

RUISHTON AND THORNFALCON

PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6 AUGUST 2008

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

In Attendance: County Cllr. Clark, District Cllr. Durdan, 6 Parishioners and Mary Growtage (clerk)

A minute's silence was held in memory of District Cllr. Leighton who sadly passed away last Monday. The funeral service will be held at Taunton Crematorium, on Friday, 15 August at 1pm

08/08.01 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2008, having been circulated, were taken as read and were duly agreed and signed by the chairman as a correct record.

08/08.02 PLANNING MATTERS

31/2008/010 – ERECTION OF GARAGE AND STORAGE AND INSERTION OF DORMERS AT BALLY GREEN, HENLADE (PC)

This application has to be held back until the next meeting due to a delay in TD Planning Office.

31/2008/011 – ERECTION OF REAR SINGLE STOREY EXTENSION, 21 NEWLANDS CRESCENT, RUISHTON (PC)

TD Planning Office have now granted permission for this application to proceed.

Taunton Deane confirm that planning permission has been granted on the following applications:

31/2008/12A – Signs at Blackbrook Tavern

31/2008/16 – Erection of garage at 10 Steart Cottages

31/2008/18 – Erection of single storey extension at 3 The Grove, Henlade

Cllr. Bulgin stated that the planning application for Affordable Housing at Henlade was not on the agenda of the next TD Planning meeting.

08/08.03 CLERK'S REPORT

SALC event at Ruishton Village Hall on 3 September 2008 has had to be cancelled due to delays in the issue by Government of the Regulations in respect of Appointed Councillors, and the Power of Well-Being.

SALC report on "Communities in Control" (white paper) is being circulated.

SPFA AGM will be held on Thursday 2 October 2008 commencing at 7.30pm at Wedmore Golf Club – Cllr. Bulgin will attend.

SW Region Tree Warden Scheme Forum will be held at Barrington Court on 8 November 2008 from 10.30 – 16.30 – Cost £14

It was agreed that Mrs Marshall should attend.

SW Regional Development Agency are holding various training sessions in September/October 2008 – Details have been circulated or can be found on ViSTA's website at www.vistaproject.org.uk

SCC's Mineral and Waste Policy Team will hold further consultation during November and December of this year, regarding the "Issues and Options" of the new waste planning strategy for Somerset.

STANDARDS COMMITTEE – Currently there are two PC appointed members, namely Mike Marshall and Bryn Wilson from the Parishes of Ruishton and Wiveliscombe. Recent legislation means that the Standard Committee is now responsible for the local determination of all allegations regarding breaches of the Code of Conduct at both Borough and Parish level and it has therefore been decided to increase the PC representation by appointing one additional Parish member. If any member of the PC wishes to put their name forward for this committee they should contact Richard Bryant (Democratic Services Manager) at Taunton Deane.

MEMORIAL STONE/GARDEN – This matter is still pending.

RUISHTON WEBSITE – The clerk reminded members that Dave Duke would like a portrait photo of each PC member with a short write up on each member.

HEALTH AND SAFETY – The electrical equipment in the clerk's office needs to be tested and this will be carried out in the next month.

08/08.04

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

DISABLED ACCESS TO ST. GEORGES CHURCH, RUISHTON – The Revd. Aldersley has written requesting support in obtaining a dropped kerb by the entrance to the church. It was agreed that the clerk should ask Somerset Highways if this could be done and it was suggested that Revd. Andersley also make the same request to Ian Titcombe. (SH)

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY - This is being held at St. George, Ruishton on Sunday 3 September at 3pm. The aim of this event is to celebrate the richness of life, made possible by the number of people who give of their time and skill to run groups that benefit people of all ages and interests. Members of the Parish Council are invited to take part in the service.

TD PLANNING TRAINING MEETING – Cllr. House had attended this meeting and gave the conditions which should always be taken into account when considering a planning application.

08/08.05

CONSIDER APPLICATION FOR CASUAL VACANCY

A letter received from Mrs Karen Ryan was circulated to members with the agenda.

After discussion it was unanimously agreed that Karen be asked to stand on the Parish Council, commencing at the next meeting.

08/08.06

UPDATE ON PROPOSED 'PARK AND RIDE'

Cllrs. Marshall and Bulgin attended the Public Inquiry into the Compulsory Purchase Order 2008 and (Side Roads and Other Works) Order 2008 at the Holiday Inn, Taunton, it having been agreed that they could speak on our behalf as Statutory Objectors.

Cllr. Marshall stated that the Inspector had an understanding of the situation and gave a fair hearing to both sides.

On the second day before the Inquiry he even walked around the area with Cllr. Bulgin and others.

We await the outcome of this Inquiry.

Mrs Callen thanked Cllr. Marshall, on behalf of parishioners, for the way in which he had conducted himself throughout the Inquiry.

It was not until the day before the Inquiry that the clerk received a reply from the County Solicitor (as Monitoring Officer) regarding letters that had been written between 8 March and 15 July with a complaint concerning the way in which Somerset County Council had handled the determination of the 'Park and Ride' planning application. The response was that the grant of planning permission for the East of Taunton Park and Ride was in accordance with a lawful decision of the County Council as Local Planning Authority.

It was agreed that Cllrs. Marshall and Bulgin should now take this matter forward to the Ombudsman on our behalf.

08/08.07

RECREATION FIELD

The SPFA have informed Cllr. Bulgin that our recreation field has been successful in the Association's Field of the Year Competition for 2008. The awards will be presented at the AGM at Wedmore in October.

The clerk reported that there is some delay regarding the grant from Taunton Deane, as Mrs Arscott (TD Community Leisure Officer) has asked the Parks Division to give their opinion as to whether a new fence is required around the toddlers' play area.

Cllr. Bulgin stated that the fencing had been vandalised at the start of the school holidays and was given permission to spend £75 on repairs. Minor repairs will also be carried out to the safety surfacing under the slide.

The Annual Inspection will take place in early autumn.

With regard the ball stop netting alongside properties in Overlands, the cost of moving this to a new position is in the region of £3200. But, as the Parish Council has not received a formal complaint this matter will be left in abeyance.

08/08.08

RUISHTON BUS SHELTER

Photographs of the damage to the bus shelter were handed around members.

It appears that there is no hole in the felt roof and that the leak comes from the bargeboard at the front.

The clerk has made enquiries and found that there is a grant of 85% available for a new bus shelter if required. Quotes have already been received for redecorating and for new felt on the roof.

It was agreed that Cllrs. Bulgin, Lowe and Mullins together with a parishioner who uses the bus shelter should look into this matter and report back to the next meeting.

08/08.09 UPDATE RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT

Copies of the previous one dated July 2006 were circulated to members with the last minutes.

Minor alterations were agreed and an amended copy will be given to members.

Cllr. Mullins thought that 'Declarations of Interest' should be put at the beginning of each agenda as done by Taunton Deane, the clerk will seek guidance on this point.

08/08.10 SOUTH WEST REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY – PROPOSED CHANGES

The Panel recommendations for additional housing for Taunton have been confirmed at 18,000 dwellings, with the following urban extensions:

4,000 houses in Monkton Heathfield in addition to the 1,000 dwellings allocated in the Local Plan; 4,500 dwellings on sites elsewhere around the fringe of the town, mainly to the north; and 3,000 dwellings in the Comeytrove area which will require a long lead-in for master planning and infrastructure. The Panel figure for the remainder of Taunton Deane 3,800 dwellings is unchanged.

The main change is an increase in the number of jobs. The previous figure of 18,500 jobs in the Taunton and Bridgwater travel to work areas (TTWA) goes up to 25,800 jobs. (Taunton 16,500 and Bridgwater 9,300) The provision of employment land is unchanged at 34 hectares for Taunton.

The region's concept of a "Second Strategic Route" (including the proposed A358 Ilminster to Taunton upgrade and A303 Ilminster Bypass) has been dropped despite previous ministerial support.

The document can be viewed at the Regional Assembly webpage www.southwest-ra.gov.uk while the clerk has a Copy of the Secretary of State's Proposed Changes to the Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West, together with supporting documents, should anyone wish to have it.

08/08.11 REPORT FROM EXTERNAL AUDITOR

The Annual Audit has now been completed and the Annual Return was found to be in order. The relevant notice advertising the closure of the audit has been placed on the notice boards.

The Auditor reports that it is not now necessary to provide a copy of the notice of appointment, a list of assets or supporting statement unless specifically requested to do so.

The auditor notes that the council holds a low level of general reserves, after deducting all earmarked reserves, approximately 9% the annual precept for 2007/2008. Suggesting that the council should consider the level of reserves required and consider taking steps to increase the level of reserves in future years if necessary.

These comments will be kept on file along with the Annual Return.

08/08.12 FINANCE -

The following accounts were presented and authorised for payment:

	£	
Moore Stephens	158.63	External Audit
Allbrite SW Ltd	58.75	Cleaning A358 bus shelters
Parsons Landscapes Ltd	524.56	Maintenance – June and July 2008
M Growtage	10.73	Expenses to 30 June 2008
Ruishton Village Hall	32.00	Hire of hall
Ruishton Village Day	100.00	Grant

The balances on hand at the end of July 2008 were:

Nat West	£2001.17
Scot Widows	£19k

Cllr. Faulkner asked to be assured that we were getting the best interest possible on our reserves. The clerk stated that the Auditor was satisfied with the interest rates received.

08/08/13 REPORT ON ANY OTHER CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

None received.

08/08.14 COUNTY /DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

DISTRICT - Cllr. Durdan reported on a 'Wild Play Day' scheme that is to take place in the county.

COUNTY - Cllr. Clark reported that the Standard for the Somerset and Cornwall Light Infantry would in future be laid up in County Hall and not in St Mary's Church.

Cllr. Anderdon asked about the programme for hedge cutting as some roads in the Lower Henlade area had been cut while others had not been done. The clerk will make some enquiries.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.10pm

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 3 SEPTEMBER 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.**