

RUYTON XI TOWNS PARISH COUNCIL

8 DECEMBER 2014 MINUTES

A Parish Council meeting was held at Ruyton XI Towns Victoria Room on Monday 8th December 2014 at 7.30 pm.

Councillors in attendance: Mr C Case (Chairman); Mrs R Slowley (Vice-Chair); Mrs A Sanders Royle; Mr S Gittins; Mr M Lewis; Mr D Spicer; Mr A Johnston and Mrs A White.

Also in attendance: Clerk Sue Hackett; Shropshire Councillor Nick Bardsley

127.14 WELCOME BY CHAIRMAN & PUBLIC SESSION

128.14 APOLOGIES - The Clerk confirmed that apologies for absence had been received from Mrs Mary Drinan who was unwell and unable to attend this evening.

129.14 COUNCILLORS DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS –.None were declared.

130.14 CO OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLOR – Matter deferred as a result of Mary Drinan's absence.

131.14 COUNCILLORS DISPENSATIONS – Council noted that a dispensation had been granted by the PC to all parish councillors present who are residents of the Parish; enabling them to take part in the Budget/ Precept setting at Min 138.14 and in future meetings up until March 2016.

132.14 PLANNING MATTERS

- a. The Clerk reported that no new planning applications had been notified to the Council. Cllr Gittins reported that an additional report had been received and uploaded to the SC Public Access System with regard to the application for a 50m wind turbine ref 13/04250/FUL at Wigmarsh; West Felton. Council were in agreement that the report by Dragonfly required careful consideration and that it would be discussed at the January Council meeting. (Action: Clerk to notify SC Planning.)
- b. The Clerk confirmed that the following planning decisions have been notified to the Parish Council by SC:

Reference: 14/03629/FUL (validated: 11/08/2014)
Address: Land Adj. Heath Cottage, Weirbrook, West Felton
Proposal: Erection of 2 detached dwellings; formation of vehicular access
SC Decision: Refuse
- c. Adoption of publication of planning guidance for the parish – The Chairman presented the guidance he had prepared (Appendix E); and proposed that it be adopted by the PC and circulated to the community. Council unanimously agreed; (Proposed CC; Seconded RS). Action Clerk to circulate via electronic PC Newsletter.
- d. Cllr Slowley reported that the planning application Ref 14/03025/OUT - Application to build a 4 bed property on the land at the rear of the Talbot Inn was approved by the North Planning Committee in November, and that in hind sight it may have been prudent for the Parish Council to have linked previous comments made to the business of the Talbot Inn. This was noted by members. Discussion arose over SC

Highways comments which resulted in sub-standard access being regarded as acceptable as the access already existed.

- 133.14 SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL – Cllr Nick Bardsley reported that the following applications were expected to be decided by planning officers under delegated powers and not the Planning Committee; he added that in his opinion the current SC process is not sufficiently transparent and required improvement:
- Ref 14/04101/OUT Walnut House; planning application he had asked why the Planning Officer was considering refusing it.
 - Ref 13/03585/OUT Yardley; the planning application is also not expected to go to Committee and the SC Highways report supports application.

Cllr Bardsley apologised for the SC error in introducing road markings on School Rd; at the site of the old school instead of at the school's present location.

- 134.14 SAFEGUARDING - COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITY– Cllr Spicer reinforced the need for local communities to safeguard young people and outlined that Oxford County Council were reinforcing this at parish council level. Council agreed that the Clerk contact Sally Halls at Shropshire Council and ask what parish councils can do at a local level and whether specific policies required adoption.(To be copied to SALC and LJC rep.)

135.14 HIGHWAYS & VILLAGE MAINTENANCE ISSUES

- a. VAS Project in partnership with SC – Cllr Bardsley gave an update to that given by the Clerk (See Clerk's Report App A). Following much discussion it was agreed that the PC would finance the introduction of a VAS at Olden Lane; given that SC were expected to install 2 permanent VASs as agreed in 2015/16 when funding was available.
- b. Shotatton Crossroads – The Clerk reported that the MP had acknowledged receipt of the PC's correspondence which was being followed up with the Highways Agency.

136.14 LOCAL REPORTS:

- a. LJC – The Chairman reported that it had been a disappointing meeting although well attended; as parish CIL balances were not explained fully as the appropriate SC Planning Officer had not been present.
- b. Nesscliffe Report – Please refer to Appendix B; provided by Cllr Slowley it was noted by members.
- c. War Memorial Project – Cllr Sanders Royle asked for more volunteers to join the project; as it was currently being managed by two councillors only. It was agreed that the project be deferred to a future agenda.
- d. The Chairman reported on the success of the St John Baptist Primary School's recent OFSTED report. It was agreed that the Clerk write to the School congratulating them.

- 137.14 CLERK'S UPDATE REPORT & COMMUNICATION – The Council discussed the contents of the report (Appendix A) and confirmed that they did not wish to adopt the phone box situated near The Victoria Room.

138.14 FINANCE

- a. Payments – The following payments were approved for payment by resolution, (Proposed CC; Seconded AW); councillors RS and CC were instructed to sign the corresponding cheques:
 - Chq 720 Viking £46.45 - Ink cartridges;
 - Chq 721 HighlineElectrics - Street light maintenance £ 144.90;
 - Chq 722 Clerk Reimbursement of office costs £35.05(Dec);
 - Chq 723 The Society of Local Councils Clerks – Contribution to annual fee £49.00

- b. Cliffe Restricted Funds – Council agreed to amalgamate both funds; which amounted to £2,470 and agreed to fund from this the digitising of historic pictures/records of the Cliffe. Action: Quotes to be obtained for the work and arrangements made to transfer records to SC.
- c. Parish Council Draft Budget 2015-16 – (Appendix D). Following an announcement by the Chairman it was agreed to defer the setting of the budget to the January meeting and also to write immediately to SC Cabinet stating the Council's concerns should SC fail to free flow CTG funding to parish and town councils copying SALC. (Proposed CC; Seconded RS.)

139.14 ST LIGHTING

- a. SC Adoption of lights at Birch Close – Item deferred Cllr Bardsley to report.
- b. The Clerk confirmed that maintenance issues had been reported relating to lights in Birch Close; School Rd; Nr Packwood; and Avondale. Cllr Johnston reported a further light at Packwood out of use. Action: Clerk to follow up.

140.14 NAT GRID MID WALES CONNECTION PROJECT – Cllr Johnston to reported on the consultation which was taking place between 18/11-9/2/2015. The Clerk circulated the accompanying newsletter.

141.14 FALL IN PUPIL NUMBERS IN SHROPSHIRE – The Chairman reported on schools sustainability as he had recently attended a Schools Forum where constraints on current Government funding were discussed. Shropshire planning criteria used to establish additional young family numbers. I.e. correlation between pupil numbers and number of new houses was currently unknown; the Chairman considered that it was essential to consider when parish and town councils formulated their responses to planning applications as it was key to the future of their local schools.

Clerk to update Chairman's planning policy statement once criteria is known (Chairman to obtain) and circulate within the electronic parish newsletter also to send to SALC; advocating that it is circulated to other parish and town councils.

142.14 SC PLACE PLAN FOR RUYTON XI TOWNS – Council approved amendments to the Place Plan put forward by PPSC. Appendix C. Action: Clerk to update SC documentation, and submit to SC.

143.14 LOCAL DEFIBRILATOR PROJECT – Chairman reported that the defibrillator was now located on the external wall of the school and the box had agreed to maintain and insure the equipment; and provide the power to keep it charged. The Parish Council agreed to be responsible for putting together volunteers list and provide training and facilitating emergency number and rota. It was resolved that £200 be budgeted for in 2015/16 cover the costs of the scheme. (Propose C C; Seconded ASR) Cllr Sanders Royle agreed to lead the scheme but stated that there was need to obtain additional volunteers, these would be sought via the Parish Newsletter.

144.14 PARISH NEWSLETTER – The Council agreed to reinstate the production of a newsletter in electronic format in 2015. The Chairman and Clerk frequently sent news updates via Yoland Brown's email circulation group, these could be incorporated in to the newsletter which would distinguish it (brand it) from other electronic communication. Cllr White stated her preference for hard copy newsletter and agreed to distribute a limited supply of hard copies of the newsletter once she had established a list of volunteers.

145.14 SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA – None.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.10 p.m. and wished everyone a Merry Christmas. It was noted that the next Council meeting would take place on Monday 12th January 2015 at The Victoria Room, Ruyton XI Towns.

Confirmed as accurate..... Cllr Colin Case CHAIRMAN

Date.....

Appendix A Clerk's Update Report & Communication

Appendix B Nesscliffe Maintenance Report

Appendix C Parish Plan Steering Committee Report on Place Plan Amendments

Appendix D Parish Council Draft Budget 2015-16

Appendix E Parish Council Planning Guidance