

## **RUISHTON AND THORNFALCON PARISH COUNCIL**

CLERK: HEATHER BRYANT, NORTHAY HOUSE, NORTHAY, CHARD, SOMERSET. TA20 3DN

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The minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2020 held by Zoom conferencing

**CLLRS PRESENT:** Bulgin, Garbutt, Fudge, Harper, Marshall and Mullins.

**ALSO, PRESENT:** County Councillor John Thorne, Dave Duke, Web Site Manager and the Clerk, Heather Bryant.

*Cllr Marshall, as Vice Chairman was in the Chair as the Chairman was not present.*

**PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME (ON GENERAL PARISH MATTERS)**

There were no public present.

**20/6/1 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND APPROVE THE REASONS GIVEN**

Received from Cllrs Dickinson and Johns.

**20/6/2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None received.

**20/6/3 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3<sup>rd</sup> MARCH 2020**

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

**20/6/4 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

C.C. John Thorne referred to his written report which was emailed to Cllrs.

C.C. John Thorne also reported on:

- Proposed unitary authority – The business case will be put to the full County Council meeting in July and if approved it will then go to the Secretary of State who will decide whether or not to approve it. (See Min No 20/06/12)
- Toneway/Creech Castle junction Taunton is to be postponed until next year. This is to support the local economy during the coronavirus recovery by minimising any temporary disruption on a key route into Taunton.
- 'Layby' at the end of Gravelands Lane – (See Min No 20/06/10)

A question was asked if there was anything could be done to deal with the encroachment of grass on the footpath from Lilac Cottage which has become very narrow. C.C.Thorne replied that he will report it to County Highways, however he would imagine this be classed as low priority.

*Cllr Mullins arrived at 7.45pm*

**20/6/5 THE PUBLIC BODIES WEBSITE REGULATIONS**

The Web Site Manager, Dave Duke, reported that he was progressing towards the requirements for the Accessibility Regulations however, he will need an independent person to check the website after the changes were made. Cllr Mullins agreed to be that person.

Dave Duke asked if the Council would allow him to purchase a 'tool' which will make it easier for him to complete the work. The cost would be around £70. This was agreed.

**20/6/6 S106 AGREEMENT £27209.75 FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION**

A full discussion took place and it was agreed not to enter in negotiations to purchase the field at the back of the village hall at present, as it was considered that it would cost an enormous amount of money to develop the field into recreational space. The Clerk reminded the Councillors that any money spent from the S106 fund, the Council would have to contribute 50% from the Council's fund. It was agreed to look at as below for possible projects:

Replacement of the safety surface.

Replace the fencing around the Recreation Ground (quote in Oct 2019 £6563)

Adult gym equipment.

Ball wall.

Boule court.

Cllrs Fudge and Bulgin agreed to form a working party to investigate further.

**20/6/7 PLANNING**

A) Planning Application that have been agreed by consultation by email due to Convid 19

31/20/0010 Replacement of coal shed and erection of single storey and two storey extension to rear elevation of Littlemead, Ruishton. The Council had no comment

31/20/0008 Proposal: Replacement of garage of Elm Grove, Lipe Lane, Henlade  
The Council had no comment

31/20/0011 Conversion of garage/studio with erection of extension into 1 no 1 bedroomed annex and erection of replacement garage/studio/gym and hobbies room at Gabriella. Greenway Lane, Lower Henlade

The Council objected on grounds of:

This is clearly a separate dwelling and is an enlargement of the existing garage so is not simply not a garage conversion into a one-bedroom studio dwelling.

The site of the garage conversion is visible from the road.

There are serious concerns about this conversion and the rather large industrial type building being proposed as a replacement to the garage.

The new garage building is clearly much larger and has potential for commercial use.

There is also justified concern reference access to the site from Greenway lane and the business currently being run from the site.

Motion censored lighting would have to be very carefully situated so as not to cause annoyance to other properties in the vicinity.

31/20/0009 Replacement of dwelling with the erection of 2 No dwellings with associated access and parking at Fouracres, Ilminster Road (29.4.20)

The Council had the following observations and concern that this replacement will generate extra traffic movement (accessing in and out of the site) onto a very busy trunk road (A358)

31/20/0013 Replacement of conservatory and the erection of a single storey extension to the rear of 6 Newlands Crescent

The Council had no comments.

#### B) New Applications for consideration

31/20/0014. Erection of a single storey extensions to the front and rear of the garage with conversion of workshop into ancillary accommodation and extension to dropped kerb at 1 Newlands Crescent

The Council had no comments.

31/19/0028LEW Application for a lawful certificate for the existing use of a yurt as a residential dwelling at Stoke Wood, Stoke St Mary.

It was noted that this application was not in our parish. The Clerk will contact Stoke St Mary Parish Clerk to ask how they will be responding to this application.

It was agreed to support Stoke St Mary Parish Council.

#### **20/6/8 FLOODING**

Email from Claire Thackray, Community Engagement Lead refers:

*The AWP were on site on 3rd June. The drain pipes were jetted and all the tree roots seen in the CCTV/survey were removed.*

*AWP also removed the faulty non-return valve; refurbished it before refitting it to the end of the inlet.*

#### **20/6/9 RECREATIONAL GROUND**

A) Agreed by email since the last Council meeting

To close the Recreational Field in line with Government instruction due to Covid-19.

B) Cut logs in the Recreational Ground

The Clerk reported that the tree works in the Recreational Ground has resulted in a quantity of wood already cut into logs. After a full discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk should ask Arbortech if the logs were suitable for log burners. If they are suitable, the Clerk should invite parishioners, via the web site, to submit sealed bids to purchase the logs.

#### **20/6/10 HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS ISSUES**

'Layby' at the end of Gravelands lane

An issue has been raised by a member of the public about lorries using the lay-by on the A358 at the top of Gravelands Lane, Ruishton, to access the Tarmac site. The allegation is that lorries speed through the lay-by without slowing down when they come off the A358.

There is also a separate concern about lorry drivers parking overnight and leaving lots of litter behind, as well as using the hedges as latrines because there are no public toilets nearby. The email had been copied to C.C. John Thorne. County Highways has replied to C.C. John Thorne as follows:

- Highways have taken a quick look at this issue and pointed out the lay-by has double yellow lines on either side so vehicles should not be parking there at all, let alone overnight. If the yellow lines have faded then they can get them refreshed.
- They don't believe putting in a weight limit for such a short length would really address the issue as genuine access would still be allowed.
- However, they could change the junction priority and install 'give ways' on the back of the 'no entry' signs and put down give way lines on the road so that vehicles entering this way would need to give way to vehicles coming out of Gravelands Lane, which would also slow them down.
- Highways would need to carry out a site visit to double check a few things before committing to such actions.

#### 2) Installation of litter bin

It was agreed that a litter bin would only encourage parking.

#### **20/6/11 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REPORT**

##### A) Agreed by email since the last Council meeting

Approved the draft policies for the Neighbourhood Plan.

##### B) Update

Cllr Marshall reported that due to Covid-19, the referendum, which is part of the final stage of the Neighbourhood Plan process, has been put on hold until at the earliest May 2021. Councillor Marshall continued that the N.P. Administrator has applied for a grant of £5040 from the remaining Locality Fund Allocation. This is for a payment to Stuart Todd. There is another payment to Stuart Todd for £3150 for the Parish Council to pay.

This was agreed.

#### **20/6/12 CONSULTATIONS**

##### Local Government Re-organisation

Cllr Marshall referred to a letter from David Fothergill, Leader of Somerset County Council, dated 11.6.20. on a proposal to create a Unitary Authority.

After a full discussion, it was felt that the County Council are simply paying lip-service to public engagement and treating it as a tick box exercise. It was agreed that the proposed major reorganisation of local government and their services should not be taking place during the current Covid-19 crisis when proper public engagement is not possible. Any actions should be deferred until the Government give a full release from Lockdown and then dialogue with the Parish Councils and the Public can be properly and meaningfully carried out.

The Clerk will send a letter to Mr Fothergill.

#### **20/6/13 CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE**

Consultation on Draft Member Code of Conduct – The Clerk reported that Justin Robinson of SALC has indicated that there will be training on this subject at a cost of £30 per person. Councils have to August to respond.

#### **20/6/14 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Cllr Marshall reported that he met a new PCSO Steve Chapman whilst walking in the village. Cllr Marshall mentioned the problem with parent's inappropriate parking at the school at opening and closing times.

PCSO Chapman said that he would be visiting the school

**20/6/15 ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR END 19/20**

(Documents attached)

A) ACCOUNTS FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2019/20

The report from the Internal Auditor was noted

**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 31.3.20 that we agree YES to questions 1-8. (Trust funds not applicable) of the Annual Governance Statement. (Section 1)

**RESOLVED:** In accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, this council approves the accounts for year ending 31.3.20. (Section 2)

**20/6/16 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

Procedure for signing cheques. The Clerk will send the completed cheques to one bank signatory for signing and will return to the Clerk. Financial Regulations 6.4 applies and Statutory Instrument 580 applies. Monthly Financial reports will be issued as normal. NOTED

**RESOLVED:** To pay the Clerk for Zoom meetings at £4.00 a month plus VAT. (1/3<sup>rd</sup> cost, shared with the Clerk's two other councils) Meetings are unlimited.

**20/6/17 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

DATE OF THE NEXT SCHEDULED PARISH MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 1<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2020 BY ZOOM CONFERENCING