**RODINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**
**Council Meeting**

Minutes of Rodington Parish Council meeting held at 7.30 pm in Longdon upon Tern Village Hall on Wednesday 2 July 2008.

**Present:**
Councillors J French (Chairman), D Johnson (Vice Chairman), B Ashton, C Broderick, T Osborne and L Tudor.

**In attendance:**
Borough Councillors Jacqui Seymore and Terry Kiernan

**Clerk:**
Michael Ward and Alison Hinks

**1021/00 Chairman's Welcome and Announcements:**

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and introduced Alison Hinks, new Clerk to the Parish Council.

**1022/00 Appointment of new Clerk for Rodington Parish Council**

The Chairman informed members that Alison Hinks commencing in post on 1 July 2008. It was confirmed that the new Clerks salary would be LC1 SCP 16 pro rata to 25 hours per month. Michael Ward had kindly agreed to attend this evening meeting to hand over proceedings to the new Clerk and will offer his help and assistance for a smooth transfer of business to the new Clerk. The Chairman and Alison Hinks signed two copies of the contract of employment; one to be retained by the Chairman and one by the Clerk.

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**1023/00 Public Session and Matters of Concern**

Cllr Tudor informed the meeting of a road sign that had been knocked down in Rodington. Borough Councillor Kiernan said that he had photographed the broken sign and has reported this to the Highways Department at Telford & Wrekin Council.

**1024/00 Apologies**

Apologies were accepted from Councillor John Perkin.

**1025/00 Declaration of Interest**

Councillor Johnson declared a prejudicial interest under item 1026/00 of the agenda for payment for work relating to the Parish Newsletter.
Councillor Broderick declared a personal interest under item 1026/00 of the agenda for payment for the use of Longdon upon Tern Village Hall for the Council meeting on 2 July 2008.

**1026/00 Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 4 June 2008**

The minutes of the meeting of 4 June 2008 were proposed as a true record by Councillor French and seconded by Councillor Osborne. The proposals was unanimously approved and the minutes signed by the Chairman.

Councillor Osborne apologised to members for not writing to the Planning Department at Telford & Wrekin Council to express concerns over the decision to decline planning permission for an extension, alterations and conversion of barns at The Piggeries, Grove Lane, Rodington.

**Resolved: Cllr Osborne to write to the Planning Department, Telford & Wrekin Council by the next meeting.**

**1027/00 Financial Statements**

- Bank Reconciliation and Spreadsheet
  The Clerk went through the bank reconciliation for the month of June 2008 and the accompanying spreadsheet. The reconciliation showed a calculated balance of £124.52 in the Treasurers Account and £5195.60 in the BMM Account. The second half of the precept will be paid into this account in Autumn 2008. A copy of the bank statements are available for consultation by members.

  The Clerk asked Councillor Johnson to forward a sort code for the transfer of payments for the work undertaken on the Parish Newsletter.

  The accounts were unanimously agreed by the Council and signed by the Chairman.

- Accounts for Payment
  The Clerk circulated a list of payments for the month of June 2008 with a copy for every Councillor under Appendix A of the Bank Reconciliation report. The accounts for payment were unanimously approved, cheques signed and internet transfers agreed.

  Report from the Internal Auditor
  The Clerk reported that the findings of the Internal Audit undertaken by John Nichols had been received and findings are as follows:
  (1) In future the minutes of Parish Council Meetings need to clearly state the cheque number, amount paid and payable to for all cheques signed. This is reported under Appendix A of the Bank Reconciliation report.
  (2) This finding is clearly wrong as the cheque book clearly states that the cheque has been process.
  (3) The Bank Statement sent from the Bank had not been received by the Clerk when the accounts were send to John Nichols.
  (4) The Bank Reconciliation is needed for the external audit, which is due to be sent to the Mazars by 11 July 2008.

- Approved mileage rate for Councillors
  Borough Councillor Seymore suggested that Councillors use the Borough Councillor rate used by Telford & Wrekin Council rate for business mileage outside of the Parish. This proposed was seconded by Councillor Broderick and unanimously approved by all members.

  **Resolved: The Clerk to confirm Telford & Wrekin Council Borough Council mileage rate at the next meeting.**

- Any Other Financial Matters
  The Chairman informed members of an invitation to a performance by Oakengates Youth Summer Dance School. Councillor Broderick to attend on behalf of the Parish Council.

  The Clerk is to arrange with HSBC to change the name on the Parish Council Bank Accounts and Statements to the new Clerk as soon as possible. The Clerk to also look into the problems that the Chairman is experiencing when trying to access the HSBC account via the internet.

**1028/00 All Planning Matters**

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- W2008/0669 Erection of a two storey extension to side and single storey extension to rear at Trevillett, Rodington - no objections were raised.

- W2008/04347 Planning permission granted for the erection of detached garage at rear at Beech House, Longswood, Longdon upon Tern - received and noted.

- W2008/0605 Planning permission granted for the erection of pre-fabricated garages at The Moorings Caravan Park, Long Lane, Wellington - received and noted.

Councillor Seymour reported that the application for barn conversions at Tern Farm which had initially been refused by the Borough Council had been approved on appeal by the Planning Inspector. The refusal had been on the grounds that the application was outside the Core Strategy, so the subsequent approval may have set a precedent for other recent refusals when they go to appeal and also for future decisions by the Planning Officers. The Chairman pointed out the Parish Council had not been informed of the decision to the planning application at The Piggeries, Grove Lane, Rodington and suggested that members should be aware of the history of all planning applications at each meeting.

**Resolved: The Clerk to check with Planning Department at Telford & Wrekin Council if a planning application list is still circulated. The Clerk to also put together a table showing the history and discussions taken place for each planning application. Plans to be available for Councillors to view 30 minutes before the start of the Parish meeting. Councillor Johnson to input all planning applications and responses on the Parish website for members and the public to view.**

Councillor Johnson informed members that he had received a complaint from a member of the public about a farm building at Silverdale Farm, Somerwood, being used to house building material and not agricultural equipment as previously thought.

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**Resolved: The Clerk to inform the Planning Department at Telford & Wrekin Council of this complaint.**

**1029/00 Application for the proposed closure of St Bartholomew's Churchyard at Longdon upon Tern**

The Clerk informed members of a letter received from the Ministry of Justice regarding an application to close St Bartholomew's churchyard.
Councillor Broderick informed members that St Bartholomew's Church were in agreement with this as there is no space left for new burials and the maintenance at the churchyard was proving difficult. Members had no objections to the proposal.

**Resolved: The Clerk to contact Paul Ansell at the Ministry of Justice to notify that members have not objections to the proposed closure.**

**1030/00 Clerk's Report**

The Clerk identified the main aspects of his report which included an update on the obstruction of footpath at Longdon upon Tern and the missing finger post at Rodington. Jaswant Sidhu is due to meet the Clerk on site within the next couple of weeks. The Clerk has also send a reminder email to the Highways Department regarding the potholes on the road between Longdon upon Tern and Rodington, outside the Village Hall at Rodington and between Rodington and Somerwood.

The Clerk informed members that the new Rural Officer for Telford & Wrekin Council, Carolyn Oaks, will be attending Rodington Parish Council meeting on 1 October 2008 at Longdon upon Tern. This meeting will start at 7.00 pm with an open discussion with Carolyn followed by the formal meeting at 7.30 pm.

The Clerk informed that the handover of responsibility to the new Clerk was underway and was available to assist the new Clerk in the coming months. The Chairman wished Michael Ward well in his new position at Albrighton Parish Council and thanked him for his hard work and commitment during his time with Rodington parish Council.

The Clerk also updated members on the changes to the rules of Quality Status which would be an on-going discussion at future meetings of the Council.

**1031/00 Reports on Meetings attended by Members and Ward Councillors**

Councillors Johnson and Osborne reported on the recent meeting of the Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC) which has now been split into four areas; Telford & Wrekin Council make up 25% of the committee.
Pat Smart is to continue to be the Chairman of SALC. Carolyn Oaks, the new Rural Officer, attending the meeting. Her post is a 2 year contract.
She informed members that she was in the process of putting together a Rural Plan due to be completed by September 2008 and was setting up a Rural Forum and encouraged input from all Parish Councils. SALC also requested comments on the Parish Charter.

**Resolved: Councillor Johnson to forward comments on the Parish Charter.**

Borough Councillor Jacqui Seymore reported that the Telford & Wrekin Council Planning Department were currently looking at the Core Strategy to find ways to make it work for the Borough.

Borough Councillor Jacqui Seymore also reported on developments on the Newport Canal and confirmed that Telford & Wrekin Council had purchased a building along side the canal which they will be leased to the Newport Canal Trust enabling them to further develop the area as a tourist attraction.

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**1032/00 Correspondence**

The Chairman informed members of an Open Event by Shropshire and Telford Primary Healthcare Trust on 15/16 July 2008 entitled 'Influencing Healthcare in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin'.

All correspondence was placed in the black bag for distribution to members.

Councillor Johnson requested contributions to the July 2008 Parish Newsletter.

**Resolved: Councillor Tudor to write an article on Rodington recycling.**
**Councillor Ashton to write an article on the current refurbishment of Rodington Village Hall.**

**1033/00 Date of Next Meeting**

Parish Council Meeting on Wednesday 3 September 2008 at Rodington Village Hall.

There will be no meeting of the Parish Council during August 2008.

As the business of the meeting had been concluded the meeting closed at
9.05 pm.

Signed:……..... Date:…….....
Chairman