

## **Ruscombe Parish Council**

### **Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council**

**Held in the William Penn Room, Loddon Hall, Twyford**

**On Wednesday 8th May 2024 at 7:30pm**

**Councillors Present:** Mr M Evans (Chair), Mr G Merrick, Mr P Cassidy, Mr N Barnes, Mrs A Hasted and Mrs E Cameron

**Others Present:** Mr F Newman (TPC). Residents Mrs S Moore and Mrs E White.

**Clerk in attendance:** Mr G Winder

7:30pm Mr G Winder opened the meeting.

**71/24 Election of new Chair:** Mr Cassidy was proposed by Mrs Cameron and seconded by Mr Merrick and carried unanimously by Council show of hands.

Clerk handed meeting over to new Chair, Mr Cassidy.

**72/24 Election of Vice Chair:** Mrs Hasted was proposed by Mrs Cameron and seconded by Mr M Evans.

**73/24 Planning Chair:** Mr Merrick was proposed by Mr Barnes and seconded by Mrs Hasted.

**74/24 Planning Vice Chair:** Mr P Evans (in absentia) was proposed by Mr Merrick and seconded by Mrs Cameron.

All new posts were approved unanimously by Council.

**75/24 Apologies for Absence:** Mr G Howe and Mr P Evans

**76/24 Declaration of Interest:** No new declarations.

**77/24 Minutes:** The minutes of meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2024 were proposed by Mr M Evans, seconded by Mr Merrick and approved unanimously.

**78/24 Public Comments sent to the Clerk or Councillors:**

Resident visitors brought letters received from LTN, developer for new proposed care home on former Hyde Nursery site, New Road. To be discussed during planning item.

**79/24 Election Update:**

Clerk advised Council that all six Councillor posts nominated went uncontested.

**80/24 Update from Twyford Parish Councillor:**

Mr Newman told Council that TPC had held their AGM and had approved the contractor for the skate park, Maverick. The cost will be £200k with a £40k contingency. Work is expected to start in the autumn.

The second public meeting will be held for skate park users next Tuesday for the users. TPC will be looking at applying for grants and possibly crowd funding.

Speed gun – potential users will need to register a site and three members are needed to sign up for a site. Wargrave Road is currently signed up.

**81/24 Update from Wokingham Borough Councillors:**

None in attendance.

**82/24 Matters Arising:**

**Action:** Clerk to update any outstanding Matters Arising from previous and this meeting and distribute to Council as soon as possible.

**Action:** Clerk to arrange group teach in on new shared file systems.

**83/24 Planning Applications:**

240632 – Kiln House, Ruscombe Lane. No comment entered.

240948 – 85 New Road. No comment entered.

240993 – New Care Home, New Road. Objection entered.

Further planning discussion was held around the care home development involving resident visitors.

Mrs White stated that she was impacted as the development runs across the back of her property, does not comply with the Neighbourhood Plan and had concerns about road access/safety. She had been told by LTN that they had done 250 homes around the country. She also shared concerns about impact on the person renting her annex.

Mr Merrick responded with his assessment that a full set of construction drawings have not been submitted as part of this application which makes it very difficult to evaluate the true impact.

Mrs White shared with Council that she is concerned about the height of buildings and proximity to the boundary. She also raised concern that a bin store is proposed for that corner and that there have already been rat problems and believes that some modifications could be made.

Mrs Moore asked if Ruscombe needed a new care home as there are 20 care homes within a three mile radius.

Mrs White mentioned that there is no bus access and only 25 spaces.

Mr Merrick stated that he has contacted LTN and requested a full set of plans. He will reply to WBC when he has these. Until then he cannot take a view.

Mrs Hasted stated that it was good that the Neighbourhood Plan has been agreed as it states what we expected.

There was further discussion around these issues including the 'plans' shared directly with some residents.

Mrs Hasted asked if RPC can step in and say that this development does not comply with the Neighbourhood Plan and stop them in their tracks.

Mr Merrick confirmed that he will be going back to WBC for full plans so Council may respond in full.

8.24pm visiting residents left the meeting

#### **84/24 Projects:**

Mrs Hasted shared printed list of projects.

It was agreed that RPC need to separate ongoing work from capital projects.

Mr Merrick stated that CR Landscapes had been asked to clear overhanging trees on Northbury Avenue.

#### **85/24 Finance - CIL Spending:**

No quotes were received for consideration.

No CIL report was available.

**Action:** Clerk to update and circulate CIL Report.

#### **86/24 Finance – Payments to Consider:**

Amazon Business Clerk's replacement printer £214.98 #1/4

Amazon Business Clerk's replacement laptop £488.00 #2/4

Amazon Business Clerk's replacement mouse £19.98 #3/4

Clerk Wages and Expenses £1,281.01 #4/4

Info Commissioner GDPR £35.00 #5/4

BALC Annual Membership £263.50 #6/4

EdgeIT Annual Accounts System Fee £298.80 #7/4

EdgeIT Clerk's set up fee £98.40 #8/4

CR Landscapes Ltd Knee Rail Posts £233.76 #9/4

CR Landscapes Ltd Bee Highway Labour £720.00 #10/4

SCS Ltd Pennfields Orchard (Apr) £36.60 #11/4

SLCC Annual Membership Prof Body £144.00 #12/4

CAS Annual Insurance Renewal £822.11 #13/4

O'Neill Homer Planning Town Sign £4,454.40 #14/4

BDK Solutions Annual Email Domain Names £60.00 #15/4

SSE (Apr) £123.09: Paid Direct Debit #16/4

Payments were proposed by Mr Barnes, seconded by Mr Merrick and approved unanimously by Council.

**87/24 Reports From Liaison Reps:**

Mr Merrick has proposed a good Quantity Surveyor contact to Loddon Hall.  
Next Loddon Hall Council Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

Mr M Evans shared update on NPLG at which the Berkshire Local Nature Recovery Scheme (BLNRS) was discussed and RPC was asked if willing to approach local landowners to join the scheme. Possible details in the Neighbourhood Plan.

**Action:** Mr M Evans to forward email.

**88/24 Any other business:**

CIL Co-funding bids reviewed. No feedback from Council.

Year End:

Full Year figures for 2023-2024

Budget for 2024-2025

Financial Overview for APM

**Action:** Clerk to issue above to Council for review/approval ahead of APM

Clerk asked Council if it would be willing to pay going rates for room hire at Loddon Hall. This was agreed in principle by Council.

Chair closed meeting at 8.56pm

Chair Signed\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_

**Date of next meeting: Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2024**