

**RUISHTON AND THORNFALCON
PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 FEBRUARY 2007**

- Present:** Cllr. Marshall (Chairman), Anderdon, Bulgin, Faulkner, Hancock, Hill, House, Lowe, Rexworthy, Small and Walker.
- In Attendance** In Attendance County Cllr. Clark, District Cllr. Leighton, 6 parishioners and Mary Grootage
- Apologies:** District Cllr. Durdan

02/07.01 **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the meetings held on 3 & 17 January 2007, having been circulated, were taken as read and were duly agreed and signed by the chairman as a correct record.

02/07.02 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

31/2006/028- ERECTION OF TWO STOREY DWELLING WITH GARAGE FOLLOWING DEMOLITION OF DOUBLE GARAGE AT 10b NEWLANDS CRESCENT, RUISHTON (TD)

Cllr. Walker declared an interest and left the meeting for this agenda item. Cllr. Mullins arrived at 7.35pm

The meeting felt that this would be an over development of the site with lack of amenity space.

31/2006/030 - ERECTION OF DORMER WINDOW AT 5 NEWLANDS ROAD, RUISHTON (PC)

Cllr. Faulkner declared an interest. This planning application was granted.

48/2005/072 - PROPOSED MIXED URBAN EXTENSION DEVELOPMENT COMPRISING RESIDENTIAL EMPLOYMENT, LOCAL CENTRE, NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL, A38 RELIEF ROAD, GREEN SPACES AND PLAYING FIELDS AT MONKTON HEATHFIELD AS AMENDED BY MASTER PLAN AND PHASING PLAN RECEIVED 31 OCTOBER AND AS AMPLIFIED BY TRANSPORT ASSESSMENT RECEIVED 16 JANUARY 20007

The traffic assessment has now been received and will be reviewed by Cllr. Hancock before the next meeting.

40/2006/005LB - ERECTION OF CONSERVATORY TO REAR OF THE COURTHOUSE EAST, THORNFALCON.

As the 'ordinary' application (40/2006/004) had already been discussed, the clerk has replied to this application, stating that the council had no objection providing the Conservation Officer was in agreement.

PROPOSED CARAVAN SITE AT LOWER HENLADE - A letter has been received by the clerk from the owner of 'Toad Hall' asking the Parish Council to support a planning application to create a business around three self catering holiday units and a seasonal touring

tenting/caravan field. Together with ancillary accommodation for parents on either the site of the existing barn to the north of the main house or, on the area of ground to the top left corner of the property.

It was agreed that the clerk should acknowledge the letter and state that this will only be discussed when a formal planning application is received.

02/07.03 **AGREE AMENDMENT - DELEGATED AGREEMENT AS TO PLANNING FUNCTIONS**

Currently where no objection or adverse comment is received on a planning application by either the Planning Officer or the Parish Council, the Planning Officer is empowered to grant planning permission immediately after the statutory period of representation has expired unless the clerk has previously notified the Planning Officer that the Parish Council or its planning Committee wishes to consider the application further.

Taunton Deane now consider that it is appropriate to extend this clause to also empower the planning officer to refuse an application where there has been no expression of support unless the clerk notifies that you wish to consider the application further.

The meeting agreed to this additional clause.

02/07.04 **MEETING WITH SCC ON 31/01/2007 RE PROPOSED PARK AND RIDE**

The Chairman stated that the 'Summary of Questions and Responses' regarding the December meeting with Richard Needs (Major Projects Manager, SCC) had only been received on the morning of the meeting with Cllr. Bakewell.

The Chairman, 3 councillors and the clerk had attended the meeting and after a lengthy exchange of views, came away with the feeling that our opinions were of no consequence and still felt that the presentation given by Richard Needs had definitely not been a proper consultation.

Since the meeting Cllr. Bakewell had informed Cllr. Williams (Leader of Taunton Deane Borough Council) that the Parish Council were now in agreement with the 'Park and Ride' being situated at Cambria Farm, which is definitely not correct.

The Chairman has replied to Cllr. Williams stating that this is not the case, he has also written to Richard Needs requesting clarification or expansion to his responses to the questions raised at the meeting in December 2006.

District Cllr. Leighton stated that Taunton Deane would support us in our request for a proper consultation and informed the meeting that a presentation on the 'Park and Ride' will be made to TD on 8 March 2007 (venue and time not given)

Cllr. House pointed out that some residents of Thornfalcon did not want the 'Park and Ride' at Thornfalcon.

It was agreed that there should be a meeting of a 'Working party' to take this matter forward and to give the matter more publicity; this will be arranged as soon as possible.

02/07.05 **CLERK'S REPORT**

HIGHWAY AGENCY - Mr Stephen Coe will attend the March meeting with plans for the proposed Henlade bypass. The Chairman will give more details in his report.

HOUSING NEEDS - In view of the above, Felix Marsh has now been asked to attend the April meeting.

ELECTIONS - District and Parish Council Elections will take place on 3 May 2007. Nominations will close at 12 noon on Wednesday 4 April, papers must be with the appropriate Taunton Deane Officer by that time and date.

SALC will be holding four 1 hour meetings across the county for prospective candidates to find out more about 'The election process - What is involved - What You Can Do'. The nearest meeting will be held at Fivehead Village Hall on 26 March 2007 at 7.30 pm. Notice of this will be put on the Parish Notice Board and in the Newsletter.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT TIMETABLE - This has been placed on the Village Hall Notice Board.

TAUNTON DEANE CITIZENSHIP AWARDS 2007 - Nominations to be made by 9 February to Sharon Grant (Civic Officer, Mayor's Parlour)

SALC - The next meeting will be held on Thursday 8 March 2007 at Wiveliscombe Community Centre commencing at 7.30pm. Cllr. Anderdon will attend.

UNITARY AUTHORITY STATUS FOR SOMERSET - The clerk had written stating that there was not enough time for this to be discussed at our next meeting and that the information would be circulated to members. An acknowledgement has been received.

SOMERSET COMMUNITY CHEST - Grants of up to 50% of a total project cost up to a maximum of £750 are available to assist with starting a group or for the purchase of new equipment. Applications forms are available from Corinne Matthews, Rural Projects Officer, Economy & Europe, County Hall, Taunton TA1 4DY (Email cmatthews@somerset.gov.uk)

SOMERSET CHAMBER CHOIR - A notice of their performance at King's College Chapel, Taunton will be held of 25 February 2006 has been posted on the notice board. Anyone taking a digital photograph of the poster in situ can email it (as a small JPEG file attachment) to <http://somersetchamberchoir.org.uk/> to be entered into a draw to receive two tickets to the concert.

02/07.6 **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

A358 BYPASS - The Chairman has been invited to a preview of the public exhibition on the plans for the proposed Henlade bypass on 1 March 2007. This will be on view to the public at The Holiday Inn on 2 March from 10am to 6pm and on 3 March from 10am to 4pm and in Ruishton Village Hall on Saturday 24 March 2007 from 10am to 4pm.

As stated Stephen Coe (Highways Agency) will attend the March Parish Council meeting.

The Chairman pointed out that that there will be no money available for the project until 2014 at the earliest and that it will take three and a half years to build, the Hen lade part of the bypass taking one and a half years.

It is noted that Passenger Transport including the 'Park and Ride' is on TD agenda on the 13 February 2007.

TAUNTON DEANE WORKING PANEL - The Chairman attended an introductory meeting of SCC Area Panel. The Area Panel is made up of local County Councillors, of which County Cllr. Clark is a member. The role of the panel is to help the County Councillors work with local communities and decide how best to deliver County Council services within the locality; and shape County Council policy to better suit the community.

The County Council has allocated an initial sum to each area panel equal to £15k per County Councillor, this money is available to be spent on local priorities across a range of County Council services.

The next meeting will be arranged in March 2007.

02/07.7 **RECREATION FIELD (RB)**

The Annual Play Equipment inspection has been carried out by Lee Constable (Plat Safety Officer, SCC) and Cllr. Bulgin reported on the report. There are some minor problems, which Cllr. Bulgin will address, the main problem being the height of the climbing frame.

The working party will investigate the best way to go forward with regard to the future position/use of the climbing frame, while the clerk will get advice regarding insurance.

An invoice for £85 to cover the inspection will be raised in due course, this is the same as last year.

02/07.8 **CLERK'S CONTRACT**

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

02/07.9 **INSURANCE (RIB)**

Cllr. Bulgin would like the current insurance policy revised, as he feels that there could be some savings made in the cost.

He will give the clerk a list of his concerns and the contents of the policy will be reviewed before renewal.

02/07.10 **APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR**

It was agreed to reappoint Mr Bullen as our Internal Auditor for the year ending 31 March 2007. His hourly rate has increased to £30 per hour (2005/06 £29) Mileage will remain unchanged at 45p per mile, and will be shared should any other council have their books audited on the same day.

02/07.11 **FINANCE:**

Following the last meeting an account was received from Parsons Landscapes Ltd for £220.90 and as agreed (01/07.09) this has been paid.

The following accounts have been received and were duly agreed for payment:

	£	
Allbrite	58.75	Clean bus shelters on A358
Vale Labels	15.00	Newsletter
Parsons Landscapes	29.50	Grounds maintenance

The Nat West Bank balance at 31 January 2007 was £409.11. The balance deposited with Scottish Widows is currently £19k

02/07.12 **REPORT ON ANY CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

No correspondence received other than that regarding the proposed caravan site at Lower Henlade, which was mentioned under planning.

County Cllr. Leighton left the meeting at 9.12pm

02/07.13 **DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS**

County Cllr. Clark mentioned that all the District Councils were against the proposed Unitary Authority for Somerset and that in his opinion it would not take place, but the decision remains with the government.

All members of the public and the clerk, left the meeting at 9.15 pm

02/07.14 **CLERK'S CONTRACT**

The clerk's contract was agreed together with the Disciplinary and Grievance Procedures. Cllr. Mullins will carry out a 'Working at Home Risk Assessment' by the next meeting.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.40 pm

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING - 7 MARCH 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.**