

**RUISHTON AND THORNFALCON  
PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4 APRIL 2007**

- Present:** Cllr. Marshall (Chairman), Bulgin, Faulkner, Hancock, Hill, House, Lowe, Mullins, Rexworthy and Walker.
- In Attendance** County Cllr. Clark, District Cllr. Durdan, Mr F Marsh (Community Council) and parishioners.
- Apologies:** Cllr. Anderdon, Small, and Mary Growthage (Clerk)

04/07.01 **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held 7 March 2007, having been circulated, were taken as read and were duly agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

04/07.02 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

31/2007/004 - ERECTION OF PAIR OF SEMI-DETACHED DWELLINGS AT THE HYDE, HENLADE, TAUNTON. (TD)

Mrs Wadsley (Planning Officer) has this morning, rung the clerk, stating that there is now no need for this application to be reconsidered.

31/2007/007 - CHANGE OF USE OF HOLIDAY LET TO HOLIDAY LET OR ANCILLARY ACCOMMODATION AT ARUNDELLS FARM, HENLADE (TD)

The meeting objected to this application; as it was approved for holiday lets. Change of use sets a precedent for change of use in the area. Believe it would not be appropriate for permanent use and concerns were expressed that vehicular access will be exacerbated.

04/07.03 **AFFORDABLE HOUSING** - Presentation By Mr Felix Marsh from the Community Council for Somerset.

Handouts were given to those present.

Information regarding affordable housing is available on their website [www.info@somersetccc.org.uk](mailto:www.info@somersetccc.org.uk).

The clerk will write asking for the Community Council to undertake a housing needs survey.

04/07.04 **CLERK'S REPORT**

FOOTPATH T22/14 - TDBC have confirmed that part of the footpath has been diverted. The new path will proceed northwards along Thornwater Farm drive, parallel to the existing path for approximately 75 metres to a new stile and then continue northwards for approximately 85 metres, then north-westwards for approximately 40 metres to rejoin the original path. The distance of the path is 200 metres and the width of the section is to be 1.8 metres.

TEAM SOMERSET (Connecting Communities) - Some envelopes containing this leaflet did not have enough postage on them and you may have had to pay a surcharge. If you experienced this, please return the envelope with the yellow surcharge sticker to Tracey Matthews in Corporate Administration at Deane House.

HIGHWAY QUESTIONNAIRE - A questionnaire has been received regarding Highway related Services, as the clerk has had little contact with this department over the past year Cllr. Lowe agreed to complete same and give the clerk a copy of his response.

HOME COMPOSTING BINS - These are available through SCC at a reduced price. Leaflets are available.

UNITARY TIMETABLE - Now that SCC have met the specified criteria:

Stage 2

April - June 2007 Stakeholder and Public Consultation

Stage3

Early July 2007 Final Announcement of those areas that will be restructuring into new Unitary Councils.

Stage 4

May 2008 Elections to the new Unitary Councils.

By April 2009 New Unitary Councils 'up and running'.

TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE - B3168 at Hambridge will be closed for two days starting 11 April 2007 to allow resurfacing and associated works to be carried out on this road.

TEMPORARY 40 MPH SPEED LIMIT - On the A378 Langport Road and the A358 Iminster Road, Thornfalcon and West Hatch. The restriction came into force on 19 March 2007 for 8 weeks to enable the replacement of the existing traffic lights to be carried out at this junction.

REVIEW OF TENDERED BUS SERVICES IN TAUNTON DEANE - Comments and suggestions can be made up to 13 April 2007.

HEDGE CUTTING - Kali Martin has not received a letter of thanks from the clerk regarding 'Cramere' and cutting of the hedge.

There have been complaints from three parishioners that the owners of Toad Hall (Lower Henlade) cut down their field hedge two weeks ago. The clerk will contact TDBC to clarify hedge cutting and appropriate action to be taken.

#### 04/07.05 **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

- LAMIS information was passed to Cllr. Mullins for him to review and feedback comments to the clerk. If considered worth purchasing, to consult with Chairman and purchase
- Somerset County Council's Statement on Involvement has been adopted and is available on

their website.

- Park and Ride, having written to businesses (24) on the Blackbrook Business Park. Only one reply received from Holiday Inn which does not wish to comment.
- A response has now been received from Richard Needs in respect of the proposed Park and Ride; however no studies have yet been received.
- Park and Ride being discussed along with A358 on 17 April at 10.00am at County Hall by Scrutiny Committee (SCC)
- A company in Langport will set up and monitor a website for comments on the proposed Park and Ride for £125. Cllr. Bulgin will provide written information for the website.
- Two large signs will cost about £40 each. Cllr. Hill will organise the signs.
- The above two items were agreed including the expenditure.
- Woodlands Castle does not have planning permission for conferences and is being investigated by TDBC, Planning Enforcement Officer.

04/07.6

#### **RECREATION FIELD - Climbing frame**

Cllr. Bulgin reported that this had to be removed or replaced. To replace with something similar will cost approximately £10k.

Three written quotes have been received as follows:

1. TDBC - Removal of equipment from present location by cutting support legs just below existing ground level.

Ground works suitable for laying safety surface (wet pour) including concrete edging around required area.

Re-installation of play equipment.

Grass reinstatement **£ 2470.50**

This does not include safety surfacing.

2. G.B. SPORT & LEISURE - Work as above £ 3250.00  
To supply. and lay 44.2sqm Black 70mm EPDM Wet Pour £ 2617.27

**£5867.75**

3. Playline Design Ltd - Removal of equipment and treat with anti rust paint and then reinstall unit approximately 3m from previous location and reduce height.  
Remove 35m<sup>2</sup> of topsoil from under and around unit and then install a terra m type membrane.

Pour in 35.m<sup>2</sup> of Tigerplay wet pour safety surfacing into area.

Fill any holes with topsoil where the unit was located previously. **£3780.00**

One verbal quote was also given by Cllr. Hill in the sum of £820 + VAT for the removal and re-siting of equipment only.

It was proposed to go with the Playline Design quote of £3780 reduced by 2.5%. This was carried with two abstentions (Cllrs. Hill and Bulgin.)

The funding to come from the Recreation Field balance at the end of March 2007, together with the balance in hand for fencing and the remainder from the Vandalism fund.

The clerk will write to Viridor to see if they will contribute towards the cost.

#### 04/07.7 **A358 THROUGH HENLADE (DL)**

Cllr. Lowe reported that he had heard from Kali Martin(Somerset Highways) stating that the following works will be undertaken:

1. The failing cross trench near Laurel Cottage will be repaired.
2. The blocked gully in the bus stop near Cranmore has been added to the gully emptying programme and should be cleared shortly.
3. The proposed resurfacing of the footway between Ruishton Court Nursing Home and Rose Farm is currently scheduled for summer/autumn 2007. These works will also include the improvement to the surface at White Lodge and the provision of a bollard at the same location to deter delivery vehicles driving along the footway and verge. Bollards will also be provided near the junction to the nursing home to stop vehicles driving over the verges and footway/cycleway.
4. Finally, with regard to the hedge line opposite the Blackbrook Inn, the Highway Superintendent has been asked to inspect for trees that require removal.  
Grass cutting in lay-by - TDBC state that this is a SCC issue and that it is only cut twice a year.  
Comments must be submitted by 18 May 2007 re the A358 consultation. The Chairman and councillors to draw up some points for discussion at the next meeting.

#### 04/07.8 **FINANCE:**

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

|                    | £      |   |
|--------------------|--------|---|
| Vale Labels        | 15.00  | Newsletter  |
| M Growthage        | 90.94  | Postage/ heating 2006/07 (£93.24)                         |
| SALC               | 308.32 | Affiliation fee 2007/08 (£295.07)                         |
| Community Council  | 25.00  | Subscription 2007/08                                      |
| Parsons Landscapes | 29.52  | Ground Maintenance - Total for year £1767.34 as per quote |

**COST OF RISK ASSESSMENT CARRIED OUT AT THE CLERK'S HOME** - The cost of a glide mat is £29.99 and an electrical fire extinguisher is £99.99 (both from Staples) a fire alarm should be under £10. An electrician to carry out a safety check has not yet been found.

The purchase of the glide mat was approved.

Cllr. Mullins will purchase a fire extinguisher.

Cllr. Hancock will provide the fire alarm.

The clerk will ask Tony Conway (4427250 ) to carry out the electrical testing.

COST OF STONE FOR THE MEMORIAL GARDEN - Council to speak to Tarmac regarding the stone and costs at the next liaison meeting.

APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITOR - The Audit Commission now propose to extend the appointment of Moore Stephens for 2006/07.

The Audit Commission has approved new fees to operate for 2006/07 and will again remain in operation for a five-year period.

ANNUAL AUDIT - The Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2007 has to be with the Auditor (Moore Stephens of Bath) by 31 August 2007 and publish the accounts, any audit opinion and audit report by 30 November immediately following the year end.

04/07.9 **REPORT ON ANY CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

None received.

04/07.10 **COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS**

Cllr. Clerk (CC) reported that SCC had been rated 4\* and excellent.

Cllr. Durdan (DC) stated that the A358 Consultation: SPTED meeting will be held on 11 April 2007 with an alternative proposal to the loop at Blackbrook.

A Boat Trip and Water Event Day will be held at Ham on 16 June 2007.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.50 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**

**DATE OF**

**THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

**WILL DEPEND ON WHETHER OR NOT THE ELECTION IS CONTESTED.**

**THIS HAS TO BE HELD WITHIN 14 DAYS OF THE ELECTION.**

**THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETINGS WILL BE ON FRIDAY, 18 MAY 2007**