

Ruscombe Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting of the Parish Council

Held in the William Penn Room, Loddon Hall, Twyford

On Wednesday 6th September 2023 at 7:30pm

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

Others Present: Mr F Newman (TPC)

Clerk in attendance: Mr G Winder.

7:30pm Mr M Evans opened the meeting.

145/23 Apologies for Absence: Mr G Howe and Mrs J Holmes.

Declaration of Interest: No new interests to declare.

146/23 Minutes: Minutes for 5th July 2023 circulated via email, approval proposed by Mr M Evans, seconded by Mr P Evans and approved unanimously.

147/23 Public Comments sent to the Clerk or Councillors: Comments received from Mr S Evans regarding rubbish bins, passed on to WBC for action.

148/23 Update from Twyford Parish Councillor: Mr F Newman apologised for lack of TPC attendance at last meeting due to referendum duties and thanked Council for congratulations on the result. One key lesson learned is that Councillors cannot influence the vote but can encourage voting which resulted in a 29% turnout.

The village fete went very well.

TPC are just about to invite tenders for the skatepark renewal and any contributions are welcome!

Looking forward to the next Meet the Councillor event with Mr P Cassidy attending for RPC.

The future project to renovate Stanlake Pavilion is in the early stages driven by the need for separate changing rooms and more additional spaces.

149/23 Update from Wokingham Borough Councillors: None.

150/23 Ruscombe Neighbourhood Plan: Mr M Evans updated Council that we have received the Examiners final report with very few comments overall except that three green spaces have been rejected for mainly technical reasons and advised that Council should make comment on the grounds of wildlife street scene etc. Council awaits the timetable for the referendum.

151/23 Planning Applications:

231975 Submitted 'no comment'.

152/23 Ruscombe Ponds: Mr Merrick shared an update on work in progress with Econet and Mr C Richards. Proposing an annual clean up end September/beginning October. Need to remove a sapling ash tree first. Safety queries were raised regarding roadside working and assurances received.

Signage: we need legal and barrier signs. CR Landscapes will strip and paint barrier.

We aim to pick up a history board in the form of a lectern with six panels. This will encourage people to stop and learn. Alex can prepare something for RPC with a suggested cost of £200. Awaiting note with quotation fee from CR Landscapes.

Mr M Evans proposed supporting the plan, seconded by Mrs A Hasted and approved unanimously.

153/23 Pennfields Orchard: SCS quote was circulated for £366 +VAT or £30.50/month +VAT.

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

154/23 SID Maintenance: The supplier did not recognise the part number although still made by Small and Co. Mr Chambers has identified that the batteries are not specific and has sourced two. He will submit invoice.

A general discussion was held around the effectiveness of the SIDs and the consensus was that they have some positive effect on driving behaviour.

155/23 Trees: Northbury trees are surviving well.

156/23 Loddon Hall RPC Rep: Mr Merrick shared with Council that there was a large gathering which included Mrs Winder (TPC) and other parties. There is a plan to create a Loddon Hall Twyford and Ruscombe Association to invite people to join. It will have charity status.

They have identified that drains were blocked, fixed some panes of glass and offered limited bar opening. Proceedings seem a little haphazard and nothing was discussed about viability for the future. Currently not bringing in the large events.

Mr M Evans asked if there were any minutes. Mr Merrick will enquire about this.

Mr M Evans also noted that RPC is keen to spend some CIL money on the hall e.g. kitchen area needs improving.

Mr Merrick shared that there were no trustees at the meeting and a new constitution has been formed.

157/23 CIL Money:

Town Sign – Mr Merrick will find out source of objection to cross-roads location.

A question was raised about the land in front of the Church as it is not registered – can RPC claim the land?

A further query was raised whether RPC can put the sign near the noticeboard.

8.23 Mr May joined meeting.

All the dimensions of the sign are needed to apply for planning permission. Mr Cassidy will get details for Mr Merrick.

Council needs to decide facing position of sign. Mr M Evans requested a sketch.

Discussion concluded that the design is agreed and that Council needs a couple of options to choose from on material and location.

Mr M Evans proposed that Council accept Sally's design, seconded by Mr Merrick and agreed unanimously.

Mr Winder raised the state of bollards at the junction between London Road and New Road. He will find out ownership and report back to Council.

Mr Merrick noted to Council that footpath signs had disappeared.

158/23 Finance: Payments to consider:

Window Flowers £274.80 Paid #1/7

Loddon Hall £6.50 Paid #2/7

Oneill Homer £1560.00 Paid #3/7

Clerk Wages and Expenses £915.51 Paid #4/7

SSE (July) £58.07: Paid Direct Debit #5/7

CR Landscapes £234.00 Paid #1/8

NetWise UK £396.00 Paid #2/8

HMRC £100.00 Paid #3/8

Clerk Wages and Expenses £801.83 Paid #4/8

SSE (Aug) £55.00: Paid Direct Debit #5/8

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

159/23 Reports from liaison rep:

Mr P Cassidy stood in for Mr Howe at the Town and Parish Councillors Meeting where there was much discussion about the changes to waste bin collection to be introduced next year as well as focusing on the deficit in funding.

160/23 Any other business:

The grant request from the Me2Club was considered and it was proposed to award £300 in funding this year.

Proposed by Mr M Evans, seconded by Mrs Anne Hasted and approved unanimously.

Mr M Evans closed the meeting at 8:51pm

Chair Signed _____

Date _____

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 4th October 2023

Chair initials _____

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