Council for response if necessary.

There should be a Public Display and Exhibitions at various locations late April of May, with responses due by 26 May 2006.

Comment was made that no notices have been seen regarding this consultation with the public.

04/06.08

APPROVE INTERNAL AUDITOR

The clerk requested that Mr Tony Bullen be approved as our Internal Auditor for 2005/06. His fee will be £29 per hour plus mileage @ .45p a mile, this could be split between two or three parishes.

This was approved.

04/06.09

REQUEST TO PRECEPT FOR FUNDS TO COVER THE COSTS OF THE LAMP MOORLYNCH OFFICE AND TWO PARISH ASSISTANTS FOR A THREE YEAR PERIOD FROM APRIL 2007

Cllr. Anderdon proposed and it was unanimously agreed that this request is turned down.

District Cllr. Durdan spoke of the work that had been carried out by LAMP in the 'past and that there was a recommendation that it be wound up.

04/06.10 **REQUEST TO FINANCIALLY SUPPORT SOMERSET ART WEEK**

It was agreed that the clerk should ask for more details as to how the parish would benefit by giving their support.

04/06.11

ACCOUNTS

The following accounts were passed for payment:

	£	
D Duke	103.34	Management of website (chq. Drawn 23.03.06)
Vale Labels Ltd	15.00	Newsletter
Parsons Landscapes Ltd	59.50	Maintenance
M. Growthage	93.24	Postage etc. yr to 31/03/06
SALC	295.07	Affiliation fee 2006/07

The Bank reconciliation shows a balance in hand at Nat West plc as £950 with £14k invested at Scottish Widows.

COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT/S

County Cllr. mentioned that the over 60's were now entitled to free bus travel within Somerset.

Also, that he had allocated £2k to Ruishton School from his Community Fund and that he had more available if there was a worthwhile cause within the parish.

District Cllr. Durdan spoke on the work of the Somerset Playing Field Association, of which he is the chairman. It was suggested that perhaps Ruishton recreation field could feature in the newsletter that is proposed.

Cllr. Anderdon voiced his concern over some residents being omitted from the new arrangements for the collection of waste for recycling in the Lower Henlade area.

Cllr. Faulkner mentioned that a petition being circulated regarding the withdrawal of 'Special Needs' funding from Ruishton school was inaccurate and gave a poor impression of the school, which in fact had a very good Ofsted report. The actual number of special needs children in the school is 6.8% and not 25% as stated in the petition.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.50 PM

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING - 3 MAY 2006

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.