

# RUYTON XI TOWNS PARISH COUNCIL

## 16th JANUARY 2017 MEETING MINUTES

An ordinary meeting of the Parish Council was held at The Victoria Room, Ruyton XI Towns at 7.30 pm on Monday 16th January 2017.

Parish Councillors in attendance: Mr T Allison; Mr M Berry (Vice-Chair); Mrs A Sanders Royle; Mr C Case; Mr A Johnston; Mr S Gittings; Mr D Spicer; and Mrs R Slowley; (Chairperson).

Also in attendance: Nick Bardsley (Shropshire Council Councillor); Sue Hackett (Clerk); Mark Blount (SC Country Parks & Heritage Sites); 2 members of the public.

- 99.16 PUBLIC SESSION – No issues were formally brought to the Council’s attention.
- 100.16 CHAIR’S INTRODUCTION & COUNCILLORS’ APOLOGIES - The Chairperson welcomed all to the meeting and reported that apologies had been received from Cllrs Drinan; and White who had been unable to attend for personal reasons. These were accepted and approved by the Council.
- 101.16 COUNCILLORS DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS & DISPENSATIONS - Councillors confirmed that as residents of the parish they had pecuniary interests in setting the Council’s precept for the coming year as a result sought dispensations. The Council resolved that dispensations be granted as the budget & precept were to be agreed and a quorum was required to do this. (The Clerk collected the required dispensation request forms.)
- 102.16 SAFER ROADS GROUP – The outcomes of the Group’s recent meeting were discussed and it was agreed that the Clerk formally write to Corrie Davies about setting up a Multi Agency Road Safety Group for Ruyton XI Towns, It was agreed that Cllr Gittins be notified in future of any speeding tractors/agricultural vehicles in the village.
- Cllr Case distributed PACE car stickers, which were being promoted via the Parish newsletter and community face book page. Council agreed that the Clerk write to Owen Paterson MP petitioning for the need for dualling the A5 and that the new Minister of Transport visit the dangerous A5 and Shotatton and Queen Head junctions. Council agreed that the Clerk also write separately to the MP in support of the need for the North West Relief Road.
- 103.16 SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL – Councillor Nick Bardsley reported that Corrie Davies and David Gradwell had agreed to meet the Road Safety Group on 1/2/2017 at Café Eleven. He updated the Council on recent road safety meetings and outcomes at Baschurch PC and the benefits of having a Multi-Agency Group. The SC Council tax rise was expected to be in region of 2%.
- Cllr Bardsley also confirmed that the Penton’s Dairy planning application had lapsed (23/12/16); and congratulated the PC & Community on the success of the Santa Run at Christmas.
- 104.16 SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL – THE FUTURE OF OUR COUNTRY PARKS & HERITAGE SITES - Mark Blount presented the current financial dilemma that the Department was in as a result of Budget cuts at Shropshire Council. (Please refer to the report attached for details.) Mark emphasised that the service was under threat of closure if alternative income streams could not be sourced by April 2018. He presented the alternative income streams which the Department was creating i.e. promotion of an annual membership to the public; car parking revenue; event funding; parish/town council contributions and donations and sponsorship. He

went on to explain that the Department was approaching parish and town councils closely associated with the different parks/sites (of which there re 26), asking for contributions to their maintenance costs. The Cliffe one such site partially situated in Ruyton XI Towns required a contribution of £2,000 - £4,000 on an annual basis from Ruyton XI Towns PC to maintain the natural habitat and keep safe for public use. Following much discussion the PC agreed to consider the request and make a decision at their February meeting.

#### 105.16 FINANCE

- a) The Clerk reported on Council's priorities for 2017- 2020 as identified in an exercise completed at the December 2016 meeting. Please refer to Appendix A. These were noted by councillors.
- b) The Council considered carefully the Draft Budget for 2017-18; as presented by the Clerk. It was resolved given that there was likely to be restrictions imposed by Central Government on precept increases; the PC's priorities and the needs of its Community that the Draft Budget be amended to reflect that £5,000 ear marked as a "Provision for taking on recreational areas" be increased to £10,000 and renamed as a "Provision for funding services no longer funded by SC". Total Budgeted Revenue Expenditure for 2017-18 was agreed at £27,590 + Restricted Reserves Expenditure £4,780. (Proposed CC; Seconded DS; For 6: Against 2; Cllrs AJ & SG.)
- c) Following further discussion; in which it was decided that the increased provision should not be met by Reserves; Council resolved that the Precept for 2017-18 be set at £24,580. (Proposed CC; Seconded DS. For 6: Against 2; Cllrs AJ & SG). The Chairperson signed the SC Precept instruction authorising the request for £24,580.
- d) Councillor Berry reported that he had confirmed the accuracy of the Clerk's bank reconciliations as at 31/10/2016 and 31/12/2016; Council funds as at 31/12/2016 were £42,978.93. The Clerk reported that grant receipts were expected in January from ST&R £500 and NALC £910.
- e) Council resolved to pay the following suppliers, instructing Cllrs Slowley and Case to check the supporting paperwork to the cheques raised before authorising payment:  
Chq 846 Highline Electrical Ltd; Repairs to street lights in December; £328.20 VAT £54.70;  
Chq 847 Scottish Power; 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Street light energy; £244.94 VAT £11.66;  
Chq 848 Clerk's January Salary £550.08;  
Chq 849 Cancelled as spoilt.

#### 106.16 VILLAGE RECREATIONAL GROUNDS

- a) Birch Grove – The Chairperson reported that she had yet to speak to the Primary School about the cycle safety training course; which the Council wished to sponsor. Cllrs Case and Gittins confirmed that they were committed to creating the new slope alongside the swing in early February.
- b) The Clerk updated the Council on the acts of vandalism which had occurred in December at Doctors Meadow. Council agreed to bring the issue to the attention of residents via Face Book.
- c) The Clerk confirmed that an initial expression of interest submission had been made to Shropshire Council with regard to taking on the 5 recreational areas they managed in the parish. This had been approved by the Chair before having been submitted.

#### 107.16 LOCAL REPORTS

- Cllr Johnston reported pot holes either side of Platts Bridge. Clerk to report to Shropshire Council.
- Cllr Allison reported faulty street light opposite Victoria Room on Little Ness Road. Clerk to report to contractor.
- Cllr Gittins reported that the trees in the Spinney were to be logged in February.

#### 108.16 PLANNING MATTERS:

- a. The Clerk reported that planning application ref; 16/05608/FUL The Wheelhouse, Shotatton Court, Shotatton, had been withdrawn.
- b. The following planning application had been granted permission by Shropshire Council: Reference:16/05641/FUL Tulip Cottage, School Road, Ruyton XI Towns  
Proposal: Erection of single storey side extension.
- c. Council discussed the additional reports supplied by Mono Consultants regarding pre-planning application for telecoms mast in Ruyton XI Towns. Council agreed that the applicant should be thanked for the additional information but informed that the Council as at this time neither supported nor objected to the proposal.

109.16 CONFIRMATION & ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES: Council resolved that the draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 16 December 2016 were confirmed as accurate. The Chairperson was instructed to sign them as such.

110.16 ANNUAL RISK ASSESSMENT REPORT – Council considered and resolved to approve the report giving due regard to the perceived risks both physical, operational and financial to the Council. Appendix B.

111.16 CLERK'S UPDATE REPORT & COMMUNICATION – The Clerk summarised the report. It was agreed that:

- The Clerk and Cllr Case should proceed with improvements to the website; enabling the Clerk to proceed with the application for the NALC Foundation Award;
- Council would consider and adopt a number of policies at their next meeting.
- The Council were unable at this time to financially contribute to KOSHA (Shropshire Regimental Museum).
- Cllr Allison be delegated with completing the SC Bus Consultation on behalf of the Parish Council.

Council noted that the United Reform Church was being advertised for sale and particulars included the Chapel grave yard. Council agreed to continue funding the maintenance of the grave yard for the time being.

The Clerk distributed the Parish Council's Meeting Date Diary for 2017 and a flyer for local notice boards publicising the May Parish Council election.  
(Clerk's Report at Appendix C.)

#### 112.16 SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

There being no further business the Chairperson closed the meeting at 9.50 p.m.

The next Parish Council meeting is to take place at 7.30 p.m. at The Victoria Room on 13 February 2017.

Minutes confirmed as accurate by *MP Berry* Cllr MP BERRY Vice Chair Date 13/2/2017