

RUISHTON AND THORNFALCON PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd July 2019.

CLLRS PRESENT: John (Chairman) Bulgin, Dickinson, Harper. Marshall, McEvans, and Mullins.

ALSO PRESENT: County Councillor John Thorne, District Councillor Susan Buller, one member of the public and the Clerk, Heather Bryant

PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from the public

19/07/1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Cllrs Fudge and Laws

19/07/2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared

19/07/3 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5TH JUNE 2019

RESOLVED: the approval of the minutes as a true record with the following amendment:

Min No 19/06/8 – bullet point 3 to read 'Footpaths overgrown with vegetation at Virginia Orchard'

19/07/4 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLORS (3) TO FILL THE VACANCIES ON THE COUNCIL

Nobody has come forward to stand as a Councillor.

19/07/5 TO APPOINT COUNCILLORS TO SPECIFIC AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

RESOLVED: to change the appointment of Cllr Fudge as a representative on the Flood Committee to Cllr McEvans.

19/07/6 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS

District Councillor

District Councillor Sue Buller reported on the following:

- She is a member of the Accounts and Audit Committee. The Chief Executive believes he can deliver services within the budgets.
- There was 3 million allocated to pay for the for the recent redundancies to cut the workforce but there were more staff that volunteered redundancy than expected so the cost was over 6 million.
- Somerset West and Taunton are looking into providing a third Park and Ride.
- The Strategy team at SWT have started work on the new Local Plan for the new Council area. There will be a Consultation period (19.7.- 30.9.) Cllr Marshall asked for the Council to be kept informed as the Council needs to be involved at the beginning.
- District Councillor Sue Buller reported on Taunton Cycling Action Campaign

County Councillor

County Councillor John Thorne gave a report. (A written copy of his report was emailed to Cllrs before the meeting)

County Councillor John Thorne stated in his report to the Highway England announcement of a preferred route that he believes it was the best we could have hoped for. Cllr Marshall made the point that this was not in accordance to the Parish Council's preferred route.

19/07/7 HIGHWAY ENGLAND - A358 TAUNTON TO SOUTHFIELD SCHEME (HE)

Highway England has announced that they have chosen a modified version of the pink route as their preferred route for this scheme.

After full discussion the Council voiced the following concerns:

- There is no additional junction to access the M5 which will mean that all traffic will feed into the existing J25 to access the M5 (North and South) and Taunton. There will be significantly more traffic as traffic will be encouraged to use this route to travel to and from the South West instead of the A303 from Southfields roundabout.
- Concern that having only one junction will not alleviate queuing traffic as currently happens especially in peak times but will actually increase the queuing traffic.

- Major works is being carried out at present on J25 to facilitate Nexus Business Park which will cause disruption until 2021. It is envisaged that there will be disruption beyond 2021 by HE to necessitate further upgrading work on J25 roundabout.
- The by-pass route for Henlade goes straight through the hamlet and will result in a severance of the community.
- There will be significant increase in traffic along Stoke Road
- This route does not address the views of the Parish Council in the Council's previous response in February 2018. The Council's preferred route was a combination of the three options (Pink, Blue and Orange)

It was agreed to include a report on the web site including the Council's response in February 2018 as there is not a newsletter in August.

The Clerk reported that she had asked Highway England if the Stoke Road and Lower Henlade Residents Association could join the A358 Community Forum as this area of the parish will be most affected by the Scheme. Unfortunately, the reply was that the local community and residents are represented on the forum by the parish council and at this stage they are not able to accommodate the request. Cllr Marshall stated that he would mention the need for this group joining the Community Forum at the next meeting.

19/07/8 PARK AND RIDE

A discussion took place on the recent invasion of travellers camped on the site of the Park and Ride. This encampment happened during the week of the Cricket World Cup event at Taunton. The following points were made:

- There were a greater number of caravans than previous encampments
- During previous encampments the site was closed on Health & Safety grounds but this time the site was open presumably for the World Cup.
- It was poorly managed and there was insufficient 'man power' to enforce the removal
- More stringent preventative measures are required.

It was reported that Alyn Jones of Somerset County Council stated at a meeting with this Council in March 2019 to discuss J25 improvement that he would find some money to replace the broken glass in the bus shelter. This action has still not been done

19/07/9 MEMORIAL GARDEN AND DEFIBRILLATOR

After discussion, it was agreed to ask for volunteers to work on the maintenance of the Memorial Garden overseen by the Chairman. To ask for volunteers in the next newsletter (September 19) and the Chairman will contact the volunteer that has already come forward. The Chairman will check her diary for a date when she is free.

19/07/10 PLANNING

There are no planning applications.

Any other Planning Matters

Enforcement Case E/90/31/19

The Clerk reported that the Council asked the Enforcement Officer to contact County Highways for their view. County Highways has emailed back stating that they have serious concerns in regard to the reduction in sideways visibility for traffic approaching from the east and the inability of emerging traffic to see this traffic, including pedestrian and cyclist. They have requested the fence is lowered to 1m in height along the main length and reduced to 60cm at the splay to improve visibility.

19/07/11 MAINTENANCE SERVICE FOR APRIL 2019 – MARCH 2020

Recreational Ground grass cutting

It was reported that there had been two cuts so far and the area is much improved. The Clerk reported that she had not received any emails from Greenslade to inform the Council when works had taken place. The Clerk will ask Greenslade of how they will "bill" the council as it may state on the invoice, the number of cuts.

Inspection of Trees – To consider quote(s)

Two quotes have been received: 1) £200 + VAT 2) £480 + VAT

RESOLVED: to accept the quote from Arbortect for £200 + VAT

Maintenance of the hedge between Newlands and Virginia Orchard

It was agreed to obtain two quotes from local contractors. It was noted that the bird nesting season has been extended to end of August.

19/07/12 TREES IN GENERAL

The Chairman reported that she had planted a tree on the verge in front of her property at Lawn Meadow after obtaining permission. Cllr McEvans stated that he wouldn't mind paying for a tree outside his property at Lawn Meadow.

It was also noted that there is a large crab apple tree near Boon Orchard

19/07/13 VILLAGE PUMP

Cllr Marshall reported that he had a visit from the man who works for DLO and has carried out inspection and maintenance on the village pump for many years. He is now taking redundancy and is concerned that the pump is still not working properly despite an upgrade 2/3 years ago and despite his reports to the DLO. The problem is that the sump is not big enough for the pumps to work in tandem.

The Clerk reported that she had contacted DLO by email but not had a reply.

District Councillor Sue Buller said that she would investigate this matter.

It was reported that there is an inspection chamber at Goosey Lane that discharges water into the River Tone via a non return valve. This should have regular inspections but there is doubt that it has been inspected recently.

District Councillor Sue Buller said that she would investigate this matter.

19/07/14 HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS ISSUES

Finger Posts – The Clerk reported that she had been contacted by Creech St Michael Parish Clerk in regard to the finger post just inside Ruishton's boundary with Creech St Michael at Lipe Lane. There are appropriately trained volunteers who have been refurbishing the finger posts in Creech St Michael and have asked if they could refurbish the Lipe Lane finger post. It was agreed that they could.

19/07/15 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REPORT

Cllr Marshall reported the following:

- Somerset West & Taunton, Statement of Involvement – will need to keep a check on the time scales
- The need for an A358 proposed Corridor Study to be led by Somerset County Council and Somerset West & Taunton
- The Parish Council will need to register as an interested party to Highway England's Application for Development Consent stage of the A358 Taunton to Southfields Scheme
- Village Day – they hope to have larger maps of the preferred route and will note any communication/questions from parishioners
- They will apply for funding from the Locality grant of £4245 maximum
- The Steering Group are meeting the Project Teams in September. The District Councillors and the County Councillor will be invited.

19/07/16 CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

Update on dog bin opposite Ruishton Inn

In August 2018, it was agreed with Taunton Deane Borough Council to supply a dog bin at a cost of £345 with emptying costs of £2.85 per visit. County Highways agreed the site after a site visit with Taunton Deane Borough Council and a representative from this council. The Clerk reported that she has been chasing but never gets a reply to her emails.

Cllr Buller stated she would investigate this after the Clerk sends her the details

Service Delivery Operating Model Proposal – Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Service

It is proposed to close a number of risk/low activity fire stations. There will be a number of drop-in exhibitions in the localities that are affected by the proposals throughout July and August. The Consultation and Engagement Team has offered to attend Parish Council meetings in the area but if

there is a high level of demand, they will need to prioritise their attendance in locations that are most affected by the proposed actions.

The Clerk reported that she had invited the Team to the August Parish Council meeting and is waiting for a reply.

19/07/17 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman had nothing to report

19/07/18 FINANCIAL MATTERS

BANK MANDATE

The Clerk reported that she experiencing some difficulty in setting up a new mandate mainly due to everything has to be done on line.

QUARTER ONE BUDGET 2019/20

NOTED

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.

19/07/19 MATTERS TO REPORT (for information only) OR FOR THE AGENDA AT THE NEXT MEETING

There were no further matters to report.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.35pm

DATE OF THE NEXT SCHEDULED PARISH MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 7th AUGUST IN RUISHTON VILLAGE HALL. PQT 7.30pm