

RODINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
Council Meeting

Minutes of Rodington Parish Council meeting held at 7.30 pm in Rodington Village Hall on Wednesday 3rd October 2007.

Present:

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

In Attendance:

One member of the public was in attendance.

Clerk:

Michael Ward.

1010/00 Chair's Welcome and Announcements:

The Chairman welcomed Councillors and the one member of the public in attendance.

1011/00 Public Session and Matters of Concern:

Cllr Osborne informed the meeting that The Shrewsbury and Newport Canals Trust had informed him that they wished to erect information boards in each of the five villages bordering the former canal. He is liaising with Mr Richard Bifield, following the previous month's presentation on signing for the canal, and he is confident that agreement can be reached with regard to the format of the proposed signs. The Canals Trust would welcome a financial contribution from the Parish Council and were also seeking suggestions as to suitable sites for the signs which could also be used as Parish Council notice boards on the back. The stone aqueduct that carried the canal in Rodington was thought to be an excellent position for an information board.

RESOLVED: Cllr Osborne to liaise with The Shrewsbury and Newport Canals Trust with regard to their proposals and keep the Council informed.

1012/00 Apologies:

Apologies were noted from Cllr Claire Broderick who was on holiday and Cllr John Perkin. Borough Councillor Jacqui Seymour presented apologies arising from attendance at another Council meeting.

1013/00 Declarations of Interest:

There were no interests declared.

1014/00 Royal Mail Post Boxes:

Cllr Ashton reported that Mr Whittingham had not withdrawn his permission for the erection of a post box on his land in Somerwood, Rodington, despite information to the contrary in the last Parish Council meeting. The Clerk informed the Council that he had been in touch by telephone and letter with Mr Bennett from Royal Mail in Shrewsbury and it seemed clear that there was little likelihood of the post box at Somerwood being moved from its present position. Mr Bennett did say, however, that the post box in Longdon upon Tern was a cause for concern given the deteriorating state of the wall in which it was housed and he would welcome suggestions regarding the repositioning of the post box. Various options were discussed and a first and second choice siting agreed.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to contact Mr Bennett and suggest the post box in Longdon upon Tern is moved to the bus stop by the Tayleur Arms as the first choice or to the lay by adjacent to the telephone box as the second choice.

RESOLVED: This item to be removed from future agendas.

1015/00 Bulb Planting in Rodington and Longdon upon Tern:

The Clerk informed the Council that he had spoken to Mr Jeavons at Telford and Wrekin and passed on members' comments with regard to suitable areas for planting in the two villages. He told Councillors that Mr Jeavons could obtain daffodil bulbs for £50.00 per one thousand and crocus bulbs for £30.00 per one thousand. Mr Jeavons had suggested that if the Council wished to purchase bulbs from its own funds he would ensure that they were planted in approved areas. Members agreed that £100.00 should be set aside for crocus bulbs to be planted in the cemetery at Rodington.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to contact Mr Jeavons and ask him to purchase £100.00 worth of crocus bulbs to be planted in Rodington Cemetery making it clear the area concerned is a filled cemetery and not suitable for mechanical planting.

1016/00 Minutes

The minutes of the Meeting held on 5th September 2007, copies of which had been previously circulated, were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

1017/00 Finance:

RESOLVED: that the accounts previously circulated be approved for payment after a query by Cllr Johnson regarding one cheque to the external auditors was clarified.

1017/01:

Application forms for the opening of a new Council account at HSBC were passed to Cllr Johnson for completion by the Chairman. The Clerk informed the meeting that the existing account at Barclays was now functioning properly and he was receiving correspondence from the bank.

1018/00 All Planning Matters:

Two planning applications were discussed by the Council. W2007/1007, the erection of a ménage at The Marsh Sugden, for which approval had been given by Telford and Wrekin Council, was considered with regard to the conditions attached to the approval. The application W2007/1216, to change the use of agricultural land to a private garden at Silverwood Farm was also considered.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to inform Telford and Wrekin that there were no objections to the proposal W2007/1216.

1019/00 Clerk's Report:

The Clerk provided further comment on the CiLCA certificate and the progress he was making with regard to the portfolio. The broad outlines of the portfolio content had been previously circulated and particular comment was invited on the draft person specifications which needed to be submitted as part of the course. The Clerk also raised the SALC recommendation to Councils that Clerks completing the certificate should be paid extra hours worked as it was beyond standard job description duties.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to produce a revised person specification to take account of Councillors' comments and in accordance with the Clerk's Contract of Employment.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to be paid a one-off payment equivalent to 50 hours after the successful completion of the CiLCA certificate.

1020/00 Parish Council Website:

Cllr Johnson informed members that the website was up to date apart from some minutes of meetings.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to provide Cllr Johnson with on-line attachments of the minutes for the last three Council meetings.

RESOLVED: This item to be removed from the next agenda.

1021/00 Play Opportunities and Awards for All:

Members discussed the possibility of applying for a grant to improve the play facilities at Rodington adjacent to the Village Hall. Because the land belonged to Telford and Wrekin there was a view that the responsibility for updating the facility belonged with the Borough

Council and the Parish Council should prevail upon them to spend some money on play provision locally. Another view was that the Parish Council should apply for a grant and seek the landowner's agreement and support. Two potential grants were considered, both available through the Big Lottery scheme, Playful Ideas and Awards for All. Councillors thought that Playful Ideas was too large scale to justify an application from a rural Parish and thought that Awards for All was more appropriate to their particular context.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to write to Telford and Wrekin seeking their support and agreement for an application under the Awards for All scheme to improve the play provision at Rodington adjacent to the Village Hall.

1022/00 Cemetery Update:

The Clerk informed the Council that he had made contact with and met Mr Roberts at the cemetery in addition to spending an afternoon with the Chairman updating the master plan for the cemetery. He updated members on an alternative arrangement for dealing with the seasons grass cuttings and the siting and provision of a hard base for a cemetery bench. Mr Roberts would submit an estimate for next season's work in time for the November agenda.

RESOLVED: Council to provide a four seater oak bench from the Charles Batho company in Kent and the Clerk to place the order.

1022/01:

Discussion also took place about the difficulties being experienced by a family who had reserved plots at the cemetery and had been asked to provide an off cut of stone to mark the plot. It was agreed that the price of £70.00 being quoted to the family was excessive but Councillors felt certain it was possible to find a suitable supplier for a much reduced figure.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to contact Mr Michael Gledhill to discover whether he knew of any other source who might be able to provide cheap stone off cuts to mark reserved plots.

1023/00 Reports on Meetings Attended by Members and Ward Councillors:

Councillor Johnson reported to Council on the Wrekin Area Committee he had attended and went through the agenda. He noted that the committee appeared to be more financially secure and was in the early stages of organising a Parish Conference. He would provide further details as they became available.

1024/00 Correspondence:

A breakdown of correspondence received had been previously circulated. The Chairman went through various items and it was agreed that an outline of Telford and Wrekin's housing development plans should go into the forthcoming newsletter together with a contribution from Marc Petty on the new cycle trail through the Tern Valley, the details of what's on at Rodington Village Hall and a request for a Neighbourhood Watch organiser in Rodington.

1024/01:

The meeting was informed that Minute Man Printers had ceased trading and another printer would need to be identified for the publishing of the forthcoming newsletter.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to obtain three quotations from printers for 350 colour copies of a folded A4 newsletter with an A5 insert.

1025/00 Date of Next Meeting:

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 7th November at 7.30 pm at Longdon upon Tern Village Hall.

As the business of the meeting had been completed the meeting concluded at 9.25 pm.

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

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