

Ruscombe Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting of the Parish Council

Held in the William Penn Room, Loddon Hall, Twyford

On Wednesday 7th June 2023 at 7:30pm

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

Others Present: Mr F Newman (TPC)

Clerk in attendance: Mr G Winder.

7:30pm Mr M Evans opened the meeting.

112/23 Apologies for Absence: Mr G Howe, Mrs J Holmes, Mrs A Hasted and Mr P Evans.

113/23 Declaration of Interest: No new interests to declare.

114/23 Minutes: Minutes for 10th May 2023 circulated via email, approval proposed by Mr P Cassidy, seconded by Mr G Merrick and approved unanimously.

115/23 Public Comments sent to the Clerk or Councillors: A number of comments received concerning cutting of grass verges and public spaces in the parish.

Action: Clerk to write to WBC and update Council.

116/23 Update from Twyford Parish Councillor: Mr Newman introduced himself to Council as a new TPC representative. He shared the TPC hope that there will be a good turnout for the Neighbourhood Plan Referendum in July. Mr Newman also drew Council's attention to the invitation to RPC Councillors to join the TPC Meet the Councillors events held at Waitrose in Twyford. Clerk circulated the invitation.

117/23 Update from Wokingham Borough Councillors: None.

118/23 Ruscombe Neighbourhood Plan: Mr M Evans shared with Council that the plan consultation ends on the 26th June 2023. In the meantime WBC are seeking CVs of potential examiners with an estimate of four weeks to obtain these from RICS.

119/23 Planning Applications: No planning applications to consider. License extension regarding kebab van requires no comment as no impact on Ruscombe.

120/23 Ruscombe Ponds: Mr G Merrick shared update on his ongoing discussion with Econet. He has encouraged them to create a proper schedule of works which includes many pages of detail. This includes a proposal for carrying out work in October at the Crossroads Pond. Econet cannot carry out dredging but Mr Merrick has spoken to CR Landscapes who can do this work. Both organisations can work together. Econet have insurance but need a bit of detail added regarding H&S. Nearer to the planned time, Mr Merrick will walk through the work with them. Risk registers will also be discussed.

Mr Merrick will ask CR to trim the bramble hedge in the meantime.

Castle End Pond tends to flood. Mr Merrick will ask CR if they can improve drainage at same time as carrying out the work at the Crossroads.

Mr Merrick shared details of a pond behind the business park which needs tidying and clearing. It may not be RPC land. An OS may be needed to establish ownership. Chair commented that we should leave this pond if the land is not ours.

Regarding RPC ponds, Mr Merrick will put together some proposals regarding signage including 'no fishing', RPC ownership and public usage e.g. for orchard.

121/23 Pennfields Orchard: Has not been cut and is becoming a wildflower extravaganza. Mr Merrick will follow up with CR Landscapes.

122/23 SID Maintenance: The new arrangement is working and SID has been fixed. A proposal to purchase a further SID for New Road using CIL was discussed.

123/23 Trees: Mr Merrick asked if we can put a notice on Social Media and the RPC Website to ask people to remember to water the trees in Northbury Avenue.

124/23 Loddon Hall RPC Rep: Nothing to report.

8.05pm Mr J May joined the meeting

125/23 CIL Money:

Town Sign - Mr May obtained mixed feedback on location. RPC need to explore other sites including London Road and Pennfields.

Clerk to prepare and share CIL usage update prior to next meeting.

Clerk to look into license for hanging baskets with WBC.

Clerk will follow up with Window Flowers regarding the additional hanging baskets near church.

126/23 Finance: Payments to consider:

Loddon Hall Invoice £ 27.00 Paid #1/4

BALC Annual Membership £ 255.26 Paid #2/4

Royal Mail PO Box £ 396.00 Paid #3/4

Ansvar Annual Insurance Renewal £ 736.86 Paid #4/4

Twyford Growers Donation £ 740.00 Paid #5/4

Clerk Wages and Expenses £730.78 #6/4

SSE (May) £54.78: Paid Direct Debit

These payments were proposed by Mr J May, seconded by Mr G Merrick and approved unanimously.

Water butts for allotments – Mr Merrick has obtained pricing of around £40 each from Screwfix and will develop a proposal around this.

127/23 Reports from liaison rep:

Mr M Evans informed Council he attended NP Comms Group and will circulate minutes. He confirmed that Sonning had also received an FOI request.

128/23 Any other business:

Mr Merrick shared with Council his observations of permitted development in Northbury Avenue.

He also raised concerns regarding dog waste bin shortage.
Clerk to ask WBC for process regarding emptying and requesting more bins.

Grundon GVOL extension – Council entered ‘no comment’ to this request.

Mr M Evans closed the meeting at 8:38pm

Chair Signed _____

Date _____

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 5th July 2023

Chair initials _____