

# RUISHTON AND THORNFALCON PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6 JUNE 2007

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

In Attendance: County Cllr. Clark, District Cllrs. Durdan and Leighton, 4 parishioners and Mary Grootage (Clerk)

Apologies: Cllr. Hancock

### 06/07.01 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held 9 May 2007, having been circulated, were taken as read and were duly agreed and signed by the Chairman; after the inclusion of Cllr Lowe as being a member responsible for 'Highways' together with Cllr Bulgin and the clerk.

### 06/07.02 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

#### WOODLANDS CASTLE PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The clerk explained that there is at least one further application in regard to this site, but we are informed that we have to discuss those that have been received.

Cllr Mullins arrived at 7.40pm.

Cllr House (Chairman) and Cllr. Mullins declared an interest and left the meeting for 'Woodlands Castle' planning applications. Cllr. Bulgin declared a personal interest.

Cllr. Marshall (Vice chairman) took the chair for these two agenda items.

Cllr Marshall explained that although we were aware of future planning applications we could only comment on those received, but it should be noted that we would request that the Planning Committee address all applications at the same time.

Parishioners present were given the opportunity to speak on both applications.

#### 31/2007/017 – SITING AND USE OF TWO MARQUEES FOR CONFERENCES AND FUNCTIONS AT WOODLANDS CASTLE, RUISHTON (TD)

The meeting was unanimously against this application for the following reasons:

- This is a retrospect application and the owners are already advertising events on the site. (See the current copy of Yellow Pages and Woodlands Castle website)
- Object to the 10-year period for a non-permanent facility, considering this to be much too long, if granted.
- Concern over the marquees erected next to a grade 2 listed building.

- Neighbours have not been consulted.
- Inappropriate design and impact on a listed environment.
- Concern with regard to use intended for the marquees.
- Noise in a residential area – is there any soundproofing in the marquees?
- Lights and pollution.
- We would query the hours of use.
- We note that there is parking for nearly 200 cars and feel this would have an impact on the A358. Especially, traffic coming from the Ilminster direction having to turn right into the entrance.
- Concern that the marquees are, according to their website, for functions of up to 400 people.
- Concern over fire implications, with the numbers who would be expected to use the facilities on the site.
- Concern over sewerage.
- We understand that the exit will be in Ruishton Lane, this is very narrow in parts and we have serious concerns over the volume of traffic using this exit.
- It should be noted that Ruishton Lane has been known to flood and more parking spaces could make this worse.

**31/2007/14A – RETENTION OF FREE STANDING NON ILLUMINATED SIGN ABOVE ENTRANCE WALL AT WOODLANDS CASTLE, RUISHTON (TD)**

The Parish Council also object to this application for all the above reasons, as well as the colour of the sign, which we consider to be out of keeping with the environment.

**31/2007/016T – CARRY OUT TREE MANAGEMENT TO ONE TULIP TREE INCLUDED IN TDB (RUISHTON NO.1) TREE PRESERVATION ORDER AT THE LODGE, BUSHY CROSS HOUSE, BUSHY CROSS LANE, RUISHTON.**

Cllr House resumed to chair the meeting.

There were no objections to this application.

**31/2007/010 & 011 – ERECTION OF BUNGALOW AND CARAVAN AND CAMPING SITE AT TOAD HALL, LOWER HENLADE – Both these applications have been refused by TD. The bungalow being ‘in the countryside outside settlement limits’, while the camping and caravan site was refused on Highway issues.**

**40/2007/002 & 003LB – ERECTION OF CONSERVATORY, COURTHOUSE EAST, THORNFALCON. TD has granted permission for these applications.**

The clerk has received a planning application for the construction of concrete product storage area and formation of landscape bund at Thornfalcon Works, Thornfalcon Works, Henlade. This will be discussed at a planning meeting to be called for Wednesday, 13 June 2007.

06/07.03 REPORT ON ANNUAL PARISH MEETINGS

The Chairman was disappointed at the low turn out for these meetings. There were no new issues raised.

06/07.04 CLERK'S REPORT

2007 VILLAGE OF THE YEAR COMPETITION – Somerset CPRE are managing this, entry forms to be submitted by 27<sup>th</sup> July 2007 are available from [www.cpresomerset.org.uk](http://www.cpresomerset.org.uk).

CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND - It was agreed not to subscribe.

PORTFOLIO HOLDERS, TDBC - Following the recent District Council election, the New Executive has now been appointed and the portfolio holders are as follows:

- Housing – Cllr Hazel Prior- Sankey
- Planning and Transportation – Cllr Simon Coles
- Community Leadership – Cllr Alan Wedderkopp
- Leisure – Cllr Richard Lees
- Ec Dev – Cllr Jefferson Horsley
- Environmental Services – Cllr Mel Mullins
- Resources – Cllr Fran Smith
- Communications – Cllr Steve Brooks

The Chairman of the Planning Committee is Cllr Marcia Hill

SALC MEETING - Tomorrow evening at Stoke St Gregory Village Hall, 7.30 pm. Cllr Anderdon will attend

AVON AND SOMERSET BEAT SURGERY – The next one is on 14 June 2007, Ruishton Village Hall, 14.00 – 15.30 hrs.

The Neighbourhood Police Officer – PC 4015 Joanne Davies and Police Community Support Officer – 8784 Lynsey Gamblin will be in attendance.  
Telephone no. 0845 456 7000  
Email – [www.avonandsomerset.police.uk](http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk)

TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE – A372 Ridley Hill, Beer Road, Aller Road and High Street, Aller. Will be closed for five nights 19.00 – 07.00 starting 25<sup>th</sup> June 2007 to allow for resurfacing and associated works.

COMMUNITY VENTURES TRAINING – Community Council for Somerset.  
Venue The Exchange, Bridgwater, 26 June 10am – 7pm. A day of free training, including sessions on Start-up guidance, Viability and sustainability and Income generation.  
Bookings by 8 June 2007

50 NOTABLE TREES IN TAUNTON DEANE – The Heritage and Landscape Team at TDBC are launching a project to highlight 50 notable trees within the district, one from each parish. It was agreed that this be passed to Mrs L Marshall (one of our Tree Wardens)

GUIDE FOR DOG OWNERS AND DOG WALKERS – The clerk has copies of this leaflet should anyone require. A copy will be put on the Village Hall Notice Board.

RISK ASSESSMENT - Tony Conway will inspect the office equipment electrics at a cost of £20.00.

STORAGE – The Village Hall Committee are willing to provide space for a filing cabinet to be placed in the room above the Committee room; for storage of old files. The clerk will purchase a filing cabinet.

PAVEMENT, LIPE LANE – The clerk will ask SCC to clear this path.

IGLOO, RECREATION FIELD – We still await the outcome on our application for funding from TDBC towards the upgrade of this play equipment and the new safety surfacing.

MEMORIAL GARDEN – This has still not been cleared, Cllr Anderdon will ask Henlade Estate Gardens when we can expect this work to be carried out. If this cannot be done fairly soon, then Cllr Faulkner will undertake to do so.

#### 06/07.05 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

CORPORATE STRATEGY 2007-2010 – Contains TD Vision, Business Principles and Core Values and describes the key outcomes that they intend to achieve over the next three years. These outcomes will be delivered by achieving 20 objectives that are closely aligned to the Council's six corporate aims.

The Corporate Strategy will be available for public viewing at the library, Deane House and other Council owned buildings later this week. It is also available on their internet site through the following link:  
<http://www.tauntondeane.gov.uk/TDBCSites/POLPERF/forms.asp>

#### 06/07.06 PROPOSED UNITARY AUTHORITY

Cllr Mullins declared a personal interest.

This was discussed at length, the majority being in favour of the 'Status Quo'

The Chairman and Clerk will complete the questionnaire from SALC.

The Secretary of State specifically lists the Association as a stakeholder in this proposal.

Members were urged to complete the forms that have been sent to all households in Somerset by the District Councils.

#### 06/07.07 2007 CODE OF CONDUCT/STANDING ORDERS

Members were given copies of The Code of Conduct –Guide for members 2007.

This will be adopted at the next meeting.

#### 06/07.08 PUBLIC FOOTPATHS

The clerk has applied for a grant of £100 towards footpath maintenance but it should be noted that nothing was spent on the maintenance of footpaths last year when we received a grant of £50.

Cllr Jurgensen, having walked many of the footpaths since the last meeting, reported on his findings. Footpaths 22/07 & 08 have been planted over but it is

expected that they will be reinstated. Many other footpaths are overgrown and several stiles need to be repaired. Cllr Jurgensen is to meet the Rights of Way Officer on these matters.

Permission was given for Cllr Jurgensen to take photographs where necessary, the parish council covering the cost of such photographs providing the clerk has a notification of the amount prior to the agenda being prepared for each meeting.

06/04.09 HIGHWAYS

Cllr Mullins reported that cars were queuing on the southbound slip road back on to the motorway recently, reducing traffic on the motorway to 50mph.

Our website for anyone to comment on the proposed 'Park and Ride' at Cambria Farm, is now on line at [www.tauntonparkandride.com](http://www.tauntonparkandride.com)

Temporary notices advertising this will be sited next the snack bar in the lay by and on the corner of Ruishton Lane/Woodlands.

06/07.10 FINANCE

INSURANCE COVER – Members present were given details of the alterations proposed for the renewal of our insurance policy.

This was to reduce cover on fencing to £4000 and to delete the swings, slide, climbing frame (Igloo) and goal posts. Thereby saving £156.72 in the coming year.

It was agreed that the 'Huddle' would also be deleted; Cllr Bulgin will speak to Allianz Insurance about this exclusion.

It was agreed that Cllr Bulgin purchase a new liner for the litter bin that had been destroyed by fire.

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

	£	
Sitemakers Ltd	152.69	Park and Ride Website (see 06/06.10)
Vale Labels Ltd	15.00	Newsletter
SALC	40.00	Training events
Parsons Landscapes	231.73	Maintenance contract
Cornhill Allianz	1649.13	Insurance
A J Bullen	108.95	2007 Internal Audit
Ruishton Village Day	100.00	Grant towards costs

AUDITOR'S REPORT/APPROVAL ACCOUNTS – Yr to 31.03.2007

The draft accounts were given to members at the last Parish Council meeting and were presented to the Annual Parish Meetings. Since then they have been audited

by the Internal Auditor and found be correct. There were no matters to be brought to the attention of the Parish Council members.

It was unanimously agreed that the accounts be approved.

#### APPROVAL AND COMPLETION OF 2007 ANNUAL RETURN

Copies of the Annual Return were given to those present.

The Annual Governance Statement was agreed and completed.

The Chairman and the clerk then signed the Return.

The Notice of Appointment of Date for the Exercise of Elector's Rights will be posted on 11 June 2007. Books and records can then be inspected between the hours of 9.30am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday commencing 25 June and ending on 20 July 2007 by appointment with the clerk.

Objection to the accounts must be sent to the External Auditor (Andrew Vince of Moore Stephens, Chartered Accountants, 30 Gay Street, BATH BA1 2PA) Reasons must be given in writing by 31 August 2007

Balances are as follows:

- Nat West Current a/c - £100
- Nat West Reserve a/c - £4114.96
- Scottish Widows Tracker a/c - £18,000

MANDATE – Cllr House will sign cheques in place of Cllr Marshall. Other members signing cheques are Cllrs Bulgin and Rexworthy, two to sign plus the clerk

#### 06/07.11 REPORT ON CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

None received

#### 06/07.12 COUNTY AND COUNCILLOR'S REPORT/S

C.Cllr Clark stated that traffic surveys were being carried out along the A358, and that the Highway Authority may have to alter the design of junction 25 of the M5 when the A358 is eventually upgraded.

Cllr Clark also urged everyone to submit their Voting Papers regarding the proposed Unitary Authority, as a high % is important.

D. Cllr Leighton suggested that as there was a change in the Leadership of the County Council that the issue of the 'Park and Ride' be sent to her, together with copies of all correspondence.

It was also suggested that a meeting with the new leader may be helpful, and that Cllr Coles (TD – Planning and Transport portfolio holder) be invited to attend.

D.Cllr Durdan told the meeting that SPFA were to form a SW Regional body

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.50 pm

THE NEXT FULL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 4 JULY 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.**