

**RUISHTON AND THORN FALCON
PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3 JANUARY 2007

Present: Cllr. Marshall (Chairman), Anderdon, Bulgin, Faulkner, Hancock, Hill, House, Lowe, Mullins, Rexworthy, Small and Walker.

In Attendance County Cllr. Clark, District Cllr. Durdan & Leighton, 3 parishioners and Mary Growthage (clerk)

Apologies:

01/07.01 **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2006, having been circulated, were taken as read and were duly agreed and signed by the chairman as a correct record.

01/07.02 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

31/2006/025 - ERECTION OF A DETACHED ONE AND A HALF STOREY DWELLING ON LAND AT BARN CLOSE NURSERIES, HENLADE (TD) for comment only.

There was no objection regarding this planning application except that mention should be made regarding our concern over access.

31/2006/026 - ERECTION OF TWO STOREY REAR EXTENSION, 32 NEWLANDS ROAD, RUISHTON (PC)

This planning application was approved, on condition that materials match the existing dwelling.

31/2006/024 - ERECTION OF 2 DWELLINGS AND GARAGES IN PLACE OF HOUSE TO BE DEMOLISHED AT THE HYDE, HENLADE.

This application has been refused by TDBC

01/07.03 **CLERK'S REPORT**

RIGHTS OF WAY - Thanks to Cllr. House from the Environment Agency for completing the Recent 'Rights of way.

' survey.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN RUISHTON - Taunton Deane wish to develop affordable housing in Ruishton and with in mind it has agreed to invite Felix Marsh (Rural Housing Enabler - Community Council for Somerset) to attend a future meeting to explain his role and answer any questions that councillors may have about affordable housing projects and the housing needs survey process, before the Parish Council decide whether to proceed further.

MEMORIAL GARDEN STONE -The clerk explained that there was difficulty in finding the appropriate type of stone and asked members what size of stone was required. It was agreed that this should be approximately 12" x 24" x 18" above ground.

Cllr. Faulkner asked who was responsible for the upkeep of the garden. This is Henlade Estate Gardens and Cllr. Anderdon agreed to mention it to them, also the fact that they are able to put up a small notice to the fact that they are maintaining same.

01/07.04 **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman had nothing to report.

01/07.05 **UPDATE ON THE PROPOSED 'PARK AND RIDE' AT CAMBRIA FARM**

Following last month's presentation given by Richard Needs (Major Schemes Project Manager - SCC) and closing address from Cllr. Hazel Prior Sankey, the Chairman and Cllr. Lowe gave an interview on BBC Somerset Sound.

Cllrs. Hill and House declared an interest and took no part in this agenda item.

The Chairman read a copy of a letter he had written personally to the Leader of Somerset County Council (Cllr. Cathy Bakewell) stating that this was supposed to be a consultation but that at no time during the meeting did it appear that the questions from the floor were going to be addressed.

Wording for a similar letter from the Parish Council was agreed asking Cllr. Bakewell to agree to a meeting to discuss the handling of the 'consultation' before the 'Park and Ride' proposal is progressed further and before we, the council, consider pressing for a Judicial Review.

The meeting agreed that the Chairman consult a solicitor on the matter as well as the costs that maybe involved. The Parish Council currently have £2k in hand for legal expenses.

It was noted that 'Planning Aid' give free planning advice, but only to individuals or community groups, but not parish councils.

Several parishioners have written to Cllr. Bakewell following our last newsletter and many had sent copies to the Chairman or clerk.

01/07.6 **REPORT ON SALC MEETING**

The Chairman and Cllr. Anderdon had attended the SALC meeting in December when the details of the White Paper were discussed; this does not include parish councils as a local authority but would nevertheless affect us considerably

It is noted that Somerset County Council intend to put themselves forward as a Unity Authority, thereby doing away with District Councils.

01/07.7 **CLERK'S CONTRACT**

It was agreed that this should be the last item on the agenda.

01/07.8 **AGREE PRECEPT FOR 2007/2008**

Draft figures for the precept were given to members at the last meeting.

The precept was discussed fully and it was agreed to request the same amount as last year, namely £10k.

Total expenditure for the coming year is expected to be in the region of £12280, with anticipated income of £1391, this does not take into account any legal expenses as there is money in reserve towards this expenditure, should the need arise.

The main increases being Insurance, which is £300 over budget this year and Clerk's gratuity, which is currently under funded. Also, a further £500 into the reserve for election costs. A copy of the figures is attached.

It was agreed to look into our insurance cover before the next renewal in June 2007.

01/07.9

FINANCE:

The following accounts were authorised for payment:

No accounts have been received for payment, although the ones for the maintenance of the recreation field and newsletter are due and it was agreed that these be paid, so long as they are for the usual amounts.

The balances in hand at 31 December 2006 were as follows: Nat West £406.41 and Scottish Widows £19k. These figures have been verified by Cllr. Hill.

01/07.10

REPORT ON ANY CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED None received.

The County and District Councillors left the meeting at 9.00 pm.

01/07.11

COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS None present.

The clerk left the meeting at 9.10 pm.

01/07.12

CLERK'S CONTRACT

The wording was agreed. Cllr. Faulkner to draw up Discipline and Grievance Policy for the next meeting. Cllr. Mullins to complete Working from Home Risk Assessment before the next meeting.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.40 pm
DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING - 7 FEBRUARY 2007
Parishioners question - 7.20 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.