

# **RUISHTON AND THORNFALCON** **PARISH COUNCIL**

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6 FEBRUARY 2008

Present: Cllr. House (Chair), Bulgin, Faulkner, Hancock, Lowe, Marshall, Rexworthy and Small

In Attendance: District Cllr. Durdan, 5 Parishioners, reps of Woodlands Castle and Mary Grotage (clerk)

Apologies: Cllr. Anderdon, Harper and Mullins, District Cllr. Leighton and County Cllr. Clark.

02/08.01 MINUTES OF THE LAST TWO MEETING

The minutes of the meetings held on 2 & 16 January 2007, having been circulated, were taken as read and were duly agreed and signed by the chairman as a correct record.

02/08.02 PLANNING MATTERS

An appeal has been lodged against the Local Planning Authority to issue an enforcement notice in respect of the unauthorised change of use of land at Woodlands for the siting of two marquees used in conjunction with conferences and other functions.

This could not be taken into account when dealing with the next two planning applications.

31/2007/029 - CHANGE OF USE OF BUILDING AND GROUNDS TO CONFERENCE AND FUNCTIONS USE, CREATION OF CAR PARK WITH NEW ACCESS, IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING ACCESS, CHANGE OF USE OF OUTBUILDINGS TO FORM TOILETS, RETENTION OF PONDS AND LANDSCAPING WORKS, RETENTION OF TWO MARQUEES FOR A TEMPORARY PERIOD OF THREE YEARS AT WOODLANDS CASTLE.

31/2007/030LB - CHANGE OF USE OF BUILDING AND PART OF GROUNDS TO CONFERENCE AND FUNCTIONS USE, CHANGE OF USE OF OUTBUILDINGS TO FORM TOILETS AT WOODLANDS CASTLE.

Cllr. House declared an interest and Cllr. Marshall took the chair of for this and the next agenda item. Cllr. Bulgin also declared an interest.

Both these applications were discussed at the same time.

A considerable amount of the above works has already been carried out.

The meeting was opposed to these applications on the following grounds:

- It is understood that the venue will hold up to 400 people and it is therefore consider that the parking facilities are inadequate.
- The meeting was against an entrance in Ruishton Lane as it is very narrow in places and there is no provision for a cycleway or footpath for pedestrians. Ruishton Lane has also been known to flood.

- There are also a vast number of vehicles already trying to exit this lane onto the A358 at peak periods.
- Again, it is understood that the venue will only operate on Monday to Saturday from 9.00am to 6.00pm, with no Sunday or evening events. But it should be noted that there have already been complaints made by parishioners of noise from late night functions. We would not support evening events.
- The meeting felt that the marquees are an eyesore being placed alongside the house and are therefore detrimental to the listed building and grounds.
- It is considered that there is inadequate provision for toilet facilities, along with concern regarding sewerage.

31/2007/034 - ERECTION OF SINGLE STOREY EXTENSION TO SIDE AND REAR OF CARNATIKI, STOKE ROAD, HENLADE (PC).

There were no objections to this application.

31/2007/025 - ERECTION OF TWO STOREY SIDE EXTENSIONS, SINGLE STOREY EXTENSIONS TO SIDE, FRONT AND REAR, BALL Y GREEN, HENLADE as amended by letter dated 3 January 2008 with ref Prosser/7/06A and letter dated 23 January with plan reference Prosser/07/02C received 25 January 2008.

31/200/027- ERECTION OF GARAGE WITH STORE ABOVE, BALLY GREEN, HENLADE as amended by letter dated 3 January and plans ref Prosser/0703B received on 8 January 2008.

These two applications were duly passed on the recommendation of the Planning Officer.

#### OTHER MATTERS

The Government has introduced legislation, which means that from April local planning authorities can no longer use their own planning application forms. Cllr. Hancock will read the new briefing and report to the next meeting, any comments to be sent to the Planning Officer by 21 March 2008.

40/2007/006LB - Permission has been granted for the Conversion of Redundant Barn to commercial use at unit 1 Ashe Farm, Thornfalcon.

31/2007/028 - Permission has also been granted for a 'Conservatory on side elevation at 5 Newlands Grove, Ruishton.

A planning application for an 'Extension to the Blackbrook Inn' will be on the next agenda.

02/08.03

#### CLERK'S REPORT

RECREATION FIELD - The clerk has applied for a grant towards 'New Fencing for the Toddlers' play area' and has heard that we would be eligible for a 33% grant towards the cost.

Cllr. Bulgin has been asked to obtain two comparable estimates of the cost.

CASUAL VACANCY - Notices of a Casual Vacancy following the death of Jacqueline Walker will be posted on the Notice boards on 7 February. If within 14 days after the date of the notice, a request for an election to fill the said vacancy is made in writing to the Returning Officer at Deane House by ten electors of the

Parish, an election will be held to fill the vacancy, otherwise the vacancy will be filled by co-option.

An election if called will take place not later than 1 May 2008

WOODLANDS CASTLE - A valid application has now been submitted for a Licence at Woodlands Cast/e. The consultation period ends on 26 February 2008 and anyone wishing to make comments should do so by that date.

A358 ILMINSTER ROAD AND A378 LANGPORT ROAD, THORNFALCON - SCC Highway Authority have received an application for a order to temporarily prohibit traffic from turning right into the A378 Langport Road from A358 Iminster Road and for a temporary 40mph speed limit on both roads. This restriction will be in place for 8 weeks starting from 10 February 2008 to enable the upgrading of the traffic lights to be carried out in these roads.

DIARY DATES - A list was handed to those present.

SALC - The next area meeting in March has been cancelled.

02/08.04 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

RUISHTON NOTICE BOARD needs repair.

02/08.05 REPORT OF REGULATION COMMITTEE MEETING RE PROPOSED PARK AND RIDE AT CAMBRIA FARM (MM)

The meeting was disappointed to learn that Somerset County Council Regulation Committee had approved this application.

Mr Richard Needs had replied to our response to the planning application but did not agree with any of our concerns.

At the meeting it was felt that no notice was taken of our concerns, the presentation was poor with the traffic impact being glossed over. With SCC believing that the development will not have an adverse effect on current traffic problems.

The Parish Council have therefore decided to call for a Public Inquiry. It was agreed that Cllr. Marshall do this on their behalf, on the grounds that SCC did not carry out a proper public consultation prior to deciding where to site the Park and Ride and were not in possession of final reports from the Highways Agency or SCC Highways Authority regarding the traffic implications of the proposal.

02/08.06 REPORT ON MEETING WITH IVY HOUSE CARAVAN PARK (RB)

Cllr. Bulgin had met with residents, rep. of Taunton Deane and Jeremy Browne MP on site.

Taunton Deane Officer explained that he could do nothing at present. Licensing is for 60 caravans but additional pitches have been put down. Can only go to appeal for one caravan at a time when it is in place. The restrictions on the licence should curtail actions.

02/08.07 FINANCE

The clerk reported that a cheque been sent to St. Margaret's Hospice in Memory of Jacqueline Walker.

1.

The following accounts were presented and authorised for payment:

	£
Vale Labels	15.00 Newsletter
Parsons Landscapes	63.46 Maintenance December and January
Allbrite South West Ltd	58.75 Cleaning Bus shelters on A358
Ruishton Village Hall	83.60 Hire of Hall & Committee room

As at 31 January 2008 the bank balances were as follows:

	£
Nat West	3079.28
Scottish Widows	14000.00

Cllr. Rexworthy has agreed to check the balances every quarter.

Mr Bullen has stated that he is unable to continue as our Internal Auditor.

Moore Stephens have been appointed External Auditors for a five year period commencing with the 2007/08 accounts.

02/08.08

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

The response on 'Climate Change in Somerset' has been acknowledged.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.10 pm

THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON 5 MARCH 2008

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETINGS WILL BE HELD ON 22 MAY 2008

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