

# RUISHTON AND THORNFALCON PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 DECEMBER 2011

Present: Cllrs. Lowe (Chairman), Anderdon, Hancock, Harper, James, Rexworthy and Small.

In Attendance: County Cllr. Fothergill, District Councillors D. Durdan, Mr Rupert Crossbie (Sustrans) 1 parishioners and Mary Growtage (Clerk)

Apologies: Cllr. Bulgin, Faulkner, Marshall and Ryan.

12/11.01 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None

12/11.02 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 2011 having been circulated, were duly agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record

12/11.03 ‘SUSTRANS’ – Mr Rupert Crossbie

This agenda item was opened for parishioners to take part.

The Chairman introduced Rupert Crossbie (Area manager of Sustrans - Somerset) to the meeting who explained the present position regarding the proposed cycle path from Hankridge to Ruishton. The main problem being that the land is currently not available.

There is support from the community, as the path would provide a safer cycle route into town from the village without having to negotiate the M5 motorway intersection or A358.

Cllr. Fothergill put the scheme forward for consideration by SCC last year but it was rejected, he will again press for funding in the next financial year if it seems likely that land might be available.

It was agreed that Sustrans would contact the owner (Mr Ling), asking him to consider selling part of the field to them and after doing so would contact the clerk in order to arrange a further meeting in order to take matters forward.

Mr Crossbie asked if the parish council would consider funding an environmental study that had been carried out in the region of £162.

The ownership of Church Lane was also discussed.

It was noted that SCC are responsible for the upkeep of footpaths.

12/11.04 PLANNING MATTERS - None

12/11.05 CLERK'S REPORT – Nothing to report

12/11.06 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Nothing to report

12/11.07 ALLOTMENTS – Nothing to report

12/11.08 DIAMOND JUBILEE

There was a good response to the recent collection in the village and £118 was raised from a skittle evening organised by the Ruishton Inn.

The next funding raising event is 'Carols and Songs around a Christmas tree with mince pies and mulled wine' on Friday, 16 December at 7pm. Proceeds will be shared with the Village Hall.

This will be followed by a 'Bring and Buy', a 2 course cooked lunch will be available afterwards; proceeds will be shared with Ruishton Church.

12/11.09 RECREATION FIELD

Concerns were expressed over parking in the road when football matches are taking place.

12/11.10 SPEEDING ON A358 AND PHASING OF TRAFFIC LIGHTS AT PARK AND RIDE

Cllrs. Lowe and Marshall will attend a meeting at County Hall on Wednesday, 4 January 2012 to discuss concerns with the relevant authorities.

12/11.11 FINANCE

The following account was submitted for payment:

	£	
Parsons Landscapes	300.32	Ground maintenance – October'11

Permission was also given for an account from Glasdon's for the grit bin provided at Dinhams (£170 + VAT) to be paid when it is received.

The meeting considered the four quotations received for the maintenance of the recreation field and other areas in the village, these ranged from £1553 to £5127 ex VAT. It was unanimously decided to accept the quote from the DLO in the sum of £1542.30 plus £11.25 per occasion for the maintenance of the memorial shrub bed at Dinhams.

Details of expenditure to date and balances in hand, having been sent/given to members were discussed along with the precept for 2012/13.

Those present recommend that the precept be kept the same at £12k.

The budget of spending on the recreation field to be reduced by £500 to £1750, there should also be a similar grant of £840 from TD next year. Funds in hand being increased by £1.5k for capital expenditure on the recreation field and £1k in the Contingency/Reserve fund. £200 was also included for Sustrans (cycle path)

These figures will go before the January meeting for approval.

12/11.12 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

SUGGESTION TO TURN OFF THE STREET LIGHTS AT NIGHT (ex A358) – A parishioner has written suggesting that the lights in the village are turned off at night.

When the lights were first installed in the village, parishioners had very mixed reactions to the scheme and the parish council have reservations about going ahead with this suggestion at the present time. Cllr. Bulgin has spoken to SCC Lighting dept. and was informed that they are to consider 'part night lighting', starting with villages on Exmoor

and will be covering the whole of Somerset in time. We would be consulted before anything is done and will have the opportunity to have some lights left on if we so wish.

SCC would cover the cost of £40 per lamp unless we want it done now in which case the parish council will have to bear the cost.

The A358 and M5 intersection will not be fully turned off but could work with 50% power

RECONSIDER THE REMOVAL OF THE LITTER BIN ADJACENT TO RUISHTON BUS SHELTER (following a written request from three councillors, none of whom were at the meeting) – It was unanimously agreed not to remove the bin at the present time and to look at other ways of dealing with the problem, such as a dual purpose bin.

The clerk will write to the TD asking if they have such a bin available.

#### 12/11.13 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Neither councillor had anything to report.

Cllr. Hancock raised concerns over the parking of cars outside the Day Nursery on the corner of Bushy Cross Lane. The clerk will contact the PCSO Lindsey Gamblin and ask her to reconsider the problem. Some mention was made of asking for the road priorities to be changed, but, was not taken any further.

He also expressed concern that the Highways gritting programme for this winter does not include Creech St Michael.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.55pm

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – 4 JANUARY 2012 AT 7.30pm

PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME AT 7.20pm

**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.**