

RUDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the Environment & Community Committee meeting
Held at St Peter's Rooms on Tuesday 11th December 2012 at 7.30 p.m.

Membership

	N J Tegerdine	Chairman
	K S Piggott	Vice-Chairman
	Mrs A Auckland	
	Miss S A Chambers	
	Mrs S Kaur Samra	
A	M S McGowan	
A	P F McGowan	
	Miss H Opie	
	Mrs M Pell	

Action

PCO =
Parish
Council
Office

PCG =
Parish
Council
Groundstaff

Persons absent are marked 'A'

Persons representing the Parish Council on other business are marked 'O'

Also in Attendance

Councillor	Mrs B Breakwell
Councillor	D J Hall
G D Long	Clerk to the Council
L M Cooke	Deputy Clerk
1 member of the public	

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M S McGowan and P F McGowan, and the reasons accepted.

Declaration of Member's Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th October 2012, having previously been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

E. 12/904 Action List Update

An update on actions resulting from recommendations had previously been circulated.

The Chairman reported that Pubwatch had not met recently.

The Clerk reported that Rushcliffe Borough Council were not currently involving partners in their 'Eyes and Ears' campaign.

Members noted this information.

E. 12/905 Motion for Adjournment

Resolved that: The Committee adjourns to allow the members of the public present to make statements on agenda items.

Mr D Hollingworth informed the meeting that when the clocks changed to GMT the street lighting clocks were not adjusted. They now go out at 11.30 p.m. not 12.30 a.m. He suggested that this may have led to an increase in crime.

Committee in Session

E. 12/906 Development

New Applications

Resolved that: The observations contained in Planning Schedule 687 are adopted.

Decision Notices

Schedule DN 216 was presented to the Committee and the contents noted.

E. 12/907 Policing

There were no new policing matters raised.

E. 12/908 Highway Matters

Winter Gritting

A report with details of the roads that Nottinghamshire County Council will grit during bad winter weather had previously been circulated. These are A & B roads and major bus routes.

Resolved that: This information is noted.

Street Lighting (See minute C. 12/1567)

Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC), as part of its budget savings programme for 2012/13, now switches off some street lighting overnight. Their final plan was reported to Parish Council on 15th May 2012. The Parish Council Office has received a number of complaints regarding this since it was introduced.

Councillor Miss H Opie reported that she had been in contact with NCC following complaints from some local residents. The street light clocks were not reset when the clocks were changed to GMT. However this does mean they come back on again at 5 a. m. which is beneficial to those going to work very early in the morning. She reported that some street lights are switching off at 8 p.m. and NCC have promised to investigate this.

It was agreed that residents should be encouraged to contact NCC with individual problems and that it would be useful to invite a representative from NCC Highways to the next meeting of the Committee.

Councillor Mrs B Breakwell reported that Nottinghamshire Police are monitoring the crime statistics to evaluate if the policy of turning the street lights off has as impact on crime levels.

Resolved that: A representative from NCC Highways should be invited to the next meeting of the Committee

PCO

E. 12/909 Village Guide

A report regarding the production of the Village Guide had previously been circulated. Maintenance of this guide has become very difficult and time consuming with businesses changing hands on a regular basis in the village. All entries require a data protection form completing. The Parish Council Office has noted that most of the queries from new residents are not about businesses but about services and/or activities they can attend.

The Parish Council Office is also regularly contacted about services provided by the Borough, County (Highways), Severn Trent, etc. and therefore the Guide should include as many contact details as possible for these organisations, as well as the Parish Council itself.

It was agreed that it might be appropriate at some time for the Parish Council to produce a booklet detailing all local businesses. This could be distributed to all households in the village recurrently (e.g. annually) and could be funded (including the distribution) by advertising. Councillors could manage this project with the support of the Parish Council Office.

Resolved that: The next Village Guide should be produced including all local services and without specific businesses.

PCO

E. 12/910 Website Updates

A report had previously been circulated to members. It is now more than three years since the launch of the website and it has become a very valuable tool for the Parish Council to communicate with residents

It was agreed that it is time for the site to be updated both for content and for appearance, with the following suggested developments:

1. Redesign of the homepage with new colours, look and feel, image slideshow, signposts to the most used content to increase usability (e.g. diary, village guide) clearer delineations between Parish Council topics and village information: £600
2. A new page editor to enable easier addition of content and 'drag and drop' menu structure: £250
3. A mobile theme for new website design to take advantage of the increased number of people viewing through smart-phones and tablet computers: £150.

The funding of these developments would come from the 'Village Guide' earmarked reserve (R & R Fund) set up to provide for such developments.

Resolved that: The developments above are approved.

PCO

E. 12/911 Planters (See minute E. 12/855)

A report detailing different possible styles of planter for placing at strategic locations in the village had previously been circulated.

Three locations were suggested for a trial and at each a councillor had volunteered to maintain and water the planter once installed and planted up. Local households would be contacted with a view to having at least three people at each location willing to share with maintenance and watering.

It was agreed that the wooden 'Shiverton' planters should be purchased. The exact location, style and size to be decided by the Parish Council Office in liaison with the groundstaff.

Resolved that:

1. Three Shiverton planters should be installed and planted up, subject to consent being obtained from Highways (NCC).
2. Local households are contacted seeking volunteers to maintain and water the planters.
3. The Parish Council Office will decide the exact style and size suitable for each location.
4. A report is brought back to Environment and Community Committee in December 2013.

PCO

PCO

PCO

PCO

E. 12/912 Budget 2013/14

Probable Out-Turn 2012/2013

Copies of the Probable Out-Turn 2012/2013, proposed Environment and Community Budget 2013/2014, and Renewals and Repairs Funds 2013/2014 had previously been circulated to Members. The Clerk explained that wherever possible, allowance had been made for future known expenditure. The Committee noted the comments and agreed the Probable Out-Turn 2012/2013 as presented.

Annual Budget 2013/2014

The proposed Annual Budget 2013/2014 was discussed and the Clerk explained that he had been prudent although possibly not as cautious as in previous years. The developments requested by the Committee had been included.

Members were also advised that as the information from Rushcliffe Borough Council in respect of the new Tax Base had not yet been received, the impact on the Council Tax for a Band D property had been based on the previous year's figure.

Resolved that:

1. That the Probable Out-Turn 2012/2013, a copy of which is appended to these minutes, is approved. PCO
2. That the Annual Budget 2013/2014, a copy of which is appended to these minutes, is approved and forwarded to the Finance & Policy Committee for inclusion in the Parish Council's overall budget document. PCO

E. 12/913 Photographic Competition Results (See minute E. 12/855)

The Photographic Garden Competition ran from 1st May to 31st August. As agreed, the Clerk arranged the judging.

Results

1 st Prize	Mrs B Harrington-Tucker	£25
2 nd Prize	Mr M Davey	£15
3 rd Prize	Mrs M Cripwell	£10

Resolved that: This information is noted.

E. 12/914 Rushcliffe Core Strategy

Correspondence from Rushcliffe Borough council reporting that the Rushcliffe Core Strategy Development Plan Document had been submitted for independent examination by a Planning Inspector had previously been circulated to members.

Resolved that: This information is noted.

E. 12/915 Ways to Improve the Look and Feel of Ruddington
(See minute E. 12/902)

The ongoing issue of broken glass in Ruddington was raised.

A number of issues were raised regarding conservation area status, in particular new shop signs and satellite dishes. It was agreed that the Clerk should ask Rushcliffe Borough Council for a briefing on the current regulations.

PCO

Councillor Mrs B Breakwell reported that she was writing an article for the Village Newsletter regarding schemes for people 'looking out for each other'

All members had received a letter from the Framework Knitters Museum seeking an expression of support for a new educational programme encouraging young people to reflect on poverty and discrimination, social exclusion, and crime and violence. It was agreed that, as well as individual members writing, a letter should be sent on behalf of the Parish Council.

PCO

E. 12/916 Other Environmental Matters for Report

Bus Stop Improvement

The Clerk reported that he had received a letter informing the Parish Council of improvements to the bus stop on the green and one on the Business Park.

Concern was expressed about the process that had resulted in this particular improvement, rather than other possible improvements, being progressed.

It was agreed to invite a representative of Highways (NCC) to the next meeting to discuss the issue of bus stops.

PCO

The meeting closed at 8.29 p.m.

Chairman

Committee Chairman