

RUISHTON AND THORNFALCON PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th June 2019.

CLLRS PRESENT: Bulgin, Dickinson, Fudge, Marshall, McEvans (after co-option) and Mullins.

ALSO PRESENT: District Councillor Phil Stone and the Clerk, Heather Bryant

PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME

There were no public present

Vice Chairman Cllr Marshall chaired the meeting as the Chairman, Cllr John, was not present

19/06/1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Cllrs Harper, John and Laws

19/06/2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared

19/06/3 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15TH MAY 2019

RESOLVED: the approval of the minutes as a true record

19/06/4 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLORS TO FILL THE VACANCIES ON THE COUNCIL

RESOLVED: to co-opt Gary McEvans on to the Council. Cllr McEvans duly signed a Declaration of Office form

19/06/5 POWER OF GENERAL COMPETENCE

RESOLVED: that as at 5.6.19 the Council has met the criteria for use of this power:

- Two thirds of the Councillors have been elected
- The Clerk of the Council is a Certificate Holder which includes Module 7 of CiLCA.

19/06/6 PLANNING

Cllr Dickinson declared a personal interest as she is a near neighbour to the property

31/19/0012/LB Internal alterations to provide a staircase at Acklands, Bushy Cross Lane, Ruishton
It was agreed that the Council had no comments

Any other Planning Matters

Somerset West & Taunton District Council previously advised that Parish Councils would no longer receive paper plans from 1st April 2019. However, due to the adverse feedback from Parish Councils they will delay the start of paperless consultations until 1st August. Somerset West & Taunton District Council ask that during this period Parish Council could explore working with A3 plans and let them know any specific issues as they arise and they will try and find solutions. Cllr Marshall commented that it was most important that Cllrs should look at the plans online before considering the plans at a meeting.

19/06/7 MEMORIAL GARDEN AND DEFIBRILLATOR

Memorial Garden -It was reported that the Council could use the services of the probation service to carry out work on the Memorial Garden. They would require access to toilets. After discussion, it was agreed not to use the services of the probation service.

Cllr Marshall reported that a 'self-help' group had contacted him about helping with cutting of the grass in the Recreational Ground. This group could be used for maintaining the Memorial Garden. Cllr Marshall stated that he would put Cllr John in touch with the contact.

Defibrillator – The Clerk reported that the defibrillator is registered under the name of Heartstart at S.W. Ambulance Service. The Clerk continued that while it is registered with Heartstart, the Council has the benefit of help & support from Heartstart and the benefit of having an extended warranty. It was agreed that the Clerk should obtain the details of the extended warranty.

19/06/8 HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS ISSUES

The following was reported:

- Overgrown vegetation obscuring visibility at Cheats Corner looking left.
- Paint on speed bumps along Ruishton Lane has faded
- Footpaths overgrown with vegetation at Virginia Waters

A358 scheme - Cllr Marshall referred to a link where Jim O'Sullivan, Head of Highway England, gave a verbal report to the Public Accounts Committee. Mr O'Sullivan admitted that the initial inclusion of the interchange was for "Land development reasons" Funding for the scheme is now OK as other schemes came in at under budget and monies are transferable. Difficult scheme to engineer, but hopefully completed by 2025. He was asked "Will there be a Henlade by-pass"? - Answer - "I don't know"

19/06/9 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS

The Chairman welcomed D. Cllr. Phil Stone to the meeting. D. Cllr. Stone reported that the redundancies costs were 42% higher than expected due to significantly more staff than expected opting for voluntary redundancy. D. Cllr. Stone continued that Somerset West & Taunton District Council has planned to get on track to provide a better service than experienced recently. The Parish Council asked if D. Cllr. Stone if he could find out the details of Somerset West & Taunton District Council's plan on the way forward.

County Councillor John Thorne sent his apologies but sent a written report just before this meeting The Chairman read out his report as several Cllrs had not had chance to read the report. A discussion took place on the text below and the Cllrs would like to know "what issues would want prevention"

"Prevention Fund - £1 million is being put into a 'Prevention Fund' which will be used to pay for council and community projects which help to prevent or reduce issues, problems, and needs with the idea being that future demands on services can be eased and people's lives improved, in turn helping the council to be sustainable in the long-term".

19/06/10 MAINTENANCE SERVICE FOR APRIL 2019 – MARCH 2020

GRASS CUTTING

Report was given from the Working Party (Cllrs John, Fudge, Bulgin and Mullins) and to consider their recommendations.

After a full discussion the following was **RESOLVED**, due to the urgency of procuring a contract to cut the grass in the Recreational Ground. This contract with Greenslade Grounds Maintenance will run until 31.3.20:

Initial cut and collect of all areas:

To mow and collect the arisings on all grassed areas including the main field, the toddler's area, the grass bank and rear of the ball stop fencing, the boundaries around the play area and the outside grass verge at a cost of £975.00 + VAT

The arisings to be placed on the corner of the playing field. (The PC will commission a local farmer to remove the arisings on a regular basis)

Option 1 - Routine maintenance

To mow and collect the arisings in the toddler's area and open mow (not collect) all of the remaining area based on a fortnightly visit at a cost of £215.00 plus VAT.

Greenslades to email the Clerk after each visit and Greenslades to provide a copy of their Contractor's Public Liability insurance and their Risk Assessment.

It was noted that this Contract is just for grass clearance and the Council will still have to arrange the other jobs as specified in the original specification with Taunton Deane Borough Council

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

The Clerk reported that she had contacted the Council's insurance company in regard to checking of the play equipment. The Insurance Company confirmed that they require a yearly report and Risk Assessment from an independent supplier. Also, it would be good practice to have a weekly recorded visual check which could be a Cllr. Cllr Bulgin reported that he has a check list for doing this and he will endeavour to find it in his records

19/06/11 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr Marshall had nothing to report

19/06/12 CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk had nothing to report

19/06/13 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Marshall reported that he had checked with the Chairman (Cllr John) and she has nothing to report

19/06/14 FINANCIAL MATTERS

A) ACCOUNTS FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2018/19

(1) The report from the Internal Auditor was noted

(2) **RESOLVED:** that as members of Ruishton & Thornfalcon Parish Council we acknowledge our responsibility for the preparation of the accounts and confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the Council's accounts for the year ended on 31.3.19 that we agree YES to questions 1-8. (Trust funds not applicable) of the Annual Governance Statement. (Section 1)

(3) **RESOLVED:** In accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, this council approves the accounts for year ending 31.3.19. (Section 2)

B) THE VILLAGE DAY EVENT

Cllrs Bulgin and Marshall declared an interest as organisers of the Village Day and Flower Show respectively
RESOLVED: to agree to a £100 grant to the Village Day Committee (already budgeted)

C) SALC MEMBERSHIP

RESOLVED: to agree to membership to SALC and to note 19/20 fee of £408.47 (already budgeted)

D) PAYROLL

Ledgability has taken over from Ridgeway Business which was free of charge.
Ledgability will charge £30 +VAT a month with an additional charge for year end
RESOLVED: to approve the Terms of Engagement.
It was noted that the payroll is not included in the budget

E) BANK MANDATE

RESOLVED: to agree: that a banking relationship will be maintained with National Westminster Bank Plc (the **Bank**) in accordance with this mandate and that:

- the individuals identified as **Authorised Signatories** may, in accordance with the Signing Rules:
 - sign cheques and give instructions for Standing Orders, Direct Debits, electronic payments, banker's drafts and other
 - payments on the accounts even if it causes an account to be overdrawn or exceed any limit
 - sign, accept or endorse bills of exchange.

F) 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.

It was further agreed to pay Taunton Deane Borough Council outstanding cheque for 18/19 contract of £2876.45 including VAT

19/06/15 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 9.30pm

DATE OF THE NEXT SCHEDULED PARISH MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 3rd JULY IN RUISHTON VILLAGE HALL.
PQT 7.30pm