

RUYTON XI TOWNS PARISH COUNCIL

3 JAN 2023 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

An ordinary meeting of the Parish Council was held at the Victoria Room, at 6.30 pm on Tues 3rd Jan 2023.

Parish councillors in attendance: Mr T Allison, Mrs T Bibow, Mrs K Coldwell, Mr S Denyer, Mr M Eyles, Mr R Hamlett (arrived 18.33), Mrs A Lister (Vice Chairman).

Also in attendance: Lydia Bardsley (Clerk), Shropshire Cllr Nick Bardsley, Public: 6

Meeting started at: 6:30pm.

111/22: Welcome by Chairman

In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman Cllr Lister took the Chair and wished everyone a Happy New Year. She opened the meeting and welcomed everyone present to the meeting.

112/22: Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Spicer (health concerns), Cllr Edwards (unwell), Cllr L Penton (unwell). It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** these.

113/22: Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests and Dispensation requests

None received

114/22: Public session

Serious concerns had been raised about an individual subject to allegations of being on the sex offenders register who had moved into the area, and concerns about child safety. There were also concerns about recurring issues with STaR housing leasing out emergency housing to Shropshire Council Housing Options, and the types of tenants who are being housed in this particular part of the village. The Chairman thanked residents for attending and for following the proper channels and raising their concerns in a calm manner. Parish Council representatives had made contact with the relevant agencies about this matter.

SC Cllr Bardsley had previously had discussions with SC Housing Options about issues with previous tenants. He will contact the relevant person at SC tomorrow. Cllr Lister will ensure the school is made aware.

It was **AGREED** that this will go on agenda for next meeting. 4 members of public left the meeting at 18:50pm. It was understood that SC have responsibilities to provide emergency housing for people in certain situations, but there were obvious safety concerns in this case. There were questions about whether STaR Housing has any liability for the tenants that SC move into the houses. SC Cllr Bardsley informed the PC that STaR is not an ordinary housing association, it is technically part of SC, and they have an arrangement with SC to take homeless families.

After discussion, it was **AGREED** that Cllr Lister will share her report to the police with SC Cllr Bardsley and he will ask SC housing options questions e.g.

- what the criteria are for housing individuals
- how the decision was made to house this individual in this particular housing area, with lots of children and play area nearby,

- whether there were any risk assessments conducted, reports from probationary service /rehabilitation officers, etc., to justify the decision.

It was **AGREED** that Cllr Lister will follow this up with the police about what the protocol is and what partnerships should be in place. Cllr Coldwell will liaise with a contact in the probationary service to ask about protocols and who the PC should be contacting in Shropshire.

A member of the public also raised the issue of very large pot holes in car park at Doctors Meadow (these are not the same pot holes as the ones that were filled in previously by the developer). It was **AGREED** that the Clerk will make enquiries about getting these repaired.

115/22: Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to confirm that the [Council minutes dated 06.12.2022](#) were an accurate and true record.

116/22: Council vacancy

It was **NOTED** that no applications had been received. It was **AGREED** to extend the deadline for receipt of applications to 9pm on Friday 27th Jan, with a view to co-opting on Tues 7th Feb. The Clerk would arrange for the necessary promotion.

117/22: Policies to review and approve

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the below policies.

- a) Risk Management Policy

118/22: Reports – Council to consider and agree actions

- a) Shropshire Councillor Nick Bardsley

SC Cllr Bardsley gave the following report:

- CIL Project meeting – coloured road surface question. SC Cllr Bardsley will invite Cabinet member to visit the school to emphasise how concealed the entrance is, even if you know where it is. If red tarmac is nowhere else, then it will stand out even more if it is only outside school. SC Cllr Bardsley will let PC and school know when this visit will take place. Next CIL Project meeting is 17th Jan 2023.
- Bridge Inn Field – Chairman now has authority to pursue adverse possession claim on SC's behalf.
- Boundary Commission England Electoral Division Review for Shropshire – consultation ends on 30th Jan.
- Baschurch planning application – Officer recommendation has been to refuse planning application which includes land for train station car park. Northern Planning Committee meeting will consider the application next week.

SC Cllr Bardsley gave his apologies and left the meeting at 19.35.

- b) Local Police Report/Rural crime

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the report. PC had promoted spare SmartWater kits and Clerk would arrange for the registration and distribution of any new kits requested.

- c) Safer Roads Group

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the SRG report which included an update from the recent CIL project meeting and answers to questions raised. It was **NOTED** that latest advice from SC Historic Environment team is that Listed Building consent will be needed regardless of where the Stone Cross is rebuilt (because of the need to dismantle it prior to repair), so a decision on where to rebuild the monument needs to be made

before an LBC application can be submitted. The next CIL Project meeting is 17th Jan 2023 where the PC will hopefully have the latest visualisations and a date can be set for the public consultation.

d) Clerk's update report (appendix B)

This was **NOTED**.

119/22: Parish Matters – Council to receive updates and agree actions

a) Coronavirus

Council to consider latest information and guidance and agree actions as needed.

The Council **NOTED** the report shared by the Chairman Cllr Spicer on covid data and WHO clarifications on advice. Councillors **AGREED** that they will continue to do LFT tests before each meeting but otherwise Coronavirus will come off the agenda for subsequent meetings.

Cllr Bibow is able to obtain free Lateral Flow Test kits through work so will bring some in Feb for Cllrs to use for the March meeting. The Chairman thanked Cllr Bibow.

b) Cost of living crisis

Council to receive update and agree actions to support vulnerable parishioners

So far, there is very little demand for Warm Hubs in either Ruyton XI Towns or the Nesses. After discussion, it was **AGREED** that the PC will make arrangements so that support can be made to households in need of assistance through the Basnett, Mathews, and Minton Trust, and the PC can lend financial support to the Trust in turn if needed. It was also suggested that there could be some promotion in the community to help fundraise for the Trust.

c) Council assets

i. VAS equipment

It was **NOTED** that Cllr Lister is trying to arrange collecting equipment (spare batteries, keys, tablet, etc), from the previous volunteer. When we have the equipment PC will be arranging a handover for how to use the equipment and how to download the data.

ii. Stone Cross damage - Council to receive update

As per the SRG report (item 118/22c), it was **NOTED** that a decision on where the Cross should be rebuilt would need to be made first before an LBC application can be submitted. This decision would be made after the public engagement. A date for public meetings etc., would be set after the next CIL Project meeting on 17th Jan 2023.

iii. War memorial name and info plaques - Council to receive update and agree actions

No further updates at present.

d) AED (volunteers and community training)

Two volunteers from previous scheme were happy to help with equipment checks. Cllr Lister will arrange with Cllrs Coldwell and Bibow to meet at the school to go through equipment checks process. Clerk had also contacted Packwood-Haugh and Dairi Pak about possible joint community training events, but no response had been received so far. Cllr Bibow will liaise with a contact at Packwood Haugh to follow this up, and will also check whether Packwood's AED is publicly accessible and if so during what hours.

e) [Boundary Commission for England consultation \(deadline 30.01.2023\)](#)

Council to consider electoral division boundaries in Shropshire and agree response

It was **AGREED** that clerk will draft a response requesting no boundary change and will send round for feedback before submitting on 30th Jan.

f) Church Clock maintenance

Council to consider whether to fund this maintenance

It was **RESOLVED** to fund the maintenance for the Church Clock at a cost of £150+VAT. This would be through Time Assured Ltd, and organised by the Church directly. As noted in previous years, the clock is a

public clock so the Parish Council has a legal power to contribute towards its maintenance (Parish Councils Act, 1957, s. 2 and 6).

g) **Land previously up for auction on Bridge Inn/QEII Field**

It was **NOTED** that Cllr Spicer has managed to get a copy of the inspector's report from the original planning application, but otherwise no other updates at this time.

120/22: Planning applications/enforcement – Council to consider and agree response

1. [Yew Trees, Eardiston, ref: 22/05470/FUL](#)

Proposal: Erection of building for use as ancillary accommodation following removal of garage

Deadline for comments: 12.01.2023

After discussion it was **RESOLVED** to MAKE REPRESENTATION with no comments.

2. [Proposed Residential Development Land North Of, Olden Lane, ref: 22/05574/OUT](#)

Proposal: Outline planning application for a single dwelling using an existing access off an established dropped curb to the site (to include access)

Deadline for comments: 19.01.2023

After discussion it was **RESOLVED** to OBJECT with the following concerns:

1. Land is outside the development and does not meet any of the exceptions for Open Countryside development
2. Insufficient need for large 4-bedroom properties in the parish
3. Highways safety concerns due to insufficient visibility splays
4. Insufficient drainage for storm water run-off
5. Inaccuracies and inconsistencies in the application form
6. Enforcement case and harm to natural environment and wildlife

121/22: Shropshire Council Planning decisions – Council to note.

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

1. [North West Relief Road Scheme, 21/00924/EIA](#) – Pending consideration
2. [Land Adjacent To Melville House Station Road Baschurch, ref: 22/03752/FUL](#) – Awaiting decision, but Planning Committee is next week and Officers recommend refusal.
3. [The Gables, Blackbow Hill, ref: 22/04188/FUL](#) – Refused
4. Enforcement case, The Grange, Brownhill – Pending consideration
5. Meadow View Barn, Eardiston, ref: [22/04797/FUL](#) - Awaiting decision, and [22/04980/LBC](#) - Pending consideration

122/22: Finance – to consider and approve

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following (a-d):

- a) Receipts & payments Dec 2022
- b) Bank statement Dec 2022
- c) Bank reconciliations Dec 2022
- d) Budget monitoring report Q3 (appendix C)
- e) Finalise budget and precept 2023-24 (appendix D)

After discussion it was **RESOLVED** to set the budget for 2023-24 as follows:

Payments budget of £33,090, plus £550 to be allocated to Earmarked Reserves. There were also expected payments of £7158 from Earmarked Reserves. Considering forecasted receipts of £1720, the Council **RESOLVED** to agree a precept figure of **£31,920** (£1220 or 3.8% increase on 2022-23 precept).

The Band D Council tax equivalent charge would be £69.35 (2.2% increase from 2022-23, £1.50 increase in real money). The [agreed 2023-24 budget](#) will be published online as an appendix to the minutes.

123/22: Payments – Council to consider and approve

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

a) Invoices/reimbursements - to be approved

- Clerk, Jan staffing costs (salary, home allowance, expenses), £840.44 (of which £2.40 VAT)
- HMRC, Jan PAYE and NI contributions, £95.14 (no VAT)
- NEST (Direct Debit), Jan pension contributions, £65.61 (no VAT)
- SJF Design & Print, survey printing, £57.60 (of which £9.60 VAT)
- BestHost (Pascal Bourgignon), email hosting, £77.00 (no VAT)
- SALC, Training invoice 1693 (Code of conduct x1, Fundamentals for Cllrs x 1), £50.00 (no VAT)

b) Urgent invoices received after publication of agenda

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following invoice that was received after publication of the agenda:

- D. E. Peate, village maintenance (Aug-Dec 2022), £678.00 (no VAT)

124/22: Correspondence received

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

- a) Electoral Division Review consultation info (13.12.2022)
- b) Christmas Waste Collection calendar
- c) NALC Open Letter (13.12.2022)
- d) Police bike marking events (15.12.2022)
- e) SC Council tax and precept letter (22.12.2022)
- f) RSN Village Services bulletin (03.01.2023)
- g) Police warnings re. Courier and Holiday scams (03.01.2023)
- h) Road works: update on Gildimoors junction A5 to Ruyton Manor B4397 (16-30.01.2023)
- i) Road works: Big Walls, Ruyton XI Towns (30.01.2022 – 01.02.2023)
- j) Road works: Baschurch level crossing (overnight 21-22.01.2023)
- k) Road works: Brownhill B4397 (06.02.2023)
- l) Road works: Lane end crossroads to Wigmarsh (13-15.02.2023)
- m) Road works: Baschurch level crossing (overnight 25-26.02.2023)

125/22: 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.

- STaR housing
- Buses – Cllr Allison reported that the changeover to Tanat Valley had gone reasonably well, but since traffic has slacked off over holidays, the bus has left Ruyton XI Towns village earlier than timetabled, and there were concerns about buses not always waiting for passengers. Cllr Allison will circulate a message on the local mailing list to advise passengers to be on time rather than expecting the bus to be late.

- Streetlights – Cllr Allison had reported 3 streetlights in Doctors Meadow area well before Christmas, that are still not fixed. For the light that had been knocked over by a vehicle, SC came out within 24hrs to remove the column and fill in hole with tarmac. The Fix My Street alert says the light is now fixed but it has not been replaced. Cllr Allison has had an acknowledgement from SC that they are not meeting their repair timeframe targets for Streetlights but they blame the contractors Keir and claim SC cannot control how Keir programme their work.
- Overhanging hedges along Brownhill – these have not been cut back to the required height to accommodate taller vehicles. Clerk will check for an update from previous report to SC. It was **AGREED** that Clerk will also draft a letter to residents to remind them that hedges/trees need cutting back before 1st of March.
- Leaf build-up corner on north side of Church Street opposite Hall Farm. It was **AGREED** that Clerk will report this to SC.
- Cllr Coldwell gave their apologies for Feb Council meeting.

126/22: Next Council meeting – Council to agree

It was **AGREED** that the next ordinary meeting would be scheduled for Tues 7th Feb 2023 at 6.30pm at the Victoria Room.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for their participation and closed the meeting at 8.50pm.

Confirmed as accurate: _____Chairman. Date: _____