

Ruscombe Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting of the Parish Council

Held in the William Penn Room, Loddon Hall, Twyford

On Wednesday 1st March 2023 at 7:30pm

Councillors Present: Mr M Evans (Chair), Mr P Cassidy, Mr J May, Mr G Merrick, Mrs A Hasted and Mr P Evans

Others Present:, Mrs L Jarvis (TPC), Mr J Jarvis (TPC)

Clerk in attendance: Mr G Winder.

7:30pm Mr M Evans opened the meeting.

49/23 Apologies for Absence: Mr G Howe, Mrs J Holmes

50/23 Declaration of Interest: No new interests to declare.

51/23 Minutes: Minutes for 1st February 2023 circulated via email, approval proposed by Mr P Evans, seconded by Mrs A Hasted and approved unanimously.

52/23 Public Comments sent to the Clerk or Councillors: Streetlighting issues in Pennfields have been raised by several residents. Problem reported and is being actioned by WBC.

53/23 Update from Twyford Parish Councillor: Mrs Jarvis shared that TPC had not had a meeting since last RPC meeting.

Stanlake Pavilion is to be re-built as no longer fit for purpose. Ideas from the cricket and football clubs are being added to those of TPC.

Loddon Hall bar is working well for functions now. Mr J Jarvis has just been setting up payment system. The Committee has been set up.

54/23 Update from Wokingham Borough Councillors: None.

55/23 Ruscombe Neighbourhood Plan: Council agreed at the extraordinary meeting held on the 20th February 2023 that Mr M Evans should follow KC and Consultants advice to withdraw and re-submit the plan. WBC has been notified accordingly.

Current status is that a modified plan has been circulated and is being worked upon by O'Neill Homer. Two key areas of focus are:

- (i) Appendix C – Green Spaces
- (ii) Appendix B – Buildings of Historical Significance

Mr Merrick and Mr P Evans joined during this item.

It was proposed that in expectation that the changes will be made, the plan will be re-submitted as soon as possible.

Proposed by Mr M Evans, seconded by Mr P Evans and approved unanimously.

Council agreed that Mr P Evans should thank Leani for her great effort.

Next Steps:

- 1 Submission.
- 2 WBC accept plan
- 3 Organise a further Regulation 16 consultation

Mr J Jarvis joined during this item.

Mr M Evans has written to the volunteers. Council agreed to use noticeboards and social media to inform residents of what is happening before consultation starts.

Mr M Evans will write a note about what is happening with the plan and the Clerk will ensure that the notice is posted via agreed channels within next few days.

56/23 Planning Applications:

230287 and 230121 already responded prior to meeting, for record only.

57/23 Ruscombe Ponds: Mr G Merrick shared update that he has found a concrete post supplier.

There is another product, post sleeve, double-skinned water-resistant material to support the wooden post approach. There are cheaper options with the sleeve but these still add around £650 to the cost of wooden fencing. There is no data on how much the life of a wooden post is extended.

Mr Merrick suggested that concrete posts and metal rail may be the best way forward as there is no ongoing maintenance cost. The cost of this solution is £4620. Spend proposed by Mr Merrick, seconded by Mrs Holmes and approved unanimously.

Mr and Mrs Jarvis left the meeting during this item.

Mr Merrick further updated Council that he met with Econet to discuss ways of working effectively together. They have good processes in place and insurance. They work in a planned way and will agree a plan for both ponds going forward.

The trimmings will be cleared for Castle End Pond in the coming weeks.

58/23 Pennfields Orchard: No update.

59/23 Hardship Fund: Nothing new to report.

60/23 SID Maintenance: Mr Holmes has got the maintenance in hand and has the RPC step ladder at home. Clerk to check asset register for equipment.

61/23 Trees: Nothing to report.

62/23 Coronation Planning: Nothing to report.

63/23 Borough Parish Liaison Forum Feedback: Mr M Evans did feedback RPC priorities list but no reply received yet.

64/23 Loddon Hall RPC Rep: Mr Merrick could not attend last meeting due to Covid. Not heard anything else.

65/23 CIL Money:

Mr P Cassidy proposed the creation of a village sign perhaps with a newt as part of the design. Mrs Hasted further proposed the name of a possible designer.

Council agreed that the cost could be around £3-4K. Mr P Cassidy to look into proposal further.

66/23 Finance: Payments to consider:

Treetops Landscapes Ltd. £432.00 Paid #1/3

Clerk Wages and Expenses £779.48: Paid #2/3

SSE (Feb) £55.00: Paid Direct Debit

These payments were proposed by Mrs Hasted, seconded by Mr Merrick and approved unanimously.

67/23 Reports from liaison rep:

Mr M Evans attended NPGC on the 15th February. Chair of NPCG commented on delays to Wokingham plan due to developments in the southern part of the borough. This means that RPC must expedite the NP as soon as possible.

68/23 RPC Budget: The RPC Budget for 2023-2024 was presented and proposed by the Clerk and accepted by Council after discussion and minor adjustments. The possibility of a Coronation Bench was discussed, located near the Queen's Tree. Clerk to look into options.

69/23 Any other business:

Mr M Evans raised state of verges damaged by contractor's vans. Clerk to draft a message to WBC regarding a polite notice.

Mr P Evans to draft a letter regarding the safety of Stanlake Lane and the unfinished 50ft of verge.

Mrs Hasted raised a query regarding the for-sale signage erected by the business park on the same verge. She believes that they can get temporary planning consent to do this but are we able to check?

Mr Merrick raised a query regarding the land to the left of Waltham Road which he felt is worth looking at as an amenity space. He believed that former Clerk had details of the trustees who own it and wondered if we could ask them whether RPC can lease it.

Mr M Evans closed the meeting at 8:55pm

Chair Signed _____

Date _____

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 5th April 2023

Chair initials _____

RPC Minutes 1st March 2023