

Ruscombe Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting of the Parish Council

Held in the William Penn Room, Loddon Hall, Twyford

On Wednesday 4th January 2023 at 7:30pm

Councillors Present: Mr M Evans (Chair), Mr P Cassidy, Mr J May, Mrs J Holmes, Mr G Merrick.

Others Present: None

Clerk in attendance: Mr G Winder.

7:30pm Mr M Evans opened the meeting.

1/23 Apologies for Absence: Mr G Howe, Mr P Evans and Twyford PC.

2/23 Declaration of Interest: No new interests to declare.

3/23 Minutes: Minutes for 7th December 2022 circulated via email, approval proposed by Mr M Evans, seconded by Mr G Merrick and approved unanimously.

4/23 Public Comments sent to the Clerk or Councillors: Email received to Clerk from a resident asking questions and concerns regarding the Twyford NP and its proposals concerning re-routing of traffic in Twyford and Ruscombe. The same resident also asked for an update on the status of the Ruscombe NP. Response to be provided explaining that RPC have formally commented upon the Twyford NP proposals and that our NP is held up due to inspection issues which are being worked with WBC.

Mr J May joined during this item at 7.35pm.

5/23 Update from Twyford Parish Councillor: None.

6/23 Update from Wokingham Borough Councillors: None.

7/23 Twyford Neighbourhood Plan: No further update.

8/23 Ruscombe Neighbourhood Plan: Mr M Evans advised that WBC were not happy with the examiner and that a meeting has been arranged between himself, Mr Merrick, O'Neill Homer representative and WBC Planning Team. He expects they will suggest another inspection and shared that there had been feedback that WBC were not happy with the description of heritage assets and choice of green space definition.

9/23 Planning Applications:

223730. Information only, no issues raised.

10/23 Ruscombe Ponds: Mr G Merrick shared a further update of his meeting with Mr Barnes in which they looked at scope of work for ponds including a post and rail fence. Mr Merrick will revert to Council with quotes for the work and for removing the pollarded material still stacked against fence.

Mr Merrick will meet with Econet to discuss working with them in future.

Action: Clerk to forward all correspondence regarding the pollarding work to Mr Merrick and Council.

11/23 Pennfields Orchard:

CR Landscapes quote for weeding and re-seeding Bee Highway on London Road was accepted by Council.

Proposed Mr M Evans, seconded by Mr May and carried unanimously.

CR Landscapes quote for stripping down wildflower area in Ruscombe Orchard and adding mulch around fruit trees was accepted by Council.

Proposed by Mr M Evans, seconded by Mr Merrick and carried unanimously.

12/23 Hardship Fund: Clerk shared update from Mrs H Winder that she had made a video for sharing on social media regarding help available for residents.

13/23 SID Maintenance: Mr Merrick updated Council with his findings on converting SIDs to solar power. There are two options:

- (i) Keep device portable but may still to charge periodically, £850 per device.
- (ii) Fully fixed, £1500 per device.

Mr Merrick will go back to supplier for more options and may consult with Hurst PC to see what their experience has been.

Mr Holmes confirmed that her husband is still happy to carry on charging the batteries as needed.

14/23 Trees: Mr Merrick advised Council that the tree has been delivered and is being looked after by Mr Barnes.

Church Warden has not been contactable; Mr Merrick will keep trying.

Action: Mr Merrick to arrange planting, leaving a topping off turve for Mr M Evans to plant ceremonially.

15/23 Grant Application – Citizens Advice Wokingham: Council approved a grant of £250.

Proposed by Chair and seconded by Mr Merrick and unanimously approved.

16/23 Grant Application – Twyford, Wargrave and District Volunteers: Council approved a grant of £250.

Proposed by Chair and seconded by Mr Merrick and unanimously approved.

Action: Clerk to set up record of grants awarded.

17/23 Twyford Parking Survey: Nothing to add.

18/23 Councillor Vacancy: Clerk updated Council that a single application has been received to date and that the deadline is the 12th January for further applicants or a call for election.

Action: Clerk to request a resume from applicant to prepare for potential co-option.

19/23 Loddon Hall RPC Rep: Nothing heard and nothing to report.

20/23 CIL Money:

Glebeland: No update.

Boundary sign: Clerk to share response with Council and advise Mr M Evans when fence may be moved.

Ruscombe sign to Waltham St Lawrence: Clerk to remind WBC that sign is tilted over and needs straightening.

Action: Clerk to raise issue with WBC to find out why Highways stopped short of pond on Stanlake Lane, leaving bad potholes.

21/23 Finance: Payments to consider:

Econet Donation: £60.00 Paid #1/1

Window Flowers: £2967.60 Paid #2/1

O'Neill Homer: £780.00 Paid #3/1

SSE (Nov) £55.00: Paid Direct Debit

M Evans Expenses: £194.98 Paid #4/1

Clerk Wages and Expenses £764.02: Paid #5/1

Defibrillator Battery Replacement £204.00: Paid #6/1

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

Action: Clerk to share definition of CIL funding use with Council and examine opportunity to re-classify more spend as CIL.

22/23 Reports from liaison rep: Nothing to report.

23/23 Any other business: Council discussed and agreed proposal from Citizens Advice Wokingham to attend RPC meeting in February or March.

Mr M Evans closed the meeting at 8:44pm

Chair Signed _____

Date _____

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 1st February 2023