

## **RUISHTON AND THORNFALCON PARISH COUNCIL**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2018

**CLLRS PRESENT:** Lowe, Anderdon, Bulgin, Dickinson, Fudge, Harper, Hancock, Marshall, and Mullins

**ALSO PRESENT:** County Councillor John Thorne, 12 members of the public and the Clerk, Heather Bryant

**NOT PRESENT:** Borough Councillors Kelly Durdan and Dave Durdan. (No apologies received.)

### **Presentation from Highways and Transport Commissioning Team for a highway improvement scheme at Creech Castle Junction in Taunton. Followed by a question and answer session**

In attendance: Somerset County Council representatives, David Mitchell, Richard Needs and Sunita Mills

David Mitchell presented with the aid of power point and spoke on the why it is needed, the objectives and the options considered. It was noted that there was emphasis on safe routes for cyclists and pedestrians. The cost of the scheme is estimated at £8m with a cost/benefit ratio of 7:1 which is high value for money. There will be a formal Consultation where they will collate all feedback and come up with a final design They will present a business case to the Local Enterprise Partnership (70% source of funding). The procurement process is scheduled for Winter 2018/19 and to start Summer 2019. The scheme will take three years

The presentation was followed by a question and answer session

#### **18/2/1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None received

#### **18/2/2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None declared

#### **18/2/3 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 31 JANUARY 2018**

**RESOLVED:** the approval of the minutes as a true record.

#### **18/2/4 HIGHWAY ENGLAND - A358 TAUNTON TO SOUTHFIELD SCHEME**

After a full discussion it was **RESOLVED** that this Council's preferred route would be a combination of the 3 options, pink, blue and orange.

Pink route: from Southfields roundabout to Junction C.

This route will pick up traffic from the A378 (Langport road) as otherwise this traffic would use the existing A358 through Henlade

Blue route: from pink route Junction C, cut across to the blue route to Junction D.

This route compared to the pink route will not go through Lower Henlade in which the pink route will have an adverse effect on air quality, severance of the community with possible compulsory purchases.

Orange route: from blue route Junction D, pick up the orange route to Junction F.

The pink & blue routes will provide a Henlade bypass and a connection (spur) to Nexus 25.

However, to use the pink or the blue route entirely will not ease the congestion on the junction J25 roundabout as there is likely to be a build up of traffic at peak times with delays as traffic not going to Nexus 25 will be using the spur road to access the M5. So, it is important to have another 'all movement' junction to access the M5 to travel north and south. Vehicles that are going to Taunton town will likely to use Junction F, travel north to J25 and access Taunton by this route as it is the quickest.

The Clerk will respond to the consultation by letter with emphasis for a Henlade bypass and an all movement junction second junction on the M5

*Cllr Fudge left the meeting*

#### **18/2/5 PLANNING APPLICATION – 4/38/17/0205 CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW ROAD SCHEME (SCC) LOCAL DEVELOPMENT ORDER NEXUS 25 STRATEGIC EMPLOYMENT SITE (TDBC)**

The Planning application 4/38/17/0205 was due to be considered by SCC Regulation Committee on 8 February but this has now been postponed to allow the Council to ensure that all environmental considerations have been robustly addressed. No new date has been set as yet.

**18/2/6 DEFIBRILLATOR**

The Clerk reported that a trench has been dug which was arranged by Lawrence of Heartstart at a cost £50. Western Power laid the electric cable but this cost is not known as the person who is responsible for this is on a two-week training course. The electric will need to be connected by an unmetered power supply but a MPAN number is needed and Western Power will not release this number until they have been paid. Steward Thorne is in contact with Lawrence in regard to digging the hole to take the post and concrete in. The cost of the post is £250. Lawrence will contact a supplier for an unmetered electric supply as soon as Western Power has been paid and they have released the MPAN number.

**RESOLVED:** to delegate to the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman to spend a sum of money to get the defibrillator in place and working

*Cllr Hancock left the meeting*

**18/2/7 PLANNING**

31/17/0024 Erection of single story extension to the rear of Newstead, Bushy Cross Lane  
The Council had no comments

31/17/0022 Erection of an extension to provide ancillary accommodation at Orchard View, Cheats Road.

The Council had no comments

40/40/18/0001 Construction of Motor Control Centre (MCC) Kiosk and cake reception building at existing sewage treatment works site. Ham Sewage Treatment Works, Ham Lane

The Council had no comments

Any other Planning Matters

A letter from an applicant in regard to the Council's objections to a recent planning application was discussed. It was agreed that our comments still stand if there was an appeal. If the application resubmits then the applicant is welcome to attend the Council meeting where the re-submission is on the agenda and speak at that meeting.

**18/2/8 COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

County Councillor John Thorne reported on the following:

- Budgets – will go up by 2.99%. This is capped at 3% without going for a referendum. The Government has allowed a 6% increase over 3 years solely for Adult Social Care.
- Major works are earmarked for the A block at County Hall. The project will take 16 months and it will be a big upheaval
- County Highways will not be carrying out non-essential white lining until the next financial year

**18/2/9 FLOODING**

The Chairman reported that he had contacted the Environment Agency in regard to minor work on the ring bank at Church Lane. The EA has stated that this will be done in Spring  
Village pump - the part required has been fitted and some alterations to the pumps were made to maximise their efficiency. The manufacturers attended this week and made some adjustments to the pumps operating process so they will both come on and not trip the fuse, they are confident that this will solve the issue.

**18/2/10 MAINTENANCE CONTRACT**

**RESOLVED:** To accept the Maintenance Contract for 18/19 from Taunton Deane Borough Council.  
The Clerk to ask what TDBC actually carries out for item 6 'to maintain the road verge in front of the Village Hall' as the Council has arranged for the grass to be cut by separate a local contractor.  
Also, to mention that the toddler's area grass has not been collected.

**18/2/11 TREE AT LAWN MEADOW**

The Clerk reported that SCC Area Highway Manager has replied to the Council of replacing the crab apple tree with a flowering cherry or similar  
The Highway Manager has stated that the Council will not need a licence but the tree needs to be an upright Crab Apple tree (*Malus Tschonskii*)

After discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk should write back and ask if the Council could replace with a Rowen species.

**18/2/12 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING**

Cllr Marshall reported:

- The Housing Needs Survey has been delivered to all households. The closing date is 16.2.18
- The Steering Group had a meeting with Creech St Michael Parish Council.
- The District Councillors were invited to a NP meeting but they were unable to attend.

**18/2/13 HIGHWAYS MATTERS**

The Clerk reported that a cost for a contribution towards Speed Indicator Devices in regard to a revised scheme has not been confirmed. It is dependant on how many councils are willing to contribute.

**18/2/14 CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE**

Bench at Dinham – It was agreed to consider a new bench at Dinhams instead of moving the bench at Coronation Close. The Clerk will investigate the manufacturers and costs

**18/2/15 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman reported that SALC had arranged an allocation of two Parish Council Chairmen to attend a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in May. The Chairman was delighted to report that he and his wife has been invited.

**18/2/16 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

A) EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERNAL AUDIT

**RESOLVED:** to adopt the policy as presented

B) FINANCIAL REPORTS AND CHEQUES FOR PAYMENT

**RESOLVED:** that this Council approves the schedule of cheques and the Financial Report subject to the requirements of our Risk Assessment Document

**18/2/17 MATTERS TO REPORT (for information only) OR FOR THE AGENDA AT THE NEXT MEETING**

There were no matters to report. The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.50pm

DATE OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 7<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2018, IN RUISHTON VILLAGE HALL.  
PUBLIC QUESTION TIME. 7.30pm