

RODINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Council Meeting

Minutes of Rodington Parish Council meeting held at 7.30 pm in Rodington Village Hall on Wednesday 3 September 2008.

Present:

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

In attendance:

Borough Councillors Jacqui Seymour

Clerk:

Alison Hinks

1034/00 Chairman's Welcome and Announcements:

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and thanked members for arriving earlier to look at the planning application paperwork which will be discussed under item 1041/00 of the agenda.

1035/00 Public Session and Matters of Concern

Alison Hinks informed the meeting that she had received a letter BT proposing to remove the telephone box in Longdon upon Tern. As the box is an original red box, the Parish Council can sign up to the 'adopt a box' scheme and pay to have the box remain in the village but without the telephone facility. The Chairman did not see any benefit to this proposal.

1036/00 Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Borough Councillor Terry Keirnan.

1037/00 Declaration of Interest

Councillor Johnson declared a prejudicial interest under item 1039/00 of the agenda regarding a payment for work relating to the production of the July 2008 Parish Newsletter.
Councillor Tudor declared a prejudicial interest under item 1041/00 of the agenda regarding planning application W2008/0902 as the applicants are her neighbours.

1038/00 Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 4 June 2008

Borough Councillor Seymour asked for item 1027 to be amended to read 'Borough Councillor advised that Councillors use the Borough Councillor rate used in Telford & Wrekin for business mileage outside of the Parish. This was proposed by Councillor Broderick and unanimously approved by all members.'

Councillor French asked that item 1031 amended to read 'Councillors Johnson and Osborne reported on the recent meeting of the Wrekin Area Committee of Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC).'

The minutes of the meeting of 4 July 2008 were proposed as a true record by Councillor Johnson and seconded by Councillor Osborne. The proposals were unanimously approved and the minutes accordingly amended and signed by the Chairman.

1039/00 Financial Statements

- Bank Reconciliation and Spreadsheet

The Clerk went through the bank reconciliation for the months of July and August 2008 but apologised for not being able to produce a spreadsheet for this period and would report on this period at the meeting on 1 October 2008. The reconciliation showed a calculated balance of £444.20 in the Treasurers Account and £4,718.38 in the BMM Account. A copy of the bank statements are available for consultation by members.

Councillor Johnson asked for confirmation on the discrepancy of £31.00 between the HSBC Treasurers Account balance and the Cash Book balance. The Clerk reported that this was an uncashed cheque payable to Wrekin Area Committee that had been outstanding since April 2008.

Resolved: The Clerk to chase Wrekin Area Committee regarding the unpaid cheque and report back to the meeting on 1 October 2008.

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

- Accounts for Payment
The Clerk circulated a list of payments for the months of July and August 2008. The accounts for payment were unanimously approved, cheques signed and internet transfers agreed.

1040/00 Audit Update

The Clerk took Councillor through the response received from the external auditors, Mazars, confirming that:

- The Clerk will undertake risk assessments throughout the forthcoming year, presenting them to meetings for formal approval. Thereon, the risk assessments must be reviewed on an annual basis.
- The fidelity guarantee will be discussed when the insurance schedule is up for renewal.
- The Clerk has submitted a year end bank reconciliation which has been agreed by the external auditors.
- The Clerk has forwarded copies of the closing bank statement from Barclays Bank and the opening bank statement from HSBC, showing the transfer of money.
- The minutes of the July 2008 meeting showed the starting salary and employment status of the new Clerk.
- The Clerk will review and update Standing Orders and Financial Regulations and report back to a future meeting of the Parish Council.
- The Clerk has informed the external auditors that the cemetery bench and notice board bought in 2008 are included in the insurance schedule.

1041/00 All Planning Matters

- W2008/0920 Erection of an animal shelter/feed store at The Villa, Drury Lane, Rodington - no objections were raised.
- W2008/0953 Installation of remote control motor barrier to site entrance at The Moorings, Park Homes Park, Long Lane – no objections were raised.

- W2008/0995 Conversion of single dwelling into 2no. dwellings at Londgen Mill Farmhouse, Londgon-on-Tern – no objections were raised.

Borough Councillor Seymour reported that she had spoken to the owners of The Piggeries who have not yet confirmed if they will be appealing against T&W Planning Departments decision to turn down their planning application. Councillor Osborne confirmed that he had emailed T&W Planning Department to voice the Parish Councils opinion over this application. The Planning Department best advice was for the owners of The Piggeries to appeal against the decision. Councillor French said that T&W Core Strategy lets the Parish down as it does not allow new builds to take place in all but three local villages but there is some flexibility for derelict buildings. The Core Strategy states that Rodington Parish Council could develop 'infill planning' applications.

Borough Councillor Seymour informed members that planning application W2008/0814 - Siting of static caravan, detached double garage and 2no. timber sheds at 5, 6, 7, Marsh Green, Shropshire was turned down by T&W Planning Department.

1042/00 Clerk's Report

The Clerk went through the report identifying the main points:

- The mileage rate for Rodington Parish Councillors would be 42.9p per mile for official mileage outside of the Parish.
- The Ministry of Justice has confirmed that a draft notice has been sent to the incumbent and churchwardens at St Bartholomew's Church to inform them of the closure of the churchyard.
- T&W Planning Department Enforcement Office visited Silverdale Farm and did not find building material in a farm building.

Resolved: The Clerk to contact T&W Planning Department Enforcement Officer to request a further visit to Silverdale Farm, Somerwood to inspect the farm building that is housing building material.

- A missing bollard at Rodington Village Hall has been replaced.
- The missing footpath sign in Rodington has been replaced.

Resolved: The Clerk to contact Jaswant Sidhu to ask if the footpath sign could be changed to a taller sign rather than the shorter sign that has been erected. The clerk to also inform Jaswant Sidhu of a missing Bridleway sign at the Rodington end of Footpath no. 6 and a blocked footpath no. 3 from Longdon upon Tern to Harlescott. The Clerk to also contact the Highways Department to inform them of a missing '30mph' sign on the Rodington Heath to Walcott Road, near the Chapel and Old Crown House.

- The Clerk has reported the pothole between Rodington and Health Sunningdale.

Resolved: The Clerk to report a further pothole along Drury Lane, Rodington.

- The Clerk has enrolled on the CiLCA course and will update members on progress at each meeting.

1043/00 Retention of Documents Required for the Audit of Parish Councils

The Clerk informed members of a recent document received from SALC showing the minimum retention period that official documents must be held by the Parish Council. This does not include planning

applications and the Clerk proposed that full documentation is held for 2 years and the official decision letter indefinitely. Once these timescales have been agreed by the Council, the Clerk could then start the onerous job of going through the filing system. Councillor Osborne said that he would be able to shred confidential paperwork on behalf of the Parish Council. The Parish Council unanimously agreed with these proposals.

1044/00 Quality Council Status

The Clerk informed the meeting of a recent SALC presentation on the revised Quality Council Status guidelines. It was unanimously agreed that the Council would review its position on Quality Council Status in 6 months time due to the Clerks commitment to completing the CiLCA course.

1045/00 Sugden Lane Traffic Speed Restriction

The Council acknowledged the response from T&W Traffic Management with regards to the complaint received from a local resident about speeding along Sugden Lane.

Resolved: Councillor Perkins to update residents on the position of T&W Traffic Management Department.

1045/00 Post Box on the corner of Rodington Road (Sugden Lane) and B5063

The Clerk informed members that the Post Office has blocked off the post box as the wall that it is currently housed in is unsafe. The Post Office intends to relocate the post box by the bus stop on the B5063 but are unable to give a date when this will take place.

Resolved: The Clerk to contact the Post Office to: ask that the new post box be erected as soon as possible as the local community have to walk along an unpathed road to the nearest box; ask that the old post box is donated to Rodington Parish Council so that it can be installed in Londgon upon Tern Village Hall as a show piece for the local community.

1046/00 Review of Snow Liaison Officer

The Council unanimously agreed that Councillor Ashton continue as the name Rodington Parish Council Snow Liaison Officer.

Resolved: The Clerk to inform T&W that Councillor Ashton to continue as Snow Liaison Officer.

1046/00 'The Big Tidy Up' in Telford & Wrekin

The Clerk informed members of a T&W initiative for local councillors and residents to participate in 'the big tidy up', which gets all involved to tidy up the Parish to improve the local area. It was decided that Rodington Parish Council would not participate in this scheme.

1047/00 Reports on Meetings attended by Members and Ward Councillors

Councillor Perkin informed members of the recent meeting of the Local Accessibility Partnership and the new development to extend the twister bus service to Rodington. This is a demand responsive bus service for rural areas which usually runs 2 days a week between rural villages and Wellington or Telford Town Centre. The November 2008 meeting of this group is being held at Rodington Village Hall.

Councillor Perkin also informed members of the recent Rural Transport User Group. Councillor French informed members of an email received from Councillor Williams from Dawley Magna Ward who is putting forward a motion to the next T&W Full Council meeting to extend the free bus pass times to begin at 08.30 hrs. Borough Councillor Seymour highlighted that this would have a cost implication to T&W

Council and to date T&W do not know the full cost implications that the free bus passes has on budgets. The Council unanimously agreed to support this motion.

Resolved: The Clerk to respond to Councillor Williams to offer the full support of Rodington Parish Council.

108/00 Correspondence

The Chairman acknowledged the high quantity of correspondences received during the summer period.

Councillor Johnson agreed to represent the Parish at the Rural Forum on 17 September 2008 and report back to the meeting on 1 October 2008.

Councillor Osborne agreed to represent the Parish at the Parish Forum on 13 October 2008 and report back to the meeting on 1 October 2008.

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

1033/00 Date of Next Meeting

Parish Council Meeting on Wednesday 1 October 2008 at 7.30 pm at Longdon upon Tern Village Hall. Carolyn Oaks, T&W Rural Officer, will be attending an open public session from 7.00 pm to discuss rural issues. Planning applications will be made available to view from 6.30 pm.

As the business of the meeting had been concluded the meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Signed:..... Date:.....
Chairman