

## **RUISHTON AND THORNFALCON PARISH COUNCIL**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2019.

**CLLRS PRESENT:** Bulgin, Dickinson, Harper, Fudge, Laws, Marshall, McEvans, and Mullins.

**ALSO PRESENT:** District Councillor Susan Buller and the Clerk, Heather Bryant

*The Vice Chairman, Cllr Marshall, chaired the meeting as the Chairman was not present.*

### **PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME**

There were no public present

#### **19/8/1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Received from Cllr Johns

#### **19/8/2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Marshall declared an interest in Application No 31/19/0014 as the applicant is a near neighbour

Cllr Bulgin declared an interest in Application No 31/19/0014 as the applicant is a near neighbour

#### **19/8/3 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3<sup>rd</sup> JULY 2019**

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

#### **19/8/4 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLORS TO FILL THE VACANCIES ON THE COUNCIL**

There were no candidates come forward

#### **19/8/5 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

##### County Councillor

County Councillor John Thorne sent his apologies. C.C. Thorne sent a written report by email before the meeting.

##### District Councillor

D.C. Sue Buller reported that due to the unexpected high voluntary redundancy take up, it has left Somerset West and Taunton Council short staffed. However, the Council are looking to employ more staff in the Planning Department and have employed Localities Officers who will help to move forward problems from Parish Councils to the appropriate Officer or Department.

It was considered that it would be useful to invite the Localities Officer for our locality to a future meeting so she could inform the Council of her role.

A discussion then took place on the recent problems with another inappropriate encampment at the Park & Ride. It was considered that there is an urgent need for a permanent solution and this Council needs to be involved with the discussions.

#### **19/8/6 SOMERSET WEST AND TAUNTON STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT CONSULTATION**

The Strategy team at Somerset West and Taunton Council have started work on the Local Plan for the new Council area and of a consultation on the Statement of Community Involvement between 19 July and 30 September 2019. The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), sets out to involve the residents, businesses and others when they look at local development.

Cllr Marshall reported that there are 3 separate documents to look at on line:

- Taunton Deane Borough Council Statement of Community Involvement (Adopted 2014)
- Somerset West Council Statement of Community Involvement (Adopted 2014)
- Draft Somerset West and Taunton Statement of Community Involvement.

Cllr Marshall continued that it is extremely difficult to compare the adopted documents with the draft document in order to see the changes, this means it is a meaningless and poor-quality consultation. It was agreed that the Clerk should respond to the consultation with this view.

#### **19/8/7 UPGRADE WORK OF M5 JUNCTION 25**

The Clerk reported that she had arranged a meeting with Alyn Jones, Somerset County Council, on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> August at 7.30pm in the meeting room of the Village Hall. The Chairman asked for Cllrs to list their questions and concerns in regard to the road works for the meeting with Alyn Jones.

Cllr Mullins reported that a loud wailing sound coming from the work site that could be heard in certain parts of the village was a sleeving rig.

**19/8/8 HIGHWAY ENGLAND - A358 TAUNTON TO SOUTHFIELD SCHEME (HE)**

The Clerk reported that she had heard nothing to when the next Community Forum meeting will take place. The Clerk will chase up.

*Cllr Marshall had declared an interest for the following item and left the meeting. Cllr. Mullins took the Chair.*

**19/8/9 PLANNING**

31/19/0014 Erection of two storey extension and single storey rear extension at 17 Lawn Meadow. After a full discussion, the following observations were agreed:

- The proposal will have a 'terracing' effect.
- Style of infill will set a precedent.
- The proposal overhangs the neighbour's space.
- Loss of privacy to the neighbouring property.
- Will reduce available car-parking.

*Cllr Marshall returned to the meeting and took the Chair*

40/19/0001/T Application to fell one cherry tree and to carry out management works to one cherry, two sycamores and a group of oak, ash and cherry. (TPO Thornfalcon 1) Somerset Motorhome Centre, Thornfalcon Garage.

The Council had no comments.

31/19/0013 Erection of a boundary fence at Foxhound Cottage, Stoke Road, Lower Henlade. The Council had no comments.

**19/8/10 MAINTENANCE SERVICE FOR APRIL 2019 – MARCH 2020**

Recreational Ground grass cutting

The Clerk reported that the Council had received the first invoice from Greenslade as follows:

- Initial cut 5.6.19 £975 including VAT.
- Three cuts on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, & 29<sup>th</sup> of July at £215 including VAT per occasion.

Hedge cutting 26 Virginia Orchard to 31 Virginia Orchard

The Clerk reported that she had received one quotation out of two quotations requested but it was only a week or so ago when she sent the letters.

The specification which was set by the Chairman (Tree Warden) was to cut the hedge along Bushy Cross Lane between 26 Virginia Orchard and 31 Virginia Orchard.

Cllr Mullins stated that the top could be cut as well.

**RESOLVED:** to delegate to the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman to review the specification if necessary and to select the contractor.

**19/8/11 HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS ISSUES**

The following issues were raised.

- The Chairman reported that an occupier on Newlands Road has made a section of grass verge into a hard standing to access the highway from their drive. County Highways has carried out an inspection after a request from this council. However, County Highways has stated that the area in question is not a public highway so County Highways has no jurisdiction in these works. The Clerk then checked with Somerset West and Taunton Council and they stated installation of a driveway is considered permitted development. The owner/occupier would need permission from Highway Authority should they wish to drop the kerb. However, Somerset West and Taunton Council advised that Newlands Road was an adopted highway and were surprised that County Highways had stated otherwise. They advised that it may be worth contacting County Highways again with regards to the issue of someone potentially digging up the grassed part of the pavement area. The Clerk will contact County Highways again and copy in the County Councillor.
- Cllr Marshall reported that the Council was copied in to an email complaining about the inappropriate parking at the School at opening and closing times despite the works done in 2018 of 2 new 'No stopping on entrance markings' signs and for an extension to the 'School Keep Clear' road markings. The signs and lines together mean that these restrictions can be enforced. It was agreed to contact Somerset County Council

and our PCSO to voice the Council's concerns and ask for Police or Traffic Warden presence on occasions at the School at opening and closing times.

- The ditches along Cheats Road and on Lipe Lane are very overgrown which will cause a problem if the area gets flooded. The Clerk to contact Somerset Highways and the County Councillor

#### **19/8/12 RIVER BANK SAFETY**

It was reported that recently person had fallen into the River Tone while walking along the footpath that runs from Church Lane to the Hankridge retail park which in some areas, the footpath is within 1.5 metres of the water's edge and also has a sloping bank. The occurrences required the attendance of the emergency services. This part of the footpath is in West Monkton parish. The Clerk will contact the Environment Agency and West Monkton Parish Council to raise the Council's concern.

The river bank that is normally accessed via. Goosey Lane, which is in the parish of Ruishton & Thornfalcon, is not dangerous as long as the footpath users keep to the path which is a safe distance from the river's edge. However, it was agreed to erect a notice at a suitable location to advise 'keep to the footpath' and to include an article in the newsletter on riverside safety. Cllr Mullins agreed to draft the article.

#### **19/8/13 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REPORT**

Cllr Marshall reported the following:

- They carried out a survey at the Village Day event where there was strong support for community facilities at Henlade and for cycle paths.
- At the next Steering Group meeting, they will be discussing the draft policies reviewed by Stuart Todd Associates (Consultant). The District Councillors and the County Councillor have been invited.
- They will be applying for a further Locality Grant of £4200.
- There is an invoice outstanding from Stuart Todd Associates for £1890 including VAT.

It was agreed to pay this invoice from the Neighbourhood Plan Reserve.

#### **19/8/14 CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE**

##### Update on dog bin opposite Ruishton Inn

The Clerk reported that District Councillor Buller had made contact with Localities Officer at Somerset West and Taunton who has this matter in hand to direct to the Officer responsible.

##### Update on Village Pump

The Clerk reported that District Councillor Buller had made contact with Localities Officer at Somerset West and Taunton who has this matter in hand to direct to the Officer responsible.

#### **19/8/15 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Cllr Marshall reported that it has been revealed via a Freedom of Information Act request by an interested individual that Taylor Wimpy has plans for a development of dwellings in Stoke St Mary Parish.

#### **19/8/16 POLICY REVIEWS**

##### General & Financial Risk Assessment and Financial Regulations

The Clerk reported that she was working on the draft changes.

#### **19/8/17 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

##### 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.

#### **19/8/18 MATTERS TO REPORT (for information only) OR FOR THE AGENDA AT THE NEXT MEETING**

Cllr Harper reported the Church would like to erect a gazebo on the recreational ground for children's activity group on Thursday mornings during August. The Council had no problems with this request.

*The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.25pm*