

# RUYTON XI TOWNS PARISH COUNCIL

## 10 OCTOBER 2016 MEETING MINUTES

The Parish Council met at The Victoria Room, Ruyton XI Towns at 7.30 pm on Monday 10 October 2016.

In Attendance: Mr T Allison; Mr C Case; Mrs M Drinan; Mr A Johnston; Mr S Gittins, Mrs A Sanders Royle, Mrs R Slowley (Chairperson); Mr D Spicer and Mrs A White.

Also in attendance: 2 members of the public; Sue Hackett (Clerk); Simon Jones (Shropshire Council (SC) Councillor) and Steve Brown (SC Officer).

60.16 PUBLIC SESSION – Ms Golding and Ms Moreton, both residents of the parish spoke of their concerns for the safety of children playing at Birch Grove and the need for new play equipment at the Birch Grove play area and possible measures which could be introduced to improve road safety.

Following some discussion by Council and SC representatives it was agreed that:

- Approximately 23 children with an average age of between 8 -10 required more stimulating and suitable play equipment at the recreational ground. It was agreed that the Clerk would arrange a site meeting with councillors at the ground and Nick Williams to discuss possible short term and solutions to the problem.
- The Clerk would investigate other funding possibilities for the introduction of new equipment.
- Steve Brown would arrange for a site visit by David Gradwell to establish what road safety enhancements could be introduced to improve matters.
- Ms Golding and Ms Moreton would establish a log of incidents of near misses and accidents, which would be provided to the Councils via the Clerk.

The Chairperson thanked the residents for attending and for the positive contributions made by Cllr Jones and Steve Brown.

61.16 CHAIRPERSON'S INTRODUCTION & COUNCILLORS' APOLOGIES – The Chairperson opened the Council meeting and reported that Cllr Berry had been unable to attend due to health issues. Apologies were accepted and approved by the Council.

62.16 COUNCILLORS DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS & DISPENSATIONS Councillors Case and Drinan reported personal interests in being reimbursed expenditure incurred whilst on council business. (Min 69.16). These were noted no further declarations were made.

63.16 HIGHWAYS & MAINTENANCE ISSUES – Guest Speakers SC Cllr Simon Jones and Steve Brown explained the financial constraints Shropshire Council faced and would in deed continue to be challenged by in the delivery of the Highways Annual Maintenance Plan. Following questions raised by Cllr Spicer, it was confirmed that the plan defers to regular input at parish council level; via the Community Road Safety Scheme however works had to be prioritised and rated based on evidence e.g. in the case of speeding independent results provided by the Community Safety Partnership were taken in to account, together with statistics provided by the Police.

When asked; Cllr Jones confirmed that SC did not have a “shared space” policy.

However a “shared space” (capital) scheme was being delivered in Shifnal; which was part of a 3 year capital works plan. Such capital schemes were increasingly dependent on CIL/s106 funding and matched funding. In its initial year such a project would be designed in collaboration with the parish and town council and funded in the second/third year. Due to the high costs associated with design and high quality materials used; SC were unable to deliver many capital schemes and had a duty to devote funding to the ongoing maintenance of the highways infrastructure.

Cllrs Spicer introduced the aims of the Safer Roads Group which had been formed by the Parish Council to address the Community’s overriding traffic concerns on the B4397 which ran through the village. The high volume of HGV traffic and speeding being the main concerns in a village where residents were becoming increasingly worried about the safety of pedestrians and road users.

Following much discussion it was agreed that the Safer Roads Group would be provided with statistical data by Steve Brown and that the Group would welcome David Gradwell’s input; as his experience of current highways regulations would be invaluable. The Safer Roads Group confirmed that they would be working in partnership with SC to deliver road safety solutions.

64.16 SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL – In the absence of Cllr Nick Bardsley Cllr Jones gave a report.

65.16 SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL & TOWN & PARISH COUNCILS CLUSTERING UPDATE – The Clerk reported on the meeting held on 29/9; which Cllr Berry had also attended.

In summary:

- SC was to reissue its “Red List” of services it wished to transfer to Town & Parishes
- A forum had been successfully set up with those T & Ps interested in taking on libraries
- An Outdoor Parks forum was to be launched
- The time line or Plan for the transfer of such services had been revisited and amended requiring transfers to be made by April 2018.
- Expressions of interest were to be formalised by the completion of a form; which SC would hope could be submitted by April/Sept 2017. This would be used by SC for diligence.
- Play areas etc ownership would be transferred by long term lease agreement (80 – 125 years). This is used in preference because of resilience. Where SC already leased the land from a third party the lease would be transferred subject to the latter’s agreement; so too would any s106 monies.
- In 2018 SC would re-examine its Small Highways/Amenities Grant criteria.

This was particularly relevant to the PC as SC had asked whether the PC was interested in taking on the 5 recreational spaces in the parish which it currently maintained. Namely Doctors Meadow; Dunning Close; Birch Grove; Marches Meadow and Bridge Inn Fields. Following much discussion, Steve Brown agreed to supply details of the current grass cutting specifications, plans of the sites, type and value of play equipment at each site, RoSPA reports, and tree safety inspection reports. Clerk to obtain further information on the leasing arrangements from SC Legal Services.

Councillors agreed it was important to obtain detailed information in order to make an informed decision as to the costs of such a transfer.

66.16 LOCAL REPORTS – Parish Plan Steering Group – Cllr Spicer reported that the Group had at their AGM formed the Safer Roads Group and had delegated authority to this Group to spend up to £1,000. Its main aim was to improve road safety within the Parish for the community. This decision was ratified by resolution by the Parish Council. A Community event was planned for the 19<sup>th</sup> November and had been promoted via the Parish Council newsletter, it was hoped that all Councillors would be able to attend. The Clerk agreed to attend the afternoon event. Action; Group responsible for promotion and organising the event.

67.16 PLANNING MATTERS – There were none.

68.16 CONFIRMATION & ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES: Draft minutes of the Council meeting held on 5 September 2016 were confirmed as accurate by Council and the Chairman was instructed to sign them as such.

69.16 FINANCE

- a. Council resolved to pay the following, instructing Cllrs Slowley and Case to check the supporting paperwork to the cheques raised before authorising payment:  
Chq 830 Clerk's Sept & Oct Net Pay + Tax refund £1,447.11  
Chq 835 D Peate Grounds Maintenance invoices June - Sept; £731.00  
Chq 833 Highline Electrical Ltd; Call out to street light; £31.80 VAT £5.30  
Chq 831 C Case; Football Goals repairs £23.26 VAT £3.88  
Chq 834 PPSG; Grant ( Power of competence) £500  
Chq 832 M Drinan; Reclaim of training expenses £38.30.
- b. Half Year Budget Monitoring Report – Appendix A. The Clerk explained the report and councillors noted that the forecasted annual expenditure was expected to exceed the annual receipts as at year end. The Council noted the explanations given. Several changes to the budget were ratified by resolution by Council, these were itemised on the report.
- c. Following some discussion Council resolved that over the next 3 months Clerk to work towards the Council being accredited with the NALC Foundation Award and that the £200 Training Budget be delegated to achieving this.

70.16 CLERK'S UPDATE REPORT & COMMUNICATION – The Clerk reported on communications received and in particular:

- SALC Bulletin dated 29/9/16; which described Government was currently considering capping parish and town councils raising their precepts by more than 2% where precepts were in excess of £500,000 and Band D property council tax relating to the parish/town exceeded £75.46 p.a. It was agreed that the Clerk should communicate to the Minister ( & Marcus Jones) there was a need for parish and town councils to have a flexibility in setting their precept given the current demands made of them, e.g. where they are expected to take on services provided by the principal authority,
- 3 November Oswestry Area Committee meeting
- SALC AGM on 19 November. It was agreed that the Chairperson or Vice Chair would attend to represent the Council. Venue Great Dawley Town Hall.

71.16 SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

- Clerk instructed to arrange for the village hanging baskets to be removed and disposed of.
- Street light above Wykey telephone box reported as dim and requiring attention.
- Cllr Gittins reported that Pentons were due to fell the Spinney in October/November. It was agreed that Cllr Gittins and Cllr Sanders Royle would complete the SC and Woodland Trust tree order for replacement trees, given that they would be needed in the spring.
- Cllr Allison to contact David Roberts in connection with his offer to strim footpaths, as part of the 3 P Team.

The meeting closed at 9.50 pm. The next meeting was noted as being held on 14 November 2016.

Confirmed as accurate .....Cllr R Slowley Chairperson      Date.....