

Ruscombe Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting of the Parish Council

Held in the William Penn Room, Loddon Hall, Twyford

On Wednesday 4th October 2023 at 7:30pm

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

Others Present: Mr M Andrea (TPC)

Clerk in attendance: Mr G Winder.

7:31pm Mr M Evans opened the meeting.

161/23 Apologies for Absence: Mr G Howe, Mrs J Holmes, Mr P Evans, Mr J May and Mrs A Hasted

162/23 Declaration of Interest: No new interests to declare.

163/23 Minutes: Minutes for 6th September 2023 circulated via email, approval proposed by Mr G Merrick, seconded by Mr P Cassidy and approved unanimously.

164/23 Public Comments sent to the Clerk or Councillors: Comments received from residents on the state of The Orchard.

Action: Clerk to chase up start date for works already approved.

165/23 Update from Twyford Parish Councillor: Mr M Andrea shared an update with Council including that fact that TPC held a strategy meeting on the 20th September covering the next few years which includes projects like the Stanlake Pavilion and skate park group.

The next Meet the Councillor session will be on the 14th October, Mr M Evans will attend for RPC. The session after that will be on the 11th November.

Planning enforcement is now required at a plot on Wargrave Road following numerous complaints from neighbours.

Need to get some ideas on gathering speed camera data and ideas for using it.

Sonning have been quite successful and may be worth consulting regarding speed guns.

Mr M Evans added that RPC would be interested in a speed gun and commented that RPC would need to decide who to train. He thanked Mr Andrea for the idea.

166/23 Update from Wokingham Borough Councillors: Mr M Evans shared the email update received from Mr Howe:

Mr Howe has been asking when the Local Plan will be forthcoming and has been advised that it will be later this year.

There has been debate concerning the increase in parking charges and the removal of litter bins.

The local elections next May will have an impact on WBC business.

Ruscombe will be in a new ward and back in the Wokingham constituency.

167/23 Ruscombe Neighbourhood Plan: Mr M Evans updated Council that the Examiners Report will be considered by the Executive on the 26th October and publicly available from the 18th. The referendum will be in early December, date TBC.

He suggested that RPC needs to get the volunteers involved but emphasised that the rules are strict and RPC cannot influence a 'yes' vote.

Mr Merrick suggested sending out a letter to everyone updating the residents.

Action: Clerk to request set of rules around the referendum period from Democratic Services and distribute asap.

Mr Andrea advised keeping a moderator on any SM publicity concerning the referendum.

Mr M Evans proposed a meeting of the NP Working Group on the 18th October at The Royal Oak starting at 7pm. He will send invitations.

Action: Clerk to attend and take notes.

168/23 Planning Applications: None only enforcement on London Road.

169/23 Ruscombe Ponds: Mr Merrick met with Econet and CR Landscapes as well as Alex regarding signage.

The main pond in is a poor state and needs to be tackled in two phases, Econet will charge £60 to clear it including removal of sapling trees up to edge of pond.

CR Landscapes will use an excavator to clear weed and leave on pondside.

Mr Merrick has requested that work teams have a banksman on the roadside.

A separate quote has been requested from CR as the rail looks poor and they will quote to strip it.

Church Road pond is overgrown in Willow. Mr Merrick suggested clearing just the front but it may need doing twice a year as it may be better to maintain it ongoing.

Mr M Evans proposed approval of the plan, seconded by Mr P Cassidy and approved unanimously.

170/23 Pennfields Orchard: See prior action to chase contractors.

171/23 SID Maintenance: All working with new batteries in.

172/23 Trees: Mr Merrick to obtain quote for removing the dead tree in Northbury Avenue.

173/23 Loddon Hall RPC Rep: Mr Merrick shared with Council that an association had been set up to re-launch Loddon Hall. There is a New Constitution which allows them to do more.

Work has been carried out on blocked drains, windows and a partial bar is available.

Meeting was attended by a subset of TPC and users of the hall. The meeting was long and covered much detail, but no master plan is in place.

No discussion held on the uses of the hall and it is not compliant on many levels.

Mr Merrick caught up with the Treasurer afterwards and suggested that RPC may be able to help with the kitchen.

174/23 CIL Money:

Town Sign – Council discussed the location with a proposal to place it where the planter is currently near the pond. All members of Council were encouraged to look at this location with a view to obtaining agreement.

175/23 Finance: Payments to consider:

Me2 Club Grant £300.00 Paid #1/9
Chambers Property Services £368.00 Paid #2/9
Oneill Homer £390.00 Paid #3/9
Clerk Wages and Expenses £861.82 Paid #4/9
SSE (Sep) £55.00: Paid Direct Debit #5/9

These payments were proposed by Mr G Merrick, seconded by Mr P Cassidy and approved unanimously.

176/23 Reports from liaison rep:

Mr M Evans attended NPCG on the 27th September and will supply minutes when available.

There was a Police representative at the meeting who shared the fact that TVP have a line map which shows where crime has been committed.

177/23 Any other business:

Project Management: Mr Merrick shared with Council the intention to list all projects in one place capturing the history and details tied together with one ID/number.

Mr Merrick advised Council that RPC is legally responsible for the work carried out under Civil Law and that contractors must be competent and experienced in the work. RPC must have sight of their insurances for Public Liability and Council needs to understand their Health and Safety record.

It is proposed that Mrs Hasted will be Programme Manager and that we add a heading on the agenda for Projects to encompass the current categories for Ponds, Trees etc.

Mr M Evans shared the Community Involvement Statement with Council and asked if anyone wanted to go into this and that it would be good to follow up. He asked if a request to be advised of Permitted Development could be raised.

Mr M Evans closed the meeting at 9:00pm

Chair Signed_____

Date_____

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 1st November 2023

Chair initials_____

RPC Minutes 4th October 2023