

## **Rodington Parish Council**

### **Council Meeting**

**Minutes of Rodington Parish Council meeting held at 7.30 pm in Longdon upon Tern Village Hall on Wednesday 1 October 2008.**

**Present:**

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

**Clerk:**

Alison Hinks.

**1050/00 Meeting with Carolyn Oakes, Locality Manager for Newport and Rural, Telford & Wrekin Council**

Caroline Oakes introduced her role, being one of 5 Locality Managers who work closely with partners. Her specific area is Newport and rural areas across Telford. RPC sits in the Wellington Locality Area and this Locality Managers post is due to be advertised in the near future. She is currently working on a Rural Action Plan, focusing on the needs of rural communities and local partners with rural interest. This document will be out for consultation in the near future. The Rural Forum was set to raise the profile of rural areas by bringing together the local community/businesses, Parish Councils, voluntary sector, GOWS, Advantage West Midlands to look specifically at rural issue. A sub group of this meeting will look at the Terms of Reference. Caroline attends the Regional Rural Areas Forum to promote T&W (70% of land in T&W is rural with 25,000 people living in rural areas). Like all Locality Managers, Caroline is linked to a Chief Officer at T&W, Caroline's being Meredith Evans, Director of Environment & Planning with Cllr Tracy Hope as the Lead Councillor for rural issues.

Carolyn Oakes informed the meeting that she is also looking into: the Advantage West Midlands redundant buildings grant which T&W did not receive an allocation of; encouraging links with SCC particularly looking at the bus/transport systems across both areas; urban and rural lines throughout T&W.

Caroline informed the meeting of a report by the Liberal Democrat MP Mathew Taylor who is the government's rural advocate on affordable housing and the growth of sustainable rural communities. Money will be available from Advantage West Midlands to convert farm buildings into business use for local small businesses to encourage economic growth. The county of Shropshire has a high number of home businesses a lot of which need to expand but have nowhere to relocate to.

**Areas of concern for RPC:**

- the consistency of planning application approvals
- rural bus service with a suggestion of a park and ride facility to rail links
- the expansion of the Shrewsbury to Newport Canal needs T&W backing in line with the Canal Trusts report.
- Wrekin Area Committee needs to represent the needs of the Parish Council's, with a suggestion that a Chief Officer is linked to this.
- highways and potholes
- footpaths and enforcements.

Cllr French thanked Caroline for attended the meeting and welcomed her response to progress on the above.

**1051/00 Chairman's Welcome and Announcements**

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and thanked members for arriving earlier to meet with Caroline Oakes. There was no planning application paperwork to review under 1059/00 of the agenda.

#### **1052/00 Public Session and Matters of Concern**

Cllr Johnson reminded members that the next issue of the Parish Newsletter was due to be circulated by the end of October 2008 and requested articles for the newsletter.

#### **1053/00 Apologies**

Apologies were accepted from Borough Cllrs Terry Kiernan and Jacqui Seymour and Cllr C Broderick.

#### **1054/00 Declaration of Interest**

Cllr Johnson declared a prejudicial interest under item 1057/00 of the agenda regarding a payment for work relating to the production of the July 2008 Parish Newsletter.

Cllr Perkin declared a prejudicial interest under item 1057/00 of the agenda regarding payment of mileage expenses for travel outside of the Parish.

#### **1055/00 Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 3 September 2008**

The minutes of the meeting of 3 September 2008 were proposed as a true record by Cllr Johnson and seconded by Cllr Osborne. The proposals were unanimously approved and the minutes accordingly signed by the Chairman.

#### **1056/00 Clerk's Report**

The Clerk went through the report identifying the main points:

- A planning application decision for Longden Mill Farmhouse is yet to be decided, due on 13 October 2008.
- T&W Planning Department Enforcement Officer responsible for Silverdale Farm is due to leave employment with T&W at the end of September 2008. The case will be picked up by her successor.
- The potholes on (i) the Rodington Heath to Sunningdale Road, (ii) Sugden Lane, (iii) Drury Lane, Somerwood have again been reported and chased with T&W Highways Department. Cllr Tudor said that T&W Highways Department had marked the potholes and some work had been completed.
- Jaswant Sidhu has contacted the contractor to replace the footpath sign in Rodington with a taller post. He has also been informed of the missing Bridleway sign post at the Rodington end of Footpath no. 6 and the blocked footpath no. 3 from Longdon upon Tern to Harlescott. These jobs have been placed on the programme of works but there is currently a large back log of work and timescales for completion are not known.
- The gates at Rodington Cemetery have now been fixed. Cllr French informed the Clerk that people using the cemetery were not using the correct bins for waste.

**Resolved: The Clerk to put up a notice in the cemetery informing users of the correct bin to use for green and domestic waste.**

#### **1057/00 Financial Statements**

- **Bank Reconciliation and Spreadsheet**  
The Clerk went through the bank reconciliation for the month of September 2008 showing a calculated balance of £307.15 in the Treasurers Account and £4,729.34 in the BMM Account. The Clerk confirmed that she had cancelled the uncashed cheque to Wrekin Area Committee for £31 and as at 27.09.08 there were 2 outstanding cheques for payment amounting to £24.00. A copy of the bank statements is available for consultation by members.

The Clerk then went through the RPC Income and Expenditure spreadsheet for the months of July, August and September 2008. Cllr Johnson noted that bank interest was not showing on the spreadsheet for these months. Cllr Tudor questioned why Hire of Premises for the month of June was higher than usual.

**Resolved: The Clerk to update the spreadsheet with the bank interest for July, August and September 2008 and give a breakdown of hire of premises for June 2008 at the next RPC meeting on 5 November 2008.**

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.

- **Accounts for Payment**  
The Clerk circulated a list of payments for the month of September 2008. The accounts for payment were unanimously approved, cheques signed and internet transfers agreed.
- **Precept and Budget Spend for 2008/09**  
The Clerk confirmed that the second half of the 2008/09 precept was deposited in the RPC bank account on 31 September 2008 amounting to £4425. This will show on the RPC accounts until October 2008 as the accounts were shut down on 27 September 2008.

Cllr Perkin has received a request from Rodington Village Hall Committee for a further grant from RPC towards the continued development of the village hall. Cllr Osborne suggested that a report is presented to the next meeting of RPC on 5 November 2008 outlining the work needed and proposals for how the money will be spent.

**Resolved: Cllr Perkins to present a report from Rodington Village Hall Committee outlining the proposals for how the grant would be spend to the next meeting of RPC on 5 November 2008.**

**Cllr French proposed that new road signs for the Parish be costed and presented to the next meeting of RPC on 5 November 2008.**

**Cllr Johnson proposed that costings for a new computerised finance system are presented to the next meeting of RPC on 5 November 2008.**

**Cllr Johnson suggested that the Clerk puts together the full annual running cost for RPC with a view to holding this amount in reserve and presents this to the next meeting of RPC on 5 November 2008.**

### **1058/00 Audit Update**

The Clerk informed the meeting that the public notice of conclusion of the audit and right to inspect the annual return is currently being displayed on RPC notice boards until 10 October 2008. A copy of which can be obtained from The Clerk.

### **1059/00 All Planning Matters**

- W2008/1102 Conversion of redundant agricultural buildings to provide 4no. residential units at Londgen Mill Farm Barns, Londgon-on-Tern – no objections were raised but concerns expressed around road access due to the number of properties on the site, with a suggestion for the need for safe exit/entry to the site.

**Resolved: The Clerk to inform T&W Planning Department of this decision.**

#### **1060/00 Speed Indicator Detector Signs in Rural Areas**

The Clerk informed members of a meeting of a meeting on Monday 20 October 2008 regarding speed indicator detector signs with a view to purchasing for specific locations in the Parish. It was suggested that areas of importance were:

- B5063 at both ends of Longdon
- Somerwood near Drury Lane
- Rodington Heath near Sunningdale

**Resolved: The Clerk to report back on progress to the next meeting of RPC on 5 November 2008.**

#### **1061/00 Birthday Honours List**

The Clerk informed the meeting of the recent notification for nominations for the Queen's Birthday Honours List. The document to be circulated with other correspondence.

#### **1062/00 Reports on Meetings attended by Members and Ward Councillors**

Cllr French informed the meeting of the recent Rural Forum attended by Cllr Broderick. Caroline Oakes attended this meeting along with Cllr Andrew Eade who has committed £20,000 to the meeting. The Rural Plan was presented to the meeting which highlights the problems with planning and communication. Volunteers were put forward to attend a Steering Group of the main meeting.

Cllr Perkin attended Rodington Parish Council Committee.

Cllr French attended Longdon upon Tern Village Hall AGM.

#### **1063/00 Correspondence**

The Clerk to ensure that she is a member of the Society of Local Clerks.

Cllr Osborne to attend the next SALC AGM

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

#### **1064/00 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of Rodington Parish Council is arranged for Wednesday 5 November 2008 at 7.30 pm at Rodington Village Hall. Planning applications will be made available to view from 7.00 pm.

As the business of the meeting had been concluded the meeting closed at 8.55 pm.

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