

RODINGTON PARISH COUNCIL Council Meeting

Minutes of Rodington Parish Council meeting held at 7.30 pm in Rodington Village Hall on Wednesday 5th December 2007.

Present:

Cllr Janet French (Chairman), Cllr David Johnson (Vice Chairman), Cllr Brian Ashton, Cllr Claire Broderick, Cllr Tim Osborne, Cllr John Perkin, Cllr Liz Tudor.

In attendance:

Borough Councillor Jacqui Seymour.
No members of the public were in attendance.

Clerk:

Michael Ward

1010/00 Chair's Welcome and Announcements:

The Chairman welcomed Councillors and the Borough Councillor to the meeting.

1011/00 Public Session and Matters of Concern:

Cllr Tudor notified the Council of a large pothole in Sugden Lane close to the bend by the kennels.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to inform Telford and Wrekin of the pothole and ask for a repair.

1011/01:

Cllrs Broderick and Johnson spoke of problems concerning Bed and Breakfast residents of The Tayleur Arms at Longdon upon Tern. Neighbours had complained of finding occupants in their gardens and one had been found comatose on a driveway. It was understood that the new landlord of The Tayleur Arms was familiar with the problem and longer term changes were a possibility. Members pointed out that the Council had no powers to act in these circumstances and any wrongdoing should be reported to the police.

1012/00 Apologies:

There were no apologies.

1013/00 Declarations of Interest:

Cllr Johnson declared an interest in the clearing of cheques relating to T2 Enterprises associated with the publication of the October newsletter.

1014/00 Minutes of the Meeting of 7th November 2007:

Minutes of the meeting held on 7th November 2007, copies of which had been previously circulated, were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

1015/00 Bank Reconciliation and Spreadsheet:

RESOLVED: That the accounts for November 2007 be approved.

1015/01 Accounts for Payment:

RESOLVED: That cheques for payment be approved.

Cllr Johnson asked whether the new HSBC account had become operational. The Chairman told the meeting that all signatories had provided proof of identification and residence and the Clerk stated that a recent visit to the bank, together with email correspondence, indicated that the account would be operational very shortly.

1015/02 Budget and Precept 2008/09

A draft budget drawn up by the Clerk had been previously circulated. This indicated that the Council were likely to finish the financial year with a surplus. Cllr Perkin suggested to the Council that the position of the two village halls should be reviewed and supported by virement into the appropriate budget head. Both village halls had major problems that they were trying to overcome; Longdon had to refurbish its kitchen facilities and Rodington had heating and other problems that had been detailed in a grant request. He pointed out that both halls were providing invaluable community and social facilities and deserved Parish Council support. Discussion followed on other budget headings including bank charges, election expenses, notice boards and petty cash. Discussion also focussed on the support the Parish Council gave to special interest groups such as the young people of the area. The Clerk outlined costs that needed to be reduced relating to printing and copying and the use of paper.

Borough Councillor Seymour provided an overview of the likely funding position of Telford and Wrekin in 2008/09.

RESOLVED: Rodington Parish Council should submit a precept order to Telford and Wrekin of £8850.00 for the 2008/09 financial year to be signed at the next meeting on 2nd January 2008.

RESOLVED: That Rodington and Longdon upon Tern Village Hall Committees should each be given a grant of £3000.00 from the 2007/08 budget.

RESOLVED: That Cllr Johnson would investigate the purchase of a laser printer for the Clerk in order to reduce copying and printing costs.

RESOLVED: Future printing should use both sides of the paper to cut down on paper costs.

1015/03 Any other Financial Matters:

There were no other financial matters for discussion.

1016/00 All Planning Matters:

The Chairman reported on decisions regarding the approval of applications at Willow Vale for the erection of a three bedroom bungalow, the conversion to form a new barn at Red House Farm Barns, the erection of a two storey side extension to the existing stable block at The Marsh, Sugden and the change of agricultural land to garden land at Silverdale Farm.

W2007/1504: the erection of a conservatory to rear of 3, Millers Row, Longdon upon Tern.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to inform Telford and Wrekin that there were no objections to the application.

W2007/1526: extension to garages at 8, Millers Row, Longdon upon Tern.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to inform Telford and Wrekin that while the Council had no fundamental objection to the application concerns were raised regarding the size of the development in relation to the size of the property and the effect it might have on the neighbours.

W2007/1465: display of static externally illuminated signage and lighting at The Bulls Head, Rodington.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to inform Telford and Wrekin there were no objections to the application.

A draft planning policy document from Telford and Wrekin was passed to Councillor Johnson for review and a response on behalf of the Council if appropriate.

1017/00 Clerk's Report:

The Clerk went through his report to Councillors drawing their attention to a number of points. He informed Council that only two quotations had been received for the maintenance of the cemetery in 2008/09 despite requests to six companies. The lowest bid was from Mr Roberts, the existing provider.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to inform Mr Roberts that his quotation for cemetery maintenance in 2009 had been accepted.

Progress on the siting of a new bench in the cemetery was slow because of the construction by Telford and Wrekin of a base.

The Clerk added additional detail with regard to the meetings he had attended during the month and confirmed that Telford Reprographics had been told that they were the producers of the quarterly newsletter in consultation with Cllr Johnson.

Because of absence while on holiday the Clerk had not been able to complete any further work on the CiLCA certificate but itemised two areas where he hoped to be able to report on progress at the meeting in January 2008.

1018/00 Report on Meetings attended by Members and Ward Councillors:

Cllr Johnson reported on a meeting for new Councillors organised by SALC that he had attended on agendas and meetings which he had found both interesting and useful. Two further meetings were planned that he also hoped to attend. Cllr Perkin reported on a meeting of the Rodington Village Hall Committee and Cllrs Ashton and Tudor had attended a local police meeting during which they were told that new speed guns had been purchased and were available for use in speeding black spots. There was some discussion regarding the need for a meeting with the police in Longdon as well as in Rodington but no firm decision was reached.

Borough Councillor Seymour reported on developments at Telford Town Centre and the involvement of the organisation Transforming Telford. The new owners of the town centre had some excellent developmental ideas and they were anxious to put them into practice as soon as possible.

Councillor Seymour also mentioned the problems in The Gorge where more money was needed to prevent further erosion and land slippage. The meeting was also told that the number of cabinet members at Telford and Wrekin had been increased from six to seven.

1019/00 Correspondence:

The Chairman went through items of correspondence received over the last month. Items were identified for the black bag which would be made available to all Councillors over the coming days.

1020/00

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 2nd January 2008 at 7.30 pm at Longdon upon Tern Village Hall.

As the business of the meeting had been completed the meeting concluded at 9.38 pm.

Signed.....Dated.....
Chair

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