

## Ruscombe Parish Council

### Minutes of Meeting of the Parish Council

Held in the William Penn Room, Loddon Hall, Twyford

On Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2022 at 7:30pm

**Councillors Present:** Mr M Evans (Chair), Mr P Cassidy, Mrs C Bulman, Mr P Evans and Mr G Merrick.

**Others Present:** Twyford Parish Councillor, Mrs S Wisdom.

**Clerk in attendance:** Mr Graham Winder.

7:30pm Mr M Evans opened the meeting.

**143/22 Apologies for Absence:** Mr G Howe, Mr J May, Mrs J Holmes and Mr M Butler.

**144/22 Declaration of Interest:** Mr M Evans declared that he and Mr May are directors for the Campaign to Protect Rural Wokingham CPRW.

**145/22 Minutes:** Minutes for 5<sup>th</sup> October 2022 circulated via email, approval proposed by Mr Cassidy, seconded by Mr P Evans and approved unanimously.

**146/22 Public Comments sent to the Clerk or Councillors:** Mr Merrick reported that he has received feedback from the public that the planter near Ruscombe Pond at junction of Ruscombe Lane and Stanlake Lane, obscures traffic coming from Twyford centre for road users emerging from Stanlake Lane. Discussions have been started with the contractor maintaining the planter to see if it may be moved and determine any costs which may be incurred. Mr Winder will update Council with findings before next meeting.

**147/22 Update from Twyford Parish Councillor:** Mrs Wisdom shared with Council that work on drop-in centres is ongoing with the main focus on the winter crisis. Mrs Wisdom also drew attention to the letter regarding parking in Twyford and advised that Twyford Library Phase One work is starting. She also mentioned that there are plans to renovate the skate park and that any input would be welcome.

**148/22 Update from Wokingham Borough Councillors:** No one in attendance.

**149/22 Twyford Neighbourhood Plan Consultation:** Mr M Evans summarised the Council's concerns about the Twyford Neighbourhood Plan proposal to divert traffic over the railway bridge in Ruscombe as follows:

- a) RPC takes exception to that fact that it was never consulted prior to publishing this proposal.
- b) There is consensus in the Council that this proposal would cause serious traffic and safety concerns.

Mr M Evans asked Mrs Wisdom to convey the major safety concerns back to TPC and he will gather some input from Mr P Evans to write a feedback comment for Council to approve.

#### **150/22 Planning Applications:**

222910, 112 London Road Mr Merrick outlined the nature of the planning submission as enlarging a flat-fronted dwelling, converting a garage into a games room and the

creation of a Dutch barn car port with log store. He advised that is probably does not breach any rules or raise any concerns and recommends Council enters No Comment. Proposed by Mr Merrick, seconded by Mr M Evans and unanimously approved.

**151/22 Ruscombe Ponds:** Mr G Merrick advised that former RPC Clerk sought quotes. He will chase this up and further suggested simple round signage on both ponds including clear information that they are owned by RPC. Mr Merrick will draft a design for these signs to share with Council.

**152/22 Pennfields Orchard:** Mr P Cassidy requested that the weeds be strimmed and to leave the mulch round base of trees. Also the people who did the London Road part cut the Bee Highway only up to that point and it therefore needs tidying up. Mr G Winder to request a quote from CR Landscapes.

**153/22 Hardship Fund:** Mr M Evans reiterated that RPC will collaborate with TPC. Mr Cassidy attended TPC meeting and shared the observation that people are okay at present as the winter has yet to take effect.

Mrs Wisdom told Council that Twyford Councillor, Mrs H Winder has the 'bit between her teeth' on this and one of the aims is to keep repeating communication about the help available as this has proved effective in other campaigns.

Mr Winder advise that as Clerk, he receives CEM communications with key material for Parish Council social media and web sites. He will look into getting these on RPC sites as soon as possible.

**154/22 SID Maintenance:** Carrying forward from prior RPC meeting, Mr Winder to enquire about the process and permissions for wiring the SID directly to the lamp post supply in Ruscombe Lane.

**155/22 Trees:** Mr Merrick updated Council on sourcing a tree to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II's reign. He advised that we cannot use oak due to a supply and disease issue. Red Beech is therefore recommended. He shared three quotes for supply of a well grown tree (in tub) and planting as follows:

BP £450, CR £512, NB £432.

Mr Merrick further shared the quoted options for a plaque as follows:

Upper and lower case text on a 6x4 inch plate: Plain plate £75, stainless steel with stake £139

Council proposed accepting NB quote for tree at £432 and Stainless Steel plaque with stake, fitted to concrete. Position to be confirmed by Mr G Merrick.

Proposed by Mrs Bulman and seconded by Mr P Evans. Unanimously approved.

**156/22 Remembrance Sunday:** Mr M Evans will attend on 13<sup>th</sup> November and has been in touch with the Church Warden for final arrangements.

Mr G Winder will arrange delivery of wreath to Mr M Evans.

**157/22 Loddon Hall RPC Rep:** Mr Merrick has agreed to represent RPC on the Loddon Hall Committee.

Mrs Bulman asked if Council could pay for a professional secretary to assist the Committee. Councillors to consider this suggestion before next meeting.

### **158/22 CIL Money**

Glebeland: Still awaiting diocese. Mr G Winder to chase.

Mrs C Bulman suggested 'QEII Gardens' as a possible name.

Boundary sign: Mr P Cassidy raised concern that it is becoming overgrown. Mr G Winder to look at what needs to be done and obtain quotes.

**159/22 Finance:** Payments to consider:

Econet Donation: Rejected, Clerk to investigate.

Window Flowers: Quote part approved, changes proposed.

Farewell Dinner Expenses £259.50: Paid #1/11 2022

New Clerk wages and expenses £540.74: Paid #2/11 2022

Former Clerk wages and expenses £223.68: Paid #3/11 2022

Gillett & Johnston Clock Maintenance £192.00: Paid #4/11 2022

Nest pension – none.

SSE (Oct) £53.28: Paid Direct Debit

These payments are proposed by Mr Merrick, seconded by Mr Cassidy and approved unanimously.

**160/22 Reports from liaison rep:** Mr M Evans attended the Northern Parishes Communication Group's recent meeting where WBC Councillor Wayne Smith explained the Boundaries Commission's review of ward boundaries in Wokingham, which is to ensure that Councillors represent the same number of electors. WBC's consultation on this runs until 7th November.

**161/22 Any other business:** Council approved the late addition of Clock Maintenance invoice to Payments to Consider. Proposed by Mrs Bulman and seconded by Mr Merrick and approved unanimously.

Mr M Evans confirmed that the timetable for the WBC Local Plan is being reviewed and an updated timetable will be published in due course.

Neighbourhood Plan status was discussed. Mr Winder to follow advice from O'Neill Homer and chase up with named contacts, Mr B Davis and Mr I Bellinger at WBC.

Mr Cassidy gave his apologies in advance for next meeting.

Mr M Evans closed the meeting at 9:03pm

Chair Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of next meeting: Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

Chair initials \_\_\_\_\_

RPC Minutes 2nd November 2022