

RUISHTON AND THORNFALCON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2 SEPTEMBER 2009

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

In Attendance: County Cllr. Fothergill, District Cllrs. D & K Durdan, 4 Parishioners and Mary Growtage (clerk)

Apologies: Cllr. Hancock and Ryan.

09/09.01 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. Anderdon declared an interest in the planning application re The Mount Somerset Hotel and left the meeting for that agenda item.

09/09.02 MINUTES OF THE LAST TWO MEETINGS

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 August 2009, having been circulated, were taken as read and were duly agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

09/09.03 PLANNING MATTERS

31/09/0014– ERECTION OF REAR EXTENSION TO PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL EIGHT BEDROOMS TO THE HOTEL TOGETHER WITH GARDEN BUILDING AND LANDSCAPING WORKS AT THE MOUNT SOMERSET HOTEL, HENLADE – Observations only.

The meeting had no objection to this application.

31/09/018 – ERECTION OF DETACHED GARAGE AND WORKSHOP WITH STORAGE ABOVE AT DRAKES FARM, CHURCH LANE, RUISHTON.

The meeting decided that Taunton Deane Borough Council should determine this application as the clerk has still heard nothing officially regarding the 'Devolution of Planning Powers'.

The meeting agreed with the Planning Officer's comments.

Permission has been granted for an extension at Church Lane Cottage, Thornfalcon (40/09/0004)

09/09.04 CLERK'S REPORT.

PROPOSED LOWER HENLADE NOTICE BOARD – Roger Tyson (Licensing Officer – SCC Transport Development Group) states that the Highway Authority has no objection to the proposal and has asked the Legal Services to draw up the appropriate agreement. This procedure involves the posting of notices in the vicinity of the proposal in order to give the general public the opportunity of making representations regarding the proposal. The notice will be posted for a month and providing no valid objections are received, the permission will be granted.

Roger Tyson had stated that he could not see any need for a site meeting.

The Highway Service Manager to be contacted prior to the erection of the Notice Board.

SOMERSET AND LEVELS ACTION GROUP – The clerk has been in contact with Alex Sherman who informed her that land in West Monkton Parish could not be considered for financial assistance and also that there is a cycle path along canal through the Levels to Bridgwater.

If the Parish still feel there is a need for a cycle path to Hankridge then he suggested that the County Councillor might like to take the matter up on our behalf and Cllr. Fothergill has agreed to look into the matter.

DIARY DATES –

15 Sept – Taunton CAB AGM at The Priory, Canon Street commencing at 12 noon.

15 Sept. - Community Council for Somerset AGM at Burtle Village Hall commencing
at 4.00pm.

24 Sept – SPFA AGM at Woolavington Village Hall at 7.30pm

26 Sept. – SALC AGM at Woolavington Village Hall commencing at 10.30am.

Lunch will be available at a cost of £10 per head.

Anyone wishing to attend should notify the clerk by 21/09/09,
Cheques for lunch to be made payable to SALC

8/15 Oct. – Clerk's Workshops at Edington Village Hall

There are several 'Councillors and the Power of Well-being events' taking place in the county, the nearest being at Burnham on Sea on Monday 12 October, at a cost of £20 per head.

This course is mandatory for Councillors where the Council is seeking eligibility, will be repeated regularly at various venues. Local arrangements can be made for a local presentation if numbers are sufficient.

David Greig (Parish Liaison Officer) is not aware of any Parish taking part and can see no benefit in our doing so at this time.

SEAT AT END OF CORONATION CLOSE – The clerk will ask the DLO to cut off the bolts holding the seat in place.

09/09.05 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It was agreed that the Parish Council still wish to continue as a consultee on The Local Development Framework Core Strategy.

09/09.06 CLOSURE OF RUISHTON LANE/TRAFFIC CALMING PROPOSALS

Concern was expressed at the closure of Ruishton Lane and the alternative route given by Somerset County Council.

Cllr. Marshall has been in contact with the authority who stated that it was not possible to find any other suitable route and that traffic lights cannot be put at the end of Lipe Lane.

The meeting felt that the advice given could lead to accidents, which SCC would be responsible for and Cllr. Marshall had asked them to have the turnings at Lipe Lane and Bushy Cross Lane monitored.

As there is no footpath along Bushy Cross Lane, the clerk is to ask for 'Pedestrian' warning signs to be put in the lane.

With regard to the traffic calming scheme, the meeting felt that they had got all that they had requested **except** for a throttle in Cheats Road in order to slow traffic.

The PC having been told that it was not possible, although members thought that one could go on the hump near the Village Hall. The clerk will take this matter up with Somerset Highways.

The County Councillor expressed surprise that Bushy Cross Lane had not been included in the scheme.

09/09.07 UPDATE REGARDING REQUEST FOR PROVISION OF ALLOTMENTS

12 parishioners had expressed an interest and the matter is in hand.
To date the PC have been unable to find suitable land, of just over an acre, to buy or rent for this purpose. If anyone knows of any suitable land please contact the chairman or clerk.

09/09.08 FINANCE

The following accounts were presented and agreed for payment:

	£
Moore Stephens	155.25 Audit of Annual Return
TDBC	1285.50 Dropped kerb and seat (as per quotes)

£2k has been transferred from Scottish Widows to our Nat West A/C, leaving a balance at SW of £22k

The Annual Return has been agreed, the only comment from the Auditor being that it is noted that the council holds a low level of general reserves, after deducting all are marked reserves, approximately 19% of the annual precept for 2008/2009 and suggested that the council should consider the level of general reserves required and consider taking steps to increase the level of reserves in future years.

09/09.09 REPORT ON ANY OTHER CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

None

09/09.10 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

District Cllr. Durdan said that it was hoped to rebuild and landscape the area along the old Chard Canal from Ruishton to Creech St Michael.

County Cllr. Fothergill had nothing further to report.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.35pm

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – 7 OCTOBER 2009

THE 2010 ANNUAL PARISH MEETINGS WILL BE HELD ON 20 MAY NEXT YEAR

**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.**