

# Rodington Parish Council

## Council Meeting

**Minutes of Rodington Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 18 May 2011 at Rodington Village Hall.**

**Present:** Councillors B Ashton, M Crump, J French, C Johnson, D Johnson and J Perkin and Borough Councillor J Seymour.

**Clerk:** Alison Hinks.

### **2353/00 Chairman's Welcome and Announcements**

The Chairman welcomed the new Parish Councillors to the meeting.

### **2354/00 Public Session and Matters of Concern**

The Clerk to formally write to Claire Broderick to thank her for the work she undertook during her time as Councillor.

**Resolved: The Clerk to write to Claire Broderick**

Cllr French reported that the newly erected sign for the 'aqueduct' was spelt wrong, which has been removed by T&W Council. There are also spelling errors on the information board about the aqueduct.

**Resolved: The Clerk to report this to Jaswant Sidhu, T&W Council.**

Cllr Perkin reported potholes: from Drury Lane to the parish boundary with Shropshire; Sunningdale junction, along Roden Lane, along Walcott to Rodington Heath road.

**Resolved: The Clerk to report the post holes to T&W Council Highways.**

It was report the building work at Willow Vale, Longdon upon Tern, has now been completed.

**Resolved: The Clerk to contact T&W Planning Department to ask if all relevant paperwork has been returned by the homeowner.**

### **2355/00 Apologies**

Apologies were accepted from Councillor T Osborne and Borough Councillor T Keirnan.

### **2356/00 Declaration of Interest**

Councillors had nothing to declare.

### **2357/00 Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 2 March 2011**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 2 March 2011 were proposed as a true record by Cllr Johnson and seconded by Cllr Perkin. The proposals were unanimously approved and the minutes accordingly signed by the Chairman.

### **2358/00 Clerk's Report**

- **New layout on bridge in Longdon upon Tern**

Following the complaint from Wrekin Cycle Club about the new road layout and the danger this could cause cyclist, the Chairman responded to explain the reasons for changing the road layout. David Poulter from Wrekin Cycle Club responded to say *“disappointing but non the less sadly expected. We have often commented on various traffic calming measures in the area and to date not one has ever been altered even though invariably the safety for one group always seems to transfer the dangers in the direction of vulnerable road users ie, cyclists. We have at least alerted the PC to the potential dangers that could be caused by these measures and how they could easily be minimised; hopefully they won't have needed to be brought up in the future.”*

The Clerk reported to T&W Highways Department the change to the visibility for traffic coming out of Isombridge Lane since the recent changes to the road lay out in Longdon upon Tern. Their response was that *“the recent change to the road layout is minimal and unavoidable in order to create a pedestrian walk-way across the bridge. The visibility at Isombridge Lane/B5063 junction was bad before the recent works took place not as result of the work. The recent works on the bridge has shifted the flow of traffic to one side of the bridge by 300mm, taking into consideration the distance between Isombridge Lane and the bridge (45m) this lead to a trivial change in the visibility angle (0.0067) degree.”*

- **Affordable Housing in Rodington**

Fiona Steward, T&W Council Housing Policy & Enabling Officer met with Parish Councillors at 6.00 pm on Wednesday 20 April 2011 at Longdon upon Tern Village Hall to update the Parish Council on Affordable Housing in the Parish. At this meeting Parish Councillors decided to move forward with discussions with landowners at the site next to Rodington Cemetery.

- **Planning Matters**

Nothing to report.

- **Right of Way**

The Clerk contacted Jaswant Sidhu, T&W Council Senior Rights of Way Officer to chase the information boards that are to be erected in Longdon upon Tern and Rodington and to also chase about the lane off Manley's Lane, Somerwood. The noticeboard has at Longdon upon Tern has now been completed but the noticeboard at Rodington is outstanding.

**Resolved: The Clerk to contact Jaswant Sidhu, T&W Council, to chase the noticeboard at Rodington.**

- **Rodington Cemetery**

Phil Pritchard, T&W Environment and Open Spaces, contacted the Clerk to inform her that in line with good practice, T&W will shortly be undertaking a condition survey of structures over 1.75m in cemeteries and closed churchyards across the borough which will help inform us of ongoing maintenance responsibilities. They will be visiting St Georges Church in Rodington on 6 June 2011. The surveys will be low key and undertaken by two council officers who on occasions may use a free standing ladder where necessary. When working on site they will erect portable signage to say survey work in progress and they are fully aware of the sensitive nature when working on site.

- **Potholes in Rodington**

The Clerk reported the potholes reported from Drury Lane to the parish boundary with Shropshire; Sunningdale junction, along Roden Lane, along Walcott to Rodington Heath Road and have received confirmation from T&W Highways Department that 3 potholes on Somerwood Road have been filled. The Sunningdale junction along Roden Lane has been informed that this work has been completed. The other two locations (Drury Lane to the parish boundary and along Walcott to Rodington Heath) are still being dealt with. Unfortunately the Highways technician is currently off sick and an alternative officer will be going out to these locations to investigate and progress.

- **Road Signage in Somerwood/Rodington**

The Clerk contacted Lee Barnard to agree the positions for the road signage redirecting heavy duty vehicles away from the village. The signing would be advisory, so if a vehicle did drive down the lane, they would not be breaking any traffic law, but it is considered that the signage would help improve matters.

**Resolved: The Clerk to advise T&W Council that Councillors agree with the proposed sign.**

- **Community Fruit Garden**

The Clerk is in the process of getting a quote for fencing and hedging for the roadside by the community fruit garden.

- **Road Salting during Winter Months**

The Clerk reported to Simon Wiley, T&W Highways Department that more roads within the Parish need to be gritted during the winter period. His response is as follows: *“This Council along with most Council’s across the Country has a Winter Policy that does not include for the routine gritting of all roads or footpaths. This Council routinely grits some 40% of the road network. The Winter Service policy for 2010/11 states that the Council will undertake pre-cautionary salting on roads as defined below:*

*Primary Routes:*

- *A & B roads*
- *Roads serving fire, ambulance, police establishments*
- *Main bus routes in the following centres: Telford Town Centre, Dawley, Madeley, Newport, Oakengates & Wellington.*
- *Access roads to transport interchanges*

*Secondary Routes:*

- *Other regular bus routes (The regular bus routes are defined as Monday to Friday routes with a minimum of one bus per hour during the main part of the day).*
- *Feeder roads to schools (roads linking main salting routes to main school entrances)*
- *Main access roads on industrial estates (Halesfield, Stafford Park, Hortonwood)*
- *One access route to main villages/hamlets and minor sections of road for continuity.*

*I can confirm that the route requested does not meet the criteria of the Councils Winter Service policy. The village of Rodington is served by gritting from the B5062 Haughton crossroads to Roden, Roden to Rodington Heath, Rodington Heath to Rodington, Rodington to Church crossroads, Rodington Church crossroads to Boundary and then returning to the B5062.*

*Also, during prolonged periods of snow and ice, a salt/grit mixture will be spread to aid traction. The use of salt/grit will generally be confined to rural roads below secondary distributor status and will be used to provide additional traction for vehicles particularly if hard packed snow is evident. This is carried out as a matter of routine on various routes, which includes roads to main villages, such as Rodington.*

*Other routes will be considered on the basis of not being passable with care or where local difficulties are reported, i.e. deeply rutted ice.*

*However, I will include your request for the additional gritting, in the Winter Service Review this summer, where it will be considered along with any other requests that may be received.”*

- **Speed Limit through Longdon upon Tern**

Amir Aal Ubaid, T&W Highways and Transport contacted me suggest that following the completion of the new schemes on B5063 Longdon Upon Tern (including the footway link section and parking area for visitors to the Longdon on Tern aqueduct) T&W proposed to extend the current section of 30mph to extend beyond the new parking area that has been provided. The proposal will extend the length of the 30mph section of road by around 300m, and is intended to support lower traffic manoeuvres in an area where we expect to have vehicle manoeuvres for people parking in the new parking bay. The new speed limit is to be introduced under an experimental traffic order that gives us a flexibility to accommodate any future changes should they be necessary. This change came into force on 20 April 2011 and 30mph signs have been installed to mark the new 30mph Boundary.

- **Smithy Corner, Longdon upon Tern**

The Clerk has been asked to investigate the planning application for the development of Smithy Corner in Longdon upon Tern, with concern about the house being built many years ago but landscaping and trench to prevent methane build up is yet to be completed. T&W Planning Department response is as follows: *“Condition no. 3 of the above application W79/0433 stated that a cut off trench shall be constructed along the site boundary nearest the landfill site to intersect any gases that may mitigate in that direction. There was no condition in terms of landscaping. Correspondence was received by the applicant to discharge conditions, but these were in relation to roof tiles, external materials and minor amendments.*

*The above Condition 3 was not discharged and unfortunately due to the time period since commencement there is no action we can take to rectify this. Building Regulations noted in 2002 that the trench had not commenced but the onus is on the applicant to discharge the conditions, not the Local Authority.”*

- **Villa Farm**

The Clerk contacted T&W Planning Department regarding concerns raised by residents of Gilbert Mount/Church Road/Grove Lane. I received a letter from David Jones, Planning Enforcement Officer to update me on the above, the letter reads as follows:

*Unauthorised running of a business from the property – “The running of a business from any of the agricultural buildings at the site would require planning permission. I have visited the site on a number of occasions and have yet to see any evidence of a business being run from the site. I am aware that a member of the family is a self employed landscape gardener who visits the site in his works van, however visiting the property in his van is not a breach of*

*planning control. I have made them aware on several occasions that none of the agricultural buildings should be used for business purposes and any such use would result in enforcement action being taken. I am continuing to monitor the site in order to ensure no business activities start from any of the buildings on site.”*

*Siting of two static caravans – “The two static caravans situated at the site are currently unauthorised. One of the caravans was to be used as living accommodation however I requested that the caravan was not lived in without the necessary planning permission being granted. I have witnessed no one residing at the caravan during any subsequent visits. The owners have informed me that they plan to renovate the farmhouse and would like to retain the static caravans on a temporary basis until such works are completed. As such a planning application is expected shortly for both the temporary siting of the static caravans and for renovation/improvements to the house itself. If no application for the caravans is forthcoming or the application is refused then formal enforcement action will be considered.”*

*Scrambling/motorcycle racing – “The use of the field for motorcycle racing/scrambling may be a breach of planning control dependant on a number of issues including the number of days per annum that the field is used for this purposes, if it is solely the owners of the land racing there and whether organised races take place at the site. I have not witnessed any racing on site to date myself but I will be carrying out weekend visits in order to ascertain the level of motorcycle racing that is taking place on the site and will report back accordingly.”*

*Increase in traffic along Grove Lane/Gilbert Mount – “The Local Planning authority will be unable to take any action over Grove Lane/Gilbert Mount being used by the owners of the property to access their land, general visitors to the farm or farm vehicles/machinery accessing the farm and fields. Should vehicles use the lane in connection with an unauthorised use (ie. If a business was operating from one of the buildings and vehicles were coming to/from that building) then the Local Planning authority would be able to take action against the unauthorised use. Should residents feel that the road is being damaged by vehicles accessing Villa Farm or have concerns over rights of access or ownership of the road then these are civil matters and they should seek legal advice with regard to this matter.”*

*Pigs and sheep being brought onto the site – “The Local Planning authority has received complaints regarding the keeping of pigs and more recently sheep within the agricultural fields adjacent to Villa Farm. The keeping of pigs and/or sheep at a farm is not a breach of planning control and consequently I am unable to take any action in this regard.”*

- **Land Off Manley’s Lane, Rodington**

I contacted Jaswant Sidhu, T&W Rights of Way, for an update on progress for a bridleway along the unadopted pathway by off Manley’s Lane. He has responded to say that both adjacent landowners have indicated that they would not object to the addition of a bridleway along the lane.

**Resolved: The Clerk to respond to confirm that there has been vehicle use along this route for many years, with residents using it to access their back gardens. Rodington Parish Council are adamant that this should remain a by way open to all traffic and not be downgraded to a bridleway.**

## **2359/00 Financial Statements**

- Bank Reconciliation and Spreadsheet

The Clerk went through the bank reconciliation from 29 March 2011 to 16 May 2011 showing a calculated balance of £15,066.79. A copy of the bank statement is available to members.

- The Clerk went through the RPC Income and Expenditure spreadsheet for the months of January 2011 showing:
  - total income of £4646.53 made up of half yearly Precept and bank interest.
  - total expenditure of £1011.47 outlined below.
- Accounts for Payment  
Listed below is the list of payments and transfers for April 2011, which unanimously approved and authorised by Cllr French and Cllr Johnson:

**Authorised Bank Transfer from Community Account to BMM Account**

Date	Drawn From	Bank Reference	Amount
16.05.11	Community	IBT	£3,000.00
		<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,000.00</b>

**Authorised Cheque Payments from Community Account**

Date	Payee	Cheque Number	Amount
16.05.11	Post Office Ltd	100135	£42.60
16.05.11	ALC	100136	£278.55
16.05.11	Aon Ltd	100137	£429.32
16.05.11	Longdon upon Tern Village Hall Committee	100138	£10.00
		<b>Total</b>	<b>£760.47</b>

**Authorised Internet Bank Transfers from Community Account**

Date	Payee	Bank Reference	Amount
29.3.11	Alison Hinks	IBP	£171.03
29.3.11	Alison Hinks	IBP	£50.00
29.3.11	Alison Hinks	IBP	£19.97
		<b>Total</b>	<b>£241.00</b>

The accounts were proposed as an accurate record by Cllr French, seconded by Cllr Johnson, unanimously agreed by the Council and approved and signed by the Chairman and Cllr Johnson.

- **2010/11 Year End Accounts**  
Cllr French signed the year end accounts which confirmed a carry forward to £10,419.80 which is to be used for new play equipment at Rodington Playing Field.
- **2010/11 Internal Audit**  
Cllr French signed the External Audit paperwork which would now be forwarded to the Internal Audit, with all the other relevant paperwork, for approval.

**2360/00 All Planning Matters**

Nothing to report.

**2361/00 Site Visit to Rodington Cemetery**

It was acknowledged that the garden of rest needed to be increased in size by two columns. It was also acknowledged that eventually the area for the burial plots would need to be increased and a small tree would need to be taken out to allow for this.

**Resolved: The Clerk to contact Mr Roberts to request that her removed the small tree and also raises the memorial plaques in the garden of rest.**

**2362/00 Play Equipment at Rodington Playing Field**

The Clerk went through the plans received from companies for the ball court.

**Resolved: Due to cost the Clerk to contact McPhilips to ask for quote for a tarmac base and also look for grants available to support this project.**

**2363/00 Reports on Meetings Attended by Members and Ward Councillors**

- Cllr Perkin attended Rodington Village Hall Management Committee AGM and confirmed that he had been appointed a Vice Chairman.
- Cllr Seymour updated on the Rural Forum which discussed the way forward for the meeting. The next meeting is arranged for 20 July 2011 in the Wellington area.

**2364/00 Correspondence**

All correspondence received during April 2011 to be circulated amongst Councillors and returned to the next meeting.

**2365/00 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting to take place on Wednesday 1 June 2011 at 7.30 pm at Longdon upon Tern Village Hall.

The business of the meeting was concluded and the meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

Signed:.....  
Chairman

Date:.....