

RUYTON XI TOWNS PARISH COUNCIL

6 OCT 2020 MEETING MINUTES

An ordinary meeting of the Parish Council was held online at 6.30 pm on Tues 6th Oct 2020.

Parish councillors in attendance: Mr T Allison, Mr S Denyer, Mr M Eyles, Mr B Edwards, Mr S Gittins (Chairman), Mrs C Jones, Mrs A Lister, Mr D Spicer (Vice Chairman).

Also in attendance:, Lydia Bardsley (Clerk), Public: 3

Meeting started at: 6:31pm.

62/20. Welcome by Chairman

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone present to the meeting.

63/20. Apologies

The Chairman reported that apologies for absence had been received from the following councillors: David Shearan (other commitments), Nick Bardsley (Shropshire County Councillor). These were accepted by the Council.

64/20. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests and Dispensation

Cllr Gittins declared an interest in agenda item 70/20/4, Planning application for Wykey Farm. It was **AGREED** that this agenda item would be moved to the end of the meeting so that Cllr Gittins could leave the meeting and allow discussions to continue.

65/20. Public Session

Residents requested an update on Yardley, but no more information was available at this time.

It was **RESOLVED** to bring forward item: 69/20b, VAS signs.

69/20b – Safer Roads Group – VAS signs

Residents and Cllr Spicer gave an update on problems with the duration of batteries that power the VAS signs in the parish. Concerns were raised about safety implications when batteries are completely discharged, and VAS signs are temporarily out of action. It was **NOTED** that there don't seem to be many suppliers who produce solar panels small enough for vehicle activated speed signs (VASs). It was **FURTHER NOTED** that batteries will still need replacing eventually at the end of their life, (though they should last a lot longer with solar panels), and should ensure VAS signs are continually in service. It was **AGREED** that the PC should encourage the use of renewable energy where possible. The Council considered the two estimates for retro-fitting solar panels to existing VAS signs. It was **RESOLVED** to add solar panels to each sign as batteries need replacing, rather than all in one go. It was **FURTHER RESOLVED** to engage UPS Direct at a cost of £350 per sign. The clerk would liaise with Safer Roads Group to make arrangements.

It was **RESOLVED** to resume the normal order of business on the agenda.

66/20. Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to confirm that the [Council minutes dated 1st Sept 2020](#) were accurate and would be signed at a future date.

67/20. Coronavirus

It was **NOTED** that the Basnett, Minton, and Mathews Trust were currently helping an individual / household in the parish. No other actions required currently.

68/20. Reports – Council to consider and agree actions.

a) Clerk's update report (appendix A)

RESOLVED to note. In addition to the report it was **NOTED** that the clerk had also reported water on the Highway (next to Cafe XI) to Severn Trent. SC have also now investigated the blocked culvert and roadside ditch at bottom of Grug Hill and have scheduled in works to remedy this. Clerk to report to SC that gullies are also blocked with mud on Grug Hill. Clerk has contacted the bridges and structures team re. the wall on Church Street but has not heard back yet.

Training – clerk has signed up for the Risk assessment training webinar on 12th November (£30), and has also signed up for the following webinars via SLCC: Creating accessible Excel documents (3rd Nov), Challenging people and situations (17th Nov). Cost of these webinars will be split equally with Clive Parish Council.

b) Shropshire Councillor Nick Bardsley report

No report available.

c) Local Police Report

Council **RESOLVED** to note the police report. There were no recent drone sightings since the last meeting. Smartwater – it was **AGREED** that Clerk would send round an email to find out who was still interested in helping with rollout and arranging a meeting to get things moving on distributing the residential kits remotely. Cllr Gittins was putting together a list of addresses and contact details for farms and businesses who were interested in getting a kit.

69/20. Parish Matters – Council to receive updates and agree actions.

a) Casual Vacancies

It was **NOTED** that no election had been called for the two vacancies left by Cllrs Pinner and Sanders Royle, so the PC could co-opt for these two seats as well as Cllr Harrison's vacancy. Three applications for co-option had been received which the Council considered. Candidates introduced themselves, and after a discussion and vote it was **RESOLVED** to co-opt Christine Jones, Mervyn Eyles, and Graeme Barrett as Councillors, and they were duly elected.

It was further **NOTED** that Cllr Hall had stood down from the PC on 14th Sept, and this casual vacancy had been duly advertised in the parish and with SC. The 14-day period during which an election could be called to fill this seat would end on 8th October. In the event that no election is called, it was **AGREED** that the PC will advertise the remaining casual vacancy to be filled by co-option, with an application deadline of 5pm Tues 27th October. If an election is called this will not take place before May 2021, at which time all councillor terms will end, and all Council seats will be up for election.

b) Safer Roads Group

Cllr Spicer gave an update on the West Mercia Police road safety funding; it seemed unlikely that Ruyton would be eligible for this particular funding as the current scheme is focussed on areas with deaths and serious injuries. It was **NOTED** that West Mercia Police may possibly broaden the scope of the funding and make more money available in the future, so it was **AGREED** not to put in an application until it is known whether the scope of the funding will be widened. It was **NOTED** that the PC/SRG should investigate other avenues for road safety funding e.g. war memorials, rather than holding out for police funding. It was **FURTHER NOTED** that Community Speed Watch groups could potentially be accomplished with social

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distancing, and would be permitted under the government's "rule of 6". It was **AGREED** that this would be revisited by SRG, and the PC would put a call out for volunteers on the website as well as a minimum of 6 volunteers are needed to get started.

c) Green spaces and recreation grounds

Cllr Gittins gave an update on plans to sow wild flowers on QEII and tree planting there and in the Spinney. It was **AGREED** that clerk would contact SC about mowing the playing field. It was **NOTED** that a resident had kindly mown the paths on QEII field and it was **AGREED** that the Council would write a thank you letter. Council also discussed the suggestion of declaring the Cliffe a Nature Reserve, and it was **AGREED** to defer this matter for further discussion in November.

d) Post Office

Cllr Lister gave an update on discussions with parties who had been interested in taking on the Post Office business, but it was **NOTED** that there was no funding to support anything other than taking on the original post office facility. It was also **NOTED** that there is £12,000 set up fee and there is no longer a wage attached, only commission, so unfortunately the party has now ruled themselves out. It was **AGREED** that the Parish Council would contact the Post Office to ask what exact criteria is and ask if there was anything it could do to facilitate supporting the post office re-opening in the parish. Cllr Spicer and Lister will liaise to progress this, and look into other sources of funding to secure rural Post Offices in rural communities.

A member of the public left the meeting at 7.15pm.

e) Zoom Pro subscription

It was **RESOLVED** to ratify the decision to purchase a monthly Zoom Pro subscription. The clerk would claim this as expenses, and Clive Parish Council would make a donation to Ruyton XI Towns Parish Council of 50% of the costs. This donation would be sent monthly. It was **NOTED** that VAT would not be reclaimable.

f) Remembrance Day

It was **NOTED** that Cllr Denyer would be putting up the poppies on lampposts very soon, and Cafe XI would be putting up a banner. It was further **AGREED** to look into purchasing a handmade wreath from a local florist for the Stone Cross and/or War Memorial. The Council **AGREED** to expenditure of up to £100 for a wreath(s) and the clerk and Cllr Lister would liaise on this.

g) Christmas Tree/lights in parish

Clerk shared a suggestion from members of the public re. Christmas lights display at Cafe XI instead of a traditional Christmas tree. After discussion it was **AGREED** that the Cllr Gittins, Cllr Denyer, and Cafe XI would liaise and possibly ratify a decision at next meeting if purchases needed to be made before then.

70/20. Planning applications

1. Planning enforcement concerns

Tedsmore Lakes – the clerk reported that no response had been received from the Planning Officer.

2. [Proposed Holiday Cabins To The East Of Mill Lane](#) Brownhill, ref: 20/03417/FUL

Proposal: Change of use of land to site 2 holiday cabins.

Consultation expiry date: 22/09/2020 (Parish Council has been granted an extension until 08/10/2020 to comment).

It was **NOTED** that the site is often used for landing or hover training by RAF Shawbury, so the Clerk will forward the application to RAF Shawbury for information.

After consideration it was **AGREED** to make representation (neither support nor object) the application with the following comments:

The proposed walking route to Ruyton XI Towns via public Rights-of-Way, utilising Byway 0318/17A/1 and footpath 0318/17, will need the following improvements if it is to be used by 'ordinary' walking members of the public. At present it is only really usable by experienced walkers.

- The field gate where footpath 17 leaves Byway 17A will need to be properly hung, and a waymark-post indicating this route will be required on Byway 17A
- The difficult stile where footpath 17/5 becomes 17/1 (and crosses bridleway 18/1) will need to be replaced with a pedestrian gate
- The stile from footpath 17/4 onto Little Ness Road will also need replacing with a pedestrian gate
- A fingerpost will be required on Little Ness Road indicating footpath 17
- Whenever the fields crossed by footpath are used for arable or other crops the line of the footpath will need restoring as soon as it is sensible in the growing season.
- Access on footpath 15B to the footbridge over the River Perry on both sides will need improvement as it is far too much of a 'pull up' at present for an ordinary walker.

3. **Proposed Affordable Dwelling, Hillside Cottage**, ref: 20/03470/FUL

Proposal: Erection of an affordable dwelling with detached garage; formation of access and all associated works

Consultation expiry date: 08/10/2020

After consideration it was **AGREED** to make representation with the following comments:

It was agreed that the applicant's local connection is clear, and the Parish Council also feels it would be a positive thing for the applicant to be able to continue living and working in the parish. In principle, the Parish Council is in favour of an affordable home to allow the applicant to stay in Eardiston. However, it is hoped that neighbour concerns regarding design, appearance, and materials, as well as positioning of the proposed dwelling, can be adequately dealt with, perhaps through changes to the existing application.

A member of the public left the meeting at 7.35pm.

4. **Tree Preservation Order, adjacent to Hillside Cottage**, ref: SC/00461/20

Comments deadline: 15/10/2020

After consideration it was **AGREED** to make no comments.

5. **Proposed street name "Laurel Close", residential development South of Aldersley Way (5 plots)**, ref: 20/04701/NEWDEV

It was **RESOLVED** to ratify the following comments made under the Scheme of Delegation.

Councillors had no real objections to the name Laurel Close, but felt it lacked a local connection. As an alternative the Council had suggested Undercastle Close, as it was more in keeping with the historical naming tradition of the other streets in the Doctors Meadow area e.g. Arundel Close, Dunning Close, and Aldersley Way.

71/20. Shropshire Council Planning decisions

It was **RESOLVED** to note the following decisions:

1. **Proposed Development West Of Darlee Cottage**, ref: 18/02858/REM – Pending consideration

Proposal: Reserved matters for residential development of two detached houses (14/04168/OUT).

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A member of the public left the meeting at 7.38pm.

72/20. Consultations – Council to agree response

- a) **PCC Town and Parish Council survey** (deadline 09.10.2020)

After discussion, it was **AGREED** that the Parish Council would not respond to this survey.

73/20. Policies to review and approve (appendix D).

- a) **Action Plan 2020-21**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the action plan, and that this would be reviewed quarterly (next review Dec 2020). The PC would publicise this on the website and invite comments and feedback from parishioners on the content of the plan and progress against aims and objectives.

The clerk shared some additional project ideas that had been put forward and it was **AGREED** that the Council would discuss this at the November meeting. It was **NOTED** that community engagement would be useful in narrowing down additional suggestions for the Action Plan.

74/20. Payments – Council to consider and approve

- a) **Invoices/reimbursements to be authorised**

It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the following payments.

- SALC, Public engagement webinar: £30.00 (no VAT)
- Shropshire Council, annual maintenance fee for Cliffe, £3000.00 (no VAT)
- Clerk, Oct salary: £643.71 (no VAT)
- Clerk Oct expenses: £32.39 (no VAT)
- NEST (direct debit), Oct pension contributions: £47.88 (no VAT)
- D. E. Peate, village maintenance and floral displays (July – Sept 2020), £646.50 (no VAT)
- C R Simon, clerk email account upgrade, (£10.80, no VAT)

- b) **Urgent invoices to approve after publication of agenda**

None received.

75/20. Finance – to consider and approve

Council **RESOLVED** to note and approve the following. Hardcopies of documents would be signed retrospectively once face to face meetings had resumed.

- a) **Receipts & payments report Aug and Sept 2020**
b) **Bank statement for Aug and Sept 2020**
c) **Bank reconciliation for Aug and Sept 2020**
d) **2nd quarter budget monitoring report**

It was **RESOLVED** to note the above report.

- e) **Draft budget proposals 2021-22**

It was **AGREED** to defer budget discussions until November.

As previously **AGREED**, the Council returned to item 70/20/4

70/20 Planning applications

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4. [Wykey Farm, Wykey](#), ref: 20/03579/FUL

Proposal: Installation of a 2.4mw ground source heat pump and all associated works.

Consultation expiry date: 16/10/2020

Cllr Gittins gave some background on the reasoning behind the application, and then left the meeting at 7:47 before discussions and voting for this planning application. Cllr Spicer took the chair of the meeting in Cllr Gittins' absence.

After consideration it was **RESOLVED** to support this application with the following comments:

Councillors have checked local maps and visited the site to check the location of the proposals and to ensure that no neighbours will be negatively impacted. The Parish Council is in support of more sustainable energy solutions, and has previously supported planning applications for the same type of heat pump at this site, which were also granted permission by the Planning authority, so there are no objections to this application.

76/20. Future agenda items

Councillors are requested to use this opportunity to report minor matters of information not included elsewhere on the agenda and to raise items for future agendas.

Councillors are respectfully reminded that this is not an opportunity for debate or decision making.

- a) Budget proposals
- b) Cliffe – Local nature reserve.
- c) Casual vacancies.

77/20. Next Council meeting – Council to agree

Next meeting provisionally scheduled for Tues 3rd Nov 2020 (online).

There being no further business, the Vice Chairman closed the meeting at 7:55 pm and thanked everyone for their participation.

Confirmed as accurate: _____ Chairman, Cllr Simon Gittins. Date: _____

Appendices

- A. Clerk's update report**
- B. Policies to review**
- C. 2nd quarter budget monitoring report**
- D. Draft budget proposals for 2021-22**