

RUISHTON AND THORNFALCON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 JANUARY 2009

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

In Attendance: County Cllr. Clark, District Cllrs. D and K. Durdan, 8 Parishioners, 4 representatives of Woodlands Castle, David Greig (Parish Liaison Officer) PCSO Debra Perry and Mary Grootage (clerk)

Apologies: Cllr. Marshall and Ryan

01/09.01 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 November 2008, having been circulated, were taken as read and after two minor alterations were duly agreed and signed by the chairman as a correct record.

01/09.02 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The following interests were declared:
Cllrs. House and Bulgin declared an interest in the Woodlands planning applications.

01/09.03 PLANNING MATTERS

31/2008/026 – ERECTION OF FIRST FLOOR EXTENSION, RAISING TO RIDGE HEIGHT, INSTALLATION OF DORMER WINDOWS AND ERECTION OF SINGLE STOREY EXTENSION REAR EXTENSION AT 2 NEWLANDS CRESCENT, RUISHTON (PC)

The Planning Officer has asked that this be left to the next meeting, by which time he will have done his report and will attend the meeting.

Cllr. Hancock took the chair and Cllr. House left the hall while the next two planning applications were discussed.

31/2008/027 – CHANGE OF USE TO FUNCTION FACILITIES, TOGETHER WITH FORMATION OF NEW ACCESS AND CAR PARK AND RETENTION OF GLAZED PERGOLA AT WOODLANDS CASTLE, HENLADE (TD)

Representatives of Woodlands Castle and parishioners were given the opportunity to speak on this and the next planning applications.

Concern was expressed regarding the proposed entrance into Ruishton Lane, it was explained that the Somerset County Council have stressed that the existing entrance on to the A358 must be closed. A suggestion was made that perhaps a new entrance could be made further from the proposed Park and Ride on the A358.

Other issues raised were regarding noise from the venue, it was felt that the applicant had not acted as a good neighbour to those who live near the site.

Cllr. Faulker proposed that the Parish Council was unable to support the application on the grounds of traffic concern and noise issues. All members present unanimously agreed to this proposal.

31/2008/028LB – CONVERSION OF BUILDING TO PROVIDE FUNCTION FACILITIES AND DISABLED ACCESS WITH COVERED PERGOLA AND TANKING BASEMENT AT WOODLANDS CASTLE, HENLADE (TD)

It was explained that 'tanking basement' was damp proofing required by the TD Conservation Officer.

There appears to be disabled access to the ground floor only.

The Parish Council wants assurance that the Conservation Officer agrees to the changes.

31/2008/030 – ERECTION OF SIDE AND REAR EXTENSIONS AND ALTERATIONS AT ORCHARD END, STOKE ROAD, HENLADE (PC)

After consultation with the Chairman and clerk the Planning Officer has approved this application.

31/2008/034 – ERECTION OF NEW DWELLING ON LAND TO THE EAST OF THORNHAMS, HENLADE (AMENDED DESIGN TO PREVIOUSLY APPROVED SCHEME – 31/08/2007)

The amended plans show that the proposed building is slightly smaller than the previous application.

There is still concern regarding the entrance splay and would refer to previous comments. The clerk was given correspondence from 2003 regarding this matter to forward to the Planning Officer.

The clerk has now received the planning application for the erection of a garage on this site and this will be discussed at the next meeting.

31/08/0036T – APPLICATION TO FELL ONE ASHE TREE, ONE LIME TREE AND 5 BEECH TREES INCLUDED IN TAUNTON DEANE BOROUGH (RUISHTON NO.10 TREE PRESERVATION ORDER 2006 AT WOODLANDS, RUISHTON 9TD10020)

The Parish Council strongly objected to these trees being felled and felt that if there was no other alternative then the SCC should look to buying more land to enable trees to be planted behind the proposed footpath.

The planning applications for Stones, Lower Henlade and the nursery pig building at Ashe Farm, Thornfalcon have been approved.

01/09.04 PARISH PLANNING AGREEMENTS

A letter has been received from Tonya Meers (TD - Legal and Democratic Services Manager) regarding the Parish Planning Agreements, which are due to expire and are therefore due for renewal. The meeting agreed that it would like to continue with the current agreement providing there was more support from Planning Officers and that their recommendations were received with the application.

Planning Training for Councillors has been arranged for Thursday 8 January at 6pm in the John Meikle Room to look at the Government's Development Management agenda. To keep up to date with the changes in the guidelines future training has been arranged to take place on the following Mondays; 8 February, 9 March 6 April and 11 May 2009.

01/09.05 TREE PRESERVATION ORDER

The Clerk has been informed that a Tree Preservation Order has been made on a large oak tree which spans 38 and 40 Newlands Road as well as 18 Coronation Close.

01/09.06 CLERK'S REPORT

SEAT AT JUNCTION OF CORONATION CLOSE AND BUSHY CROSS ROAD – The clerk is still awaiting permission from the Property and Repairs Manager (TDO)

DROPPED KERB AT ENTRANCE TO THE CHURCH – This work will not be undertaken until the spring, due to a delay in delivery of the handrail. The clerk has asked that this be completed before the end of the current financial year.

PLAQUE FOR THE MEMORIAL STONE – This has now been received.

VARIOUS SIGNS – The clerk was asked to enquire into the current position regarding the 'Midas Homes' sign near the post office and whether permission had been given for all the various signs at the end of Ruishton Lane.

01/09.06 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It was reported by the PCSO that the Police had taken steps towards alleviating the parking problems near the school and outside the day nursery.

01/09.08 REPORT ON DECEMBER SALC MEETING

Cllr. Anderdon had attended the recent meeting where the question of Planning Application Agreements had been discussed.

01/09.09 RECREATION FIELD

Cllr. Bulgin reported that GB Sport & Leisure had carried out the Annual Inspection of the Recreation Field and that no major problems had been reported.

It was agreed that at the present time the fencing around the toddlers' play area would not be replaced and the clerk is to enquire if the grant from TD could be used to upgrade the existing play equipment and safety surfacing.

01/09.10 ACCEPT QUOTATION FOR UPKEEP OF RECREATION FIELD/ OTHER AREAS

It was unanimously agreed to accept Parsons Landscapes quotations in the sum of £2046.45 and £157.50. The clerk is to ask for specific details of the work to be undertaken on the shrub bed outside Dinhams.

01/09.11 AGREE PRECEPT FOR 2009/10

Members went through the draft Precept, previously prepared by the Chairman and clerk, in detail. One addition was made, namely to include £250 for Charitable Donations making total payments of £13650 and income of £1091 – Details are attached to these minutes.

Due to the present economic position, it was unanimously agreed to request the same amount of Precept as last year, namely £11250

01/09.12 FINANCE -

The following accounts were presented and authorised for payment:

	£	
Ruishton Village Hall	15.00	Newsletter – 3 months
GB Sport & Leisure	88.23	Annual Inspection of Recreation field

The rent for the use of the Village Hall will be paid next month, while Parsons Landscapes' account for December has not yet been received.

Balances in hand are as follows:

Nat West - Current a/c	£100
- Reserve a/c	£2069
Scottish Widows -	£19k

01/09.13 COMMUNITIES IN CONTROL - CONSULTATION

Cllr. Hancock has read this document and found it to be very informative, although more designed for larger councils. It will now be passed around all members of the council, Cllr. Hancock having highlighted items he thought of interest.

01/09.14 REPORT ON ANY OTHER CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

None received.

01/09.15 COUNTY /DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Councillors had nothing further to report.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.50pm

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 4 FEBRUARY 2009

**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.**