

RUISHTON AND THORNFALCON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1 AUGUST 2007

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

In Attendance: County Cllr. Clark, District Cllrs. Durdan and Leighton, 1 parishioners and Mary Grootage (Clerk) Mr Felix Marsh (Somerset Community Council) and Cllr. Simon Coles (TD Portfolio holder – Planning and Transportation)

Apologies: Cllr. Faulkner and Small

08/07.01 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 July 2007, having been circulated, were taken as read and were duly agreed after an amendment to 07/07. and signed by the Chairman.

08/07.02 RESULT OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING SURVEY

Mr Felix Marsh (Community Council for Somerset) gave the results of the recent survey, which showed that there was an immediate need for 12 affordable homes in the parish, ranging from single people to families.

This will be discussed by the parish council at a future meeting, before proceeding with the scheme.

08/07.03 PROPOSED PARK AND RIDE AT CAMBRIA FARM

Cllr. Simon Coles (TD Executive Officer for Planning and Transportation) was in attendance.

Cllr. House declared an interest and Cllr. Marshall took the chair for this agenda item.

Cllr. Marshall gave Cllr. Cole the history of the Proposed Park and Ride and stressed that the main concerns of the Parish Council are:

- The close proximity of the proposed traffic lights within 300 metres of the motorway junction, which it is considered, will cause even more traffic congestion through Henlade, which already has poor air quality and in the other direction back towards Taunton and onto the motorway.
- The lack of information forthcoming from the Somerset County Council, who had promised at a meeting back in January to keep us informed and send us the results of all recent traffic surveys.
- No traffic surveys appear to have been carried out on the 'rat run' routes through Lower Henlade and Thornfalcon.

D. Cllr. Leighton stated that it would not be long before the planning application is submitted for this development and asked Cllr. Coles for assurance that his party would not support the application until a proper consultation has taken place with the parish council and all concerned.

08/07.04 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

31/2007/18LB – CONVERSION OF 2 OUTBUILDINGS TO PROVIDE LADIES AND GENTS WC AND EXTENSION TO EXISTING TENT TO FORM TEMPORARY COVERED ACCESS AT WOODLANDS, RUISHTON.

Cllr. House declared an interest and left the meeting, while Cllr. Marshall took the chair in his absence. Cllr. Bulgin also declared an interest and left the meeting for this agenda item.

The clerk reported that planning permission had been refused for the retention of the two marquees on this site and that the owner would be issued with an Enforcement Order for their removal.

Permission has been granted for the 'Display of a Free standing non-illuminated sign above the entrance wall of this site.

Notes to the applicant state:

01. Consent for this sign does not signify that the use proposed is acceptable.
02. That the unauthorised signs on the Highway verge should be removed immediately to avoid prosecution.

With regard to the current application, the meeting felt there was no point in approving this application when the two marquees are to be removed.

Concern was also expressed at the number of toilets for the numbers being catered for at the venue and whether the septic tank was large enough to cope with the anticipated numbers.

Also, concern over the effect of a tented walk through on a listed building.

31/2007/019 – PROPOSED SINGLE STOREY EXTENSION TO SIDE AND REAR OF CARNATIKI, STOKE ROAD, HENLADE.

There were no objections or comments on this application.

TOAD HALL, LOWER HENLADE – A planning application has been received for 'Change of use and conversion of outbuildings to form holiday cottages and domestic office/study'.

An additional meeting will be called before 5 September, if deemed necessary by the Planning Officer (TD).

08/07.04 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr. Lowe asked who was paying the running costs of the Slinky bus and whether it was of any use to the community. Cllr. Leighton said that this was a joint venture between the county and district councils and that people in more rural areas where there was no regular bus service found it of use.

There is to be a 'Rights of Way' meeting on 4 October 2007, which the chairman will attend if Cllr. Marshall is able to take the meeting.

Cllrs. Leighton and Clark left the meeting.

08/07.05 CLERK'S REPORT

MAY ELECTION EXPENSES – Several members have still not yet sent in their 'Return of Election Expenses'. This must be done even if it is a NIL return.

PARISH EMERGENCY PLAN – Left to the next meeting.

OVERGROWN HEDGES/FOOTPATHS – The overgrown footway along Cheats Road, has been cleared.

With regard to the overgrown hedge near Rose Cottage, Lower Henlade. Somerset Highways will contact the relevant landowners and ask them to carry out the necessary maintenance work.

With regard to the dead elms in Bushy Cross Lane, Somerset Highways are currently tracing the owner of the hedge line so enforcement notices can be served. Any details of the relevant landowner would be very much appreciated.

The clerk will ask Somerset Highways to cut the hedge that runs behind the bus shelter at Henlade crossroads.

Again, landowners will be reminded in the next newsletter that they are responsible for all vegetation overhanging the highway/footpaths, and that they would be liable should an incident occur resulting in injury.

MEMORIAL SHRUB BED – Left to the next meeting.

CODE OF CONDUCT – David Greig (Parish Liaison Officer, TD) will attend the next meeting to speak and answer questions on this subject. This will take between 20 – 30 minutes. It was agreed that Mr Greig be invited to attend at 7pm before the actual parish council meeting commences. Followed by parishioners' question time, before the commencement of the Parish Council meeting.

TAUNTON DEANE AREA WORKING PANEL – Meetings will take place on 13 September and 13 November 2007 commencing at 7 pm, venues will be confirmed closer to the time.

08/07.06 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

PLASTIC BOTTLE BANK – The Chairman has spoken to the landlady of The Ruishton Inn who was of the opinion that there was not enough room on their premises for a bottle bank for plastic bottles.

Cllr. Mullins said that the collection of cardboard and plastics could be introduced in the spring of 2008 as a trial run; in the meantime cardboard is now accepted at paper banks.

08/07.07 RECREATION FIELD

It is now understood that the Igloo will be moved on 8 August 2007 and the new safety surfacing laid at the same time.

08/07.08 PUBLIC FOOTPATHS

Cllr. Mullins said he was able to get maps of the Parish footpaths laminated.

08/07.09 FINANCE

The following accounts were passed for payment:

£

Parsons Landscapes	463.46 Maintenance Contract June and July
Allbrite	58.75 Cleaning bus shelters on A358

The Annual Return has been sent to the Auditors, no one asked to inspect the books and records in the allocated time.

08/07.10 REPORT ON CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Mrs Lilian Marshall (Tree warden) has been invited to attend two conferences, one at Exeter and the other in Birmingham. It was agreed that she should attend which one she thought would be most beneficial in her position as tree warden.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.30pm

THE NEXT FULL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 5 SEPTEMBER 2007

**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.**