

# RUISHTON AND THORNFALCON PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3 JUNE 2009

Present: Cllr. House (Chair), Anderdon, Bulgin, Hancock, Marshall, Mullins, Small and Ryan.

In Attendance: District Cllr. D. Durdan, PCSO Lynsey Gamblin, Paul Williams and Mark Andrews (Taunton Fire Station) and Mary Growthage (clerk)

Apologies: Cllr. Hancock, Harper, Lowe and Rexworthy, District Cllr. K Durdan.

06/09.01 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None

06/09.02 MINUTES OF THE LAST TWO MEETINGS

The minutes of the meetings held on 6 and 29 Mays 2009, having been circulated, were taken as read and were duly agreed and signed by the chairman as a correct record.

06/09.03 PARTNERS AND COMMUNITY TOGETHER (PACT)

Mark Andrews and Paul Williams (Taunton Fire Station) and PCSO Gamblin reported back to meeting regarding their participation in PACT.

We were informed that regular high visibility patrols have been made in the area near Ruishton Primary School in order to promote child safety. A referral has also been made, by them, to the Highways Agency (Ian Titcombe) in order to carry out an assessment for additional linage to enable them to enforce parking restrictions.

It was reported that cars do not now appear to be parking on the zigzag lines by the Nursery on the corner of Bushy Cross Lane.

Speeding in Stoke Road, Lower Henlade and Bushy Cross is still an issue. The Fire Brigade have a 'SLOW DOWN' sign, this is a stand alone unit, which the parish could borrow.

Cllr. Durdan said that Creech St Michael had purchased a 'Speed Gun' and suggested that perhaps the PC could have from them on loan. No action is taken against those speeding but advisory letters are sent to those caught speeding.

The clerk is to collect 'Fire Awareness' leaflets from the Fire Station for distribution to the elderly and vulnerable in the parish. It was pointed out that smoke detectors should be checked periodically.

There appears to be no Anti Social Behaviour, Criminal Damage or Burglary in Ruishton, although there have been burglaries in Creech St Michael and Henlade.

06/09.04 PLANNING MATTERS

How to move forward in regard to the way in which planning matters are dealt with by the PC and the possibility of forming a planning sub-committee will be discussed fully at the next meeting.

06/09.05

### CLERK'S REPORT

**STREET LIGHTING** – It has been confirmed that unit 42 on the A358 (adjacent Ballygreen) has now been reinstated and should be operating correctly.

**SOMERSET LEVELS AND MOORS** – Invite to the launch event for the Community and Business grants available as part of the L & M Local Action Programme will be held at Edington Village hall on Tuesday, 16 June 2009, 6.30 – 9.30pm.

A light buffet will be provided. Names to the clerk if you wish to attend.

**SALC** – The next area meeting is on Thursday 18 June in Bishops Lydeard Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm – Cllr. Anderdon will endeavour to attend.

**TRAINING REGARDING PLANNING** – Sessions will take place on 5 August, 25 November 2009 and 17 February 2010 at 6pm in the John Meikle Room.

**SOMERSET WOODLAND STRATEGY CONSULTATION** – This has been passed to Mrs L Marshall for her consideration and completion of the questionnaire.

**VILLAGE OF THE YEAR COMPETITION** – It was decided not to take part this year.

**REQUEST TO INSURE PROPOSED NOTICE BOARD AT LOWER HENLADE** – A verbal enquiry has been made as to whether the PC would be prepared to include a notice board belonging to Lower Henlade and Stoke Road Residents' Association on their insurance policy.

It is not be possible to insure property belonging to a third party, It was suggested that the clerk write to the association and ask that a representative attend Parishioners Question time before a PC meeting so that the matter can be discussed with them and a solution found.

**REQUEST FOR DONATION TO LIFE EDUCATION (WESSEX)** that provides health and drug prevention education to children aged 3 – 11 years in Somerset.

Cllr. Bulgin who is also a governor of Ruishton Primary School said this was already covered for this age group.

As this was not included in our precept, it was agreed not to give a donation to this group.

**MIDAS SIGN ON A358** – This sign has not yet been removed. Cllr. Mullins said this was being discussed by the Enforcement Officer this coming Friday.

06/09.06

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

**PATH TO THE REAR OF DINHAMS** – A letter has been received from a resident of Dinhams asking for the rear path running behind nos.1–8 be cleared of brambles and weeds. This complaint has been checked out the it was agreed that the clerk should write to the housing department at Taunton Deane, asking for this to be cleared on a regular basis.

At the same time enquiry will be made as to whether a bin for sand could be placed in the car park at Dinhams, for use in times of flooding in the area as nos. 9-12 have been in danger of being flooded in the past.

It is also noted that we have never received a reply to our request for sand and sand bags to be kept on Cllr. Anderdon's property at Lower Henlade..

THE FUTURE OF DLO SERVICES – There will be a special consultation meeting with partner agencies, community groups and customers, to seek views on the services carried out by Taunton Deane Direct Labour Organisation (DLO) on Tuesday 23 June in the John Meikle Room at Deane House from 2.00 pm.

COUNTY FARM ESTATE, The Sieve Process (Non Retained Estate) Thornfalcon 1, Canal Farm, TA3 5NS – It was agreed with Cllr. Durdan's suggestion that the Chard Canal and Fishpool Copse be kept for use by members of the public. With this in mind a temporary bid for funding has been made to the Somerset Levels and Moors.

It was also suggested that a small area could be used for allotments.

#### 06/09.07 REPORT ON ANNUAL PARISH MEETINGS

Over 60 parishioners attended the Annual Parish Meetings held on 28 May.

At the Thornfalcon meeting it was pointed out that the 'old' wooden bus shelter alongside the dual carriageway on the A358 was in a state of collapse. This does belong to the PC and will be demolished.

At the Ruishton meeting there was a request for allotments in the parish and this will be put on the next agenda.

The closure of Ruishton Lane for a month to enable work on the A358 caused concern and the clerk will write to ask Mr Needs if this length of time is really necessary.

After the formal part of the meetings Mr Richard Needs (Major Projects Manager for SCC) gave an update of the progress on the East of Taunton Park and Ride so far and how it is intended to proceed with works on the A358 and traffic calming in Ruishton.

Mr Needs has not yet had time to study our requests following the meeting when the PC discussed the draft plan for traffic calming in Ruishton Lane and Cheats Road.

This was followed by an interesting talk on the findings during the Archaeology Dig on the P&R site. It is hoped that in the future we may be able to have the County Archaeologist to give a full report and to enable us to see some of the finds.

#### 06/09.07 REPORT ON TARMAC LIAISON MEETING

Cllr. Bulgin reported on the recent meeting with Tarmac stating that they had had to reduce their workforce now that the work is coming to an end on the 2012 Olympic Stadium, although culvert work is on the increase.

Wessex Water has approached the firm with regard to putting in a road through their property to the A358 but as yet nothing has developed.

Drivers are still parking on the double yellow lines on the slip road into the site, the police are aware of the situation.

#### 06/09.08 RECREATION FIELD

Cllr. Bulgin has kindly carried out minor repair work on the play equipment and slabs are being laid in the entrance to the toddlers' play area.

A tree is to be pruned and a bench is to be placed underneath this is being provided by the Ruishton Village Day.

06/09.09 RUISHTON VILLAGE DAY

Cllrs. Bulgin and Marshall declared an interest. \*

Permission was given for Village Day to again be held in the Recreation Field on 18 July and the Dog Bye Law will be lifted for that one day.

06/09.10 FINANCE

The following accounts were presented and agreed for payment :

	£	
Parsons Landscapes	269.35	Maintenance
Allianze Insurance plc	1540.49	Insurance
Ruishton Village Day	100.00	Grant *

The clerk reported that the precept (£11250) and VAT repayment (£146.25) have been received since the last meeting.

Balances at Nat West at 31 May were £2810.59, with £24k in Scottish Widows.

Nat West have agreed to drop the monthly bank charge of £10 and should be refunding money already paid to them over the past year.

Money deposited with Scottish Widows is currently earning interest at 0.50% below Base Rate (0.50%)

06/09.11 REPORT ON ANY OTHER CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED - None

06/09.12 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr. Durdan reported that he would be attending the National Playing Field Association AGM later in the month.

Also, that the Environment Agency are heightening the flood bank in order to prevent flooding in Mill Lane and Bull Street in Creech St Michael.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.50pm

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – 1 JULY 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.**