

# RUYTON XI TOWNS PARISH COUNCIL JANUARY 2015

## MINUTES

A Parish Council meeting was held at The Victoria Room, Ruyton XI Towns at 7.30 pm on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

**Councillors in attendance:** Mr C Case (Chairman); Mrs R Slowley (Vice-Chair); Mrs A Sanders Royle; Mr A Johnston; Mr S Gittins; Mr Lewis; Mr D Spicer; Mrs M Drinan (Co-opted); Mr T Allison.

**Also in attendance:** Nick Bardsley Shropshire Councillor, 4 members of the public and Sue Hackett Clerk.

- 146.14 WELCOME BY CHAIRMAN& PUBLIC SESSION - The Chairman welcomed those in attendance to the meeting and opened the public session. Representations were made by the Ruyton XI Towns Post Office Mistress, as to the inaccuracies reported concerning the closure of the PO over the Christmas break. The Chairman responded to the issues raised and having established that no one else wished to comment closed the public session.
- 147.14 APOLOGIES – The Clerk reported Cllr White’s apologies for non-attendance due to personal commitments. These were accepted and approved by the Council.
- 148.14 COUNCILLORS DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS - The Chairman Colin Case declared a pecuniary interest in planning application 14/05533/OUT due to the location of his home, whilst Cllr Simon Gittins declared a pre-determined interest in planning application 13/04250/FUL to which he had already made personal comments. Colin Case also held an interest in being reimbursed for the cost of the village Christmas tree which he had purchased on behalf of the PC at Min Ref 157.14.
- 149.14 CO OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLOR – Council resolved unanimously to co-opt Mrs Mary Drinan as a parish councillor. (Proposed CC; Seconded ASR.) Mrs Drinan accepted and duly signed the acceptance of office; which was witnessed.
- 150.14 COUNCILLORS DISPENSATIONS – Council approved the dispensation as received from newly co-opted Cllr Mary Drinan who holds the potential for a dis-closable pecuniary interest in the setting of the Council’s precept for the coming year; as she resides in the parish. It was further agreed by the Council to acknowledge the renewal of existing councillors similar dispensations awarded previously to councillors present as they remained valid till 2016.
- 151.14 PLANNING MATTERS
- a. The following planning applications were considered:  
Planning Ref: 13/04250/FUL – Wigmarsh, West Felton Installation of Wind Turbine  
Council agreed that additional comments should be submitted (See Appendix C); opposing the application as a result of the Dragonfly report. (Proposed: CC; Seconded DS.)
- Planning Ref 14/05533/OUT - Proposed Dwelling at The Marches Farm  
Brownhill, Ruyton XI Towns  
Following some debate, the Council agreed by a majority that the application be opposed and the following comments be submitted:

In formulating these comments the PC considered the implications of NPPF as well as SC's Local Plan, giving appropriate weight to each.

As SC now has in excess of a 5 year housing supply; its planning policies now carry more weight and as such the proposed development is outside the development boundary depicted in the parish's SAMDev submission (CS4); in open countryside and can therefore not be supported by the Parish Council.

Access to the proposed dwelling was also considered to have poor visibility on to the main road. The PC was also unsure whether the bridal way could lawfully provide third party vehicular access to the proposed dwelling. (Proposed RS; Seconded DS; 4 abstentions.)

- b. Council was informed of recent SC planning decisions, please refer to the Clerk's Report for full details.

152.14 SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL – Cllr Nick Bardsley agreed to report as items arose during the course of the meeting.

153.14 SAFEGUARDING - COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITY– Cllr Spicer provided an update and the Clerk read recent correspondence received from SSCB & Children's Trust. Council agreed that a bulletin from SSCB should be circulated to all parish councils via SALC. Action Clerk to respond and arrange via SALC.

154.14 HIGHWAYS & VILLAGE MAINTENANCE ISSUES

- a. VAS Project in partnership with SC – SC Cllr Nick Bardsley agreed to update after meeting on 29/1/15.
- b. Shotatton Crossroads – Clerk reported that correspondence was still awaited.
- c. Birch Grove – Councillors reported that several trees required attention Cllr N Bardsley to escalate.
- d. Council agreed that oak sampling provided by SC was to be planted on approach to village with assistance from Cllr Simon Gittins. Action Clerk to inform SC.

155.14 LOCAL REPORTS: The Clerk read out the local Police report based on incidents reported between 01/11/2014 to 07/01/2015. Cllr Allison as RoW Warden reported that every stile has been cleared, thanks to local farmers. Cllr Slowley reported that neither she nor the Chairman were able to attend the Oswestry area meeting 3/02/2015; and asked that other councillors attend instead.

156.14 CLERK'S UPDATE REPORT & COMMUNICATION – The Clerk noted the report at Appendix A. It was agreed that it was important for the PC to be represented at the SALC meeting on 9/2/2015. Action councillors to inform Clerk of their intention to attend.

157.14 FINANCE

- a. Payments – The Clerk presented suppliers invoices etc; which required authorisation by the Parish Council for payment. It was resolved without dissent that Cllr Lewis and Cllr Slowley be instructed to sign and check the payments as follows: (Proposed RS; Seconded AJ.)

Chq 725 Highline Electrics - Street light maintenance £596.70;

Chq 727 Colin Case £35.00 – Reimbursement of cost of village Christmas tree.

Chq 726 Post Office Ltd £368.40 – Tax due to HMRC third quarter;

Chq 728 Ruyton XI Towns PCC £12.00 Room Hire Jan;

Chq 729 Scottish Power £245.57; quarter's energy bill for street lighting.

- b. Cliffe Restricted Fund – Request made by Clive Dean regarding finance of work on the Cliffe. It was agreed that a donation of £100 towards bracken spraying was

appropriate given that the Spinney project be progressed through the acquisition of a tree felling licence. Action; Clerk to inform C Dean.

- c. The Clerk's salary increase for 2014 (Pay awards in Dec and April; as advised by NALC) were approved by Council. See Clerk's report for full details. The 2015 NALC Clerk's recommended pay scales were also approved and incorporated into the Budget for 2015-16. (Proposed CC; Seconded AJ.)

158.14 PARISH COUNCIL DRAFT BUDGET & PRECEPT 2015-16 – The Chairman summarised the Draft Budget 2015/16 and the various savings it included. See Appendix B and the council tax implications resulting from it. Clerk's Report Appendix A. It was noted that SC and West Mercia were increasing their council tax elements by approximately 2%. Following some discussion the Council resolved without dissent to approve an increased precept of £18,273; supporting a total expenditure budget £18,293. The Clerk reported that this would result in an increase in the PC's council tax element of a Band D property's annual bill of approximately £1.99 p.a. (Proposed CC Seconded SG.) Action Clerk to submit signed (by Chairman) precept request to SC.

159.14 ST LIGHTING – Cllr Bardsley reported that SC had confirmed that they needed to adopt lights at Birch Close and Birch Grove and that as this should have occurred some 60 years ago; recompense for maintenance costs incurred by the PC over this period should be negotiable. Action Clerk to contact SC on the matter and inform maintenance contractor of change.

Council further agreed to request a comprehensive report on the condition of its street lights with a view to adopting a more energy efficient lighting system in the future. Action Clerk to arrange for report from Highline Electrics.

160.14 PARISH NEWSLETTER – The Clerk reported on items she wished to include in the newsletter which was to be published electronically in late January; these were agreed by Council.

161.14 VILLAGE GREEN AREAS – Cllr Slowley reported that corner of Big Walls and Five Ways had been seriously damaged through contractors' vehicles. It was agreed that PC should ask developer to repair and grass affected areas seeking reassurance that the areas will be returned to their original state. Action; Clerk to contact.

162.14 SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA:

- a. CONFIRMATION & ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES: Draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12 December 2014 were resolved without dissent as accurate and the Chairman instructed to sign them as such. (Proposed RS; Seconded ASR).
- b. VILLAGE PAVEMENTS: Council agreed that there was a need to inform SC of the poor condition of the pavement surfaces (likened to a tar slurry) at Brownhill; and Church Street. The urgent need for a safety inspection report was endorsed. Action Clerk to inform SC Highways.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.40 p.m. and stated that the next meeting was to be held at The Victoria Room, Ruyton XI Towns on 9 February at 7.30 p.m.

Confirmed as accurate..... COLIN CASE CHAIRMAN Date.....

Appendix A Clerk's Update Report & Communication

Appendix B Parish Council Draft Budget 2015-16

Appendix C Planning Ref:13/04250/FUL Comments submitted