

<p style="text-align: center;">RODINGTON PARISH COUNCIL Council Meeting</p>

Minutes of Rodington Parish Council meeting held at 7.30 pm in Rodington Village Hall on Wednesday 4th June 2008.

Present:

Cllrs J French (Chairman), D Johnson (Vice Chairman), B Ashton, C Broderick, T Osborne.

In attendance:

Borough Councillor Jacqui Seymour.
Borough Councillor Terry Kiernan.

One member of the public.

Clerk:

Michael Ward.

1010/00 Chair's Welcome and Announcements:

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and thanked them for her re-election as Chairman at the previous AGM. There were no announcements.

1011/00 Public Session and Matters of Concern:

Cllr Broderick reported that a footpath in Longdon upon Tern had been blocked by a house owner preventing walkers using the path. The footpath was identified by the Chairman as footpath No. 16 and she expressed concern at this obstruction which needed to be removed for the footpath to retain its status.

Resolved: The Clerk to report the obstructed footpath to Jaswant Sidhu at Telford and Wrekin Council at the earliest opportunity.

1012/00 Apologies:

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs John Perkin and Liz Tudor.

1014/00 Declarations of Interest:

No declarations of personal or prejudicial interest were declared but members could declare an interest at any point on the agenda.

1015/00 Minutes of the Meeting of 7th May 2008:

The minutes of the meeting of 7th May 2008 were proposed as a true record by Cllr Broderick and seconded by Cllr Johnson. The proposal was unanimously approved and the minutes were signed by the Chairman.

1016/00 Financial Statements:

- **Bank Reconciliation and Spreadsheet:**

The Clerk went through the bank reconciliation for the month of May and the accompanying spreadsheet. It had been a quiet month with little proposed expenditure consisting of three cheques and three Internet transfers in total (included as Appendix A of these minutes). The reconciliation showed a calculated balance of £472.03 in the Treasurer Account and £5,788.56 in the BMM account with half of the precept paid into the budget. A copy of the bank statement was available for consultation by members.

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 with a copy for every Councillor. The accounts for payment were unanimously approved, the cheques were signed and the Internet transfers agreed. The Chairman tabled an additional invoice to Midlands News Association which would be entered into the accounts for July 2008.

- **Any other Financial Matters – The Internal Audit:**

The Clerk reported that the internal audit was nearly complete with the figures agreed and the final balance approved. The Council needed to approve the final bank reconciliation for the financial year 2007/08 and agree the Annual Governance Statement. The Clerk explained all of the headings of each section and the Council unanimously supported the Final Bank Reconciliation for an end of year balance of £2819.00. The Council also unanimously agreed all aspects of the Annual Governance Statement. The Clerk and Chairman signed and dated the internal audit return for sections one and two to be returned to the Internal Auditor at the earliest opportunity.

1017/00 All Planning Matters:

- W2008/0597 Erection of a double garage on side of Red House Farm, Longdon upon Tern – no objections were raised.
- A2008/0004 Erection of a portal frame building at The Paddocks, Somerwood, Rodington – no objections were raised.
- W2008/0309 Planning permission granted for the erection of a single storey rear extension at The Barn, Longdon upon Tern.
Received and noted.
- W2008/0167 Permission refused on the erection of first floor extension, exterior alterations and conversion of an existing barn to a single detached

building at The Piggeries, Grove Lane, Rodington. Members expressed some anxiety about the refusal and the need to balance the protection of the countryside with the need to provide sustainable development in rural areas. Members agreed that this refusal had not achieved the correct balance and felt that some feedback needed to be provided to the Borough Council.

Resolved: Cllr Osborne to write a letter to Planning at Telford and Wrekin expressing concern at the particular decision. Cllr Johnson to include an article on planning in rural areas in the next edition of the newsletter.

1017/00 Clerk's Report:

The Clerk identified the main aspects of his report which included details of two initiatives by Telford and Wrekin concerning the establishment of the Standards Board for Telford and Wrekin to deal with local allegations of breaches of the Code of Conduct and a new draft Parish Charter. Discussion took place on another possible wave of Post Office closures which could threaten the Post Office at Rodington. The Clerk had visited the postmistress to discuss the issue but she was unable to provide further details.

The Clerk also informed members about changes to the CiLCA course with a reduction in the number of sections and changes in the content to be covered to reflect changing legislation. There were also changes to the way a distinction grade was to be calculated.

A visit to the cemetery had shown that it was being well maintained and was a credit to the parish. A further appraisal of the maintenance of one grave which had caused some concern in the past had produced nothing of any major significance. The Clerk advised members that nothing further needed to be done at present but the situation needed to be carefully monitored in the future.

The Clerk was also pleased to be able to report that the insurance cover with Allianz had been renewed as had the subscription to CPRE.

1018/00 Recruitment of New Clerk:

The Chairman informed members that there had been an encouraging response to the advertisement for a new Clerk and seven candidates were to be interviewed over two evenings on 5th and 6th June. Members of the interviewing panels were confirmed and the venue was agreed as Longdon upon Tern Village Hall. It was anticipated that the present Clerk would prepare for and attend the meeting on 2nd July, together with the successful candidate who would take the minutes of the meeting, and he would then hand over to the new Clerk and arrange for parish equipment and papers to be transferred at the earliest opportunity. The two month interval with no meeting in August gave the new Clerk the maximum opportunity to familiarise him/herself with the Council's business. The current Clerk promised to do all he could to ensure a smooth handover with the minimum of disruption to the Council's work.

1019/00 Reports on Meetings attended by Members and Ward Councillors:

Borough Councillor Jacqui Seymour reported on the Audit Commission's Corporate Performance Assessment of Telford and Wrekin Borough Council. The initial feedback had been encouraging but the previous grading of 'excellent' would be difficult to retain and the Council would have to wait for the publication of the official report for further information.

Borough Councillor Terry Kiernan stated that he had now been appointed to one or two committees and he was still engaged in his initial training. Unfortunately he still had not received his computer and was not yet part of the IT network.

Councillor Johnson reminded colleagues that the next edition of the newsletter was due and he asked members for contributions as soon as possible and at the latest by the end of June.

1019/00 Correspondence:

The Chairman went through the routine correspondence and drew member's attention to a letter from Caroline Oakes from Telford and Wrekin on rural Transport issues and meetings available to Councillors for further discussion. Councillors agreed that it would be useful to invite Ms Oakes to a future meeting of the Parish Council.

Resolved: The Clerk to contact Ms Caroline Oakes and invite her to a Parish Council meeting in order to discuss transport issues, the fate of rural post offices, footpaths and planning.

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

1020/00 Date of Next Meeting:

Parish Council Meeting on 2nd July 2008 at 7.30 pm at Longdon upon Tern Village Hall.

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

As the business of the meeting had been concluded the meeting closed at 8.43 pm.

Signed..... Dated.....
Chairman