

RUISHTON AND THORNFALCON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1 APRIL 2009

Present: Cllr. House (Chair), Bulgin, Faulkner, Lowe, and Ryan.

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

Apologies: Cllr. Anderdon, Harper, Marshall, Rexworthy and Small.

04/09.01 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2009, having been circulated, were taken as read and following a minor amendment were duly agreed and signed by the chairman as a correct record.

04/09.02 HIGHWAY MATTERS

Residents have called upon the Parish Council to get safety measures in situ for children crossing Cheats Road suggesting a pedestrian crossing/20pmh speed limit/flashing warning lights.

Over 70 children cross this road each day either for school or to get to the recreation field.

It was agreed that the clerk should contact both Ian Titcombe and Richard Needs (Somerset Highways) and Road Safety for their advice and at the same time ask for a speed count to be undertaken outside the recreation field and in both Ruishton and Bushy Cross Lanes.

Cllr Mullins arrived at 7.45pm and Cllr. Hancock at 7.50pm during this agenda item.

04/09.03 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Cllrs. Bulgin and House declared an interest in Woodlands correspondence.

04/09.04 PLANNING MATTERS

31/09/0007 – ERECTION OF REPLACEMENT DWELLING AND GARAGE AT SARSDEN, LIPE LANE, HENLADE (Amended scheme to 31/08/0023)

The meeting had no comments to make on this application.

REVIEW OF PARISH DELEGATION PROCEDURES

Cllr. Hancock had attended a recent training meeting dealing with this issue and reported that the Parish delegation scheme, whereby eight parish councils determine minor applications, was introduced in the mid 1990s. It remains the only such scheme in the country.

Parishes are responsible for notifying neighbours and displaying site notices as well as acting as a Planning Committee determining those applications.

In light of concerns relating to time taken targets and the resource implications of sending planning officers to all Parish Council meetings the scheme was revised in 2002 to allow decision making to be passed back to Taunton Deane for a decision in cases where the views of the Parish Council were in accord with those of the Planning Officer.

Recently, concerns have been raised in relation to the implications of those 2002 changes in that it can lead to Parish Councillors considering proposals twice and therefore potentially fettering their discretion; this approach has left Parish Councils open to challenge on these determinations.

TD has introduced a new IT back-office system (ACOLAID). The aim is to place the Council in a position where it could respond to the e-government agenda, and explore on-line consultation. Keeping records of consultations on ACOLAID when the Parishes are carrying out the consultations already results in double handling of the information and will ultimately become more difficult if the consultation process is to be carried out electronically.

The householder appeal system is to change shortly and the inspectorate will not be asking for full written statements, but will rely on committee reports and minutes.

Our agreement has now lapsed and it is essential that the issues outlined above are fully considered before they are renewed.

Cllr. Hancock made the point that Parishes need to receive the planning officer's report and recommendation prior to the Parish Council meeting. (Preferably in time to be sent out with the agenda.)

We await further details from Taunton Deane as to how this will progress.

HOUSEHOLDERS APPEALS SERVICE

The Householders Appeals Service is officially going LIVE on 6 April 2009 and will apply to all applications received after that date.

Minor alterations will be made to Ownership Notices (for applications and appeals); site notices and neighbour notification letters (for applications) More guidance will be received, including advice on wording and templates will be provided.

These documents will then form the basis of a Council's position for household applications, which are refused under delegated powers and then proceed to appeal and are dealt with via the Householder Appeals Service. It will not be possible to submit further written statements setting out our case. Therefore in delegated reports the reasons for a decision must be carefully, precisely and clearly explained.

Minutes/Decision notices will now form a basis of the Council's position for householder applications which are refused by a planning committee and then proceed to appeal and are dealt with via the Householder Appeals Service. It will not be possible to set out any further written statements. In cases where an officer's recommendation to approve is overturned by a committee/parish council, that the minutes are sufficiently detailed to explain the reasons for the decision.

CORRESPONDENCE RE WOODLANDS CASTLE PLANS

04/09.05 Carver Knowles have sent details of planning applications that are to be submitted to Taunton Deane, no decisions were made and the plans are being passed around the members.

04/09.06 CLERK'S REPORT

PROPOSED SEAT AT THE END OF CORONATION CLOSE – The Licence for this has now been granted although confirmation has still to be received. The work should be undertaken in April 2009.

ROAD CLOSURE – There will be a road closure on the B3168 at Hambridge for 2 days starting 16 April to enabling resurfacing and associated works to be carried out in this road. A plan showing the length of closure and alternate route has been posted on the notice board at Henlade Post Office.

IMPROVED SERVICE – Residents should soon benefit from faster and improved handling of their enquiries from Taunton Deane and Somerset County Council. A notice to this effect will be posted on the notice boards.

POWER OF WELL BEING FOR PARISHES AND TOWNS – A reminder that the training package for this qualification will be delivered in April, one being held at Ruishton Village Hall on 27 April commencing at 2pm.(02/09.04)

The charge will be £40 per head for members of SALC.

ELECTIONS – The County Council and European Parliament Elections will take place on Thursday 4 June 2009.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETINGS will be on 28 May - A representative from Somerset Highways will attend to give a progress report on the Construction of the Park and Ride at Cambria Farm. Enquiries will be made as to whether it would be possible to put on a display of artefacts dug up on the site, following the recent archaeological dig on the site.

04/09.07 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reported that the bus shelters had now been repaired.

Thanks were expressed to Cllr. Bulgin for fixing the plaque on the Memorial stone.

04/09.08 FINANCE

The following accounts were presented and authorised for payment:

	£	
M Growtage	85.21	2008/09 Postage, heating etc.
SALC	341.55	2009/10 Affiliation fee
R. Bulgin	52.25	Timber/screws – Toddlers' area

The Annual Audit will take place at the beginning of June 2009.
The Notice of Appointment of Date for the Exercise of Electors' Rights will be displayed on 16 April 2009.

Mrs Nina Carter has agreed to carry out the Internal Audit after Easter.

04/09.09 RECREATION FIELD

Following the theft of a length of fencing around the toddlers' play area, Cllr. Bulgin has kindly replaced this. He will now buy a 2x2 slab to go inside the gate and also replace the catch.

04/09.10 REPORT ON ANY OTHER CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

A letter was read from Rev Andersley thanking the Parish Council and Cllr. Clark for enabling funding for the dropped kerb and complimenting Mr Chris Hall of the DLO on co-ordinating the project and on the exemplary work carried out on site.

04/09.11 COUNTY /DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr. Durdan gave the following information to the meeting:

- Swimming is now free in Taunton Deane for the under 16s and over 60s.
- Boat trips on the canal and river will be operational in June/July.

He suggested that TD Housing might be able to provide space to store sand and bags in the Dinhams area for use when there is flooding in Cheats Road.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.50pm

**THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 6 MAY AT 7.30PM
WITH
PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME AT 7.20PM**

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETINGS WILL BE HELD ON 28 MAY AT 7.00PM

**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.**