

Ruscombe Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting of the Parish Council

Held in the William Penn Room, Loddon Hall, Twyford

On Wednesday 1st February 2023 at 7:30pm

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

Others Present: Mrs A Hasted, Mrs L Jarvis (TPC), Mr J Hardman resident

Clerk in attendance: Mr G Winder.

7:25pm Mr M Evans opened the meeting.

24/23 Apologies for Absence: Mr G Howe, Mrs J Holmes

25/23 Declaration of Interest: No new interests to declare.

26/23 Minutes: Minutes for 4th January 2023 circulated via email, approval proposed by Mr M Evans, seconded by Mr G Merrick and approved unanimously.

27/23 Councillor Co-option: Mrs A Hasted gave Council a brief presentation on her reasons for applying to become a parish councillor.

Mr M Evans proposed co-opting Mrs Hasted as a councillor, seconded by Mr G Merrick and approved unanimously.

Mrs Hasted was offered Acceptance of Office Form to sign which was counter-signed by Clerk.

28/23 Public Comments sent to the Clerk or Councillors: Mr Hardman raised questions about the latest on land at Northbury Avenue and damage to grass verges by contractors vans carrying out work.

Mr Merrick suggested that it should be in the scope of the planners to rectify any damage as verges are Borough Council property.

Action: Write to WBC and advise that verges are being damaged by contractors vans and seek advice on managing parking on Northbury Avenue perhaps in the form of a polite notice.

29/23 Update from Twyford Parish Councillor: Mrs Jarvis shared update on skate park that Loddon Hall has invoiced TPC for lighting. This cost is likely to increase through the year. £22k of repairs and replacements are on the way for the playground.

The Fete Committee is now the Community Events and Engagement Committee.

Meet The Councillor Session was held on the 4th January and AGM on the 24th.

Coronation plans include LED screen on Stanlake Meadow with band, marquee and Scouts helping. Mugs are planned for the schoolchildren.

Boundary Commission has come back with a three member ward where Ruscombe is combined with Hurst and Twyford.

Flooding on allotments - high water levels coming from Stanlake.

Litter Pick on the 25th March.

Mr M Evans raised question about engaging RPC Loddon Hall Rep, Mr Merrick. Mrs Jarvis confirmed that Mr Jarvis will be emailing everyone about this.

30/23 Update from Wokingham Borough Councillors: None.

31/23 Ruscombe Neighbourhood Plan: Mr M Evans advised that WBC were unhappy with the examiner and options have been discussed with WBC Planners and O'Neill Homer. Mr Merrick, Mr P Evans and Mr M Evans have acted for RPC in these discussions. Next meeting will be on the 8th February via Zoom. WBC have appointed a KC with planning expertise. Council anticipates another examination recommended as soon as possible.

32/23 Planning Applications:

230125. Property has been extended previously and is now over a single storey and extends the ground floor a little. It is possible that it will impact light on left hand neighbour. Enter this as an observation only, not an objection.

33/23 Ruscombe Ponds: Mr G Merrick shared an update on the ponds. We have missed opportunity to dredge the ponds due to newt breeding season. A request will be put into trim hedges.

Planter has been moved!

Castle End Road – prices for putting a knee rail round the edge to define it have been obtained to provide 60m of fence, 4inch post and rail in concrete:

CR Landscapes £2710

Fencing Products £1963 in 4-6 weeks

Mr Merrick proposed that Council accept the Fencing Products quote. Seconded by Mr P Evans and approved unanimously.

Mr May joined during this item at 8.10pm.

Removal of the pollarding pile was discussed, considering options to remove, chipping and pulling back from fence and leaving.

Mr Merrick obtained a quote of £1800 plus VAT including chipper hire of £400 from CR Landscapes.

Mr Merrick proposed acceptance of CR quote, seconded by Mr P Evans and approved unanimously.

34/23 Pennfields Orchard:

Mr P Evans suggested getting a programme together for looking after the orchard involving Econet.

Action: Mr Merrick to contact Econet in next few weeks.

35/23 Hardship Fund: Nothing new to report.

36/23 SID Maintenance: Mr Merrick can arrange fitting of solar panels per quotes in previous minutes. Further investigation ongoing.

Mr Merrick suggested erecting a sign to ward of SIDs.

Action: Mr Merrick to find out about options.

Local resident is happy to manage maintenance for £20/month. Email will be sent to Clerk with details.

Mr M Evans proposed acceptance of this offer, seconded by Mr P Evans and approved unanimously.

37/23 Trees: Nothing to report only that Northbury Avenue trees are doing well.

38/23 Coronation Planning: Council agreed that RPC should contribute to the TPC spend on the Coronation events. Revisit at next meeting.

Action: Clerk to contact TPC Clerk for advice on suitable contribution.

39/23 Borough Parish Liaison Forum Feedback: Mr M Evans circulated email about priorities:

Local plan progress

Parking provision at station

Reporting of infrastructure issues (too many portals)

Action: Mr M Evans will send these suggestions to BPLF.

Mrs Jarvis left the meeting during this item at 8.33pm.

During further discussion in infrastructure Mr M Evans raised two current issues:

- (i) Complaint received about a 'spring' on driveway in Ruscombe Lane. Mr M Evans will draft a letter to WBC and ask Clerk to send on behalf of RPC.
- (ii) Church Warden has notified RPC of a problem with water in Church Lane. Mr M Evans advised that problem was resolved by Thames Water a few years ago but it has returned. Action: Clerk to write to Thames Water and in meantime Mr May will find out who fixed it last time.

40/23 Loddon Hall RPC Rep: Action: Clerk to contact Mr Jarvis for dates of meetings and minutes.

41/23 CIL Money:

Glebeland: Actions carried forward from last meeting.

Boundary sign: Actions carried forward from last meeting.

42/23 Finance: Payments to consider:

CR Landscapes Bee Highway Materials £1763.26 Paid #1/2

CR Landscapes Maintenance Ruscombe Orchard £126.00 Paid #2/2

SSE (Jan) £55.00: Paid Direct Debit

Clerk Wages and Expenses £710.66: Paid #3/2

These payments are proposed by Mr M Evans, 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.

43/23 Reports from liaison rep: Nothing to report.

44/23 Parish Precept: Proposed Precept submission was discussed and agreed for submission by Clerk before deadline.

Action: Clerk to prepare budget proposal for next meeting.

45/23 Any other business: None.

Mr M Evans closed the meeting at 9:00pm

Chair Signed _____

Date _____

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 1st March 2023

Chair initials _____

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