

RUDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Environment & Policy Committee meeting**

Held at St Peter's Rooms on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2014 at 7.30 p.m.

**Membership**

	N J Tegerdine	Chairman
	Mrs M Pell	Vice-Chairman
	Mrs A Auckland	
A	Mrs B Breakwell	
	Mrs S Kaur Samra	
	Miss H Opie	
	K S Piggott	
	M Walsh	

Persons absent are marked 'A'

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

Also in Attendance

Councillor	G Ellison
Councillor	Mrs M Robinson
Councillor	Mrs B M Venes
Councillor	W A Wood
Borough Councillor	N Boughton-Smith
G D Long	Clerk to the Council
3 members of the public	

**The Chairman reminded members that the meeting was being recorded as part of a pilot scheme.**

E. 14/10/01 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs B Breakwell, and the reasons accepted. Councillor K S Piggott apologised for late arrival.

E. 14/10/02 Declaration of Member's Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

**Councillor K S Piggott arrived during discussion of the following item.**

E. 14/10/03 Street Trees (see minute E. 14/06/10)

The Chairman suggested, with the agreement of the meeting, that the item on street trees should be taken next as Borough Councillor N Boughton-Smith had a presentation. This was agreed.

Councillor N Boughton-Smith told the meeting there is a featureless space round Ruddington Library and the building has little architectural merit. There is room to enhance the space with

Action

PCO =  
Parish  
Council  
Office

PCG =  
Parish  
Council  
Groundstaff

additional features e.g. seating which may increase social interaction. The main suggestion is for trees. Trees increase quality of life, are good for the environment, and would enhance the space and building.

He also informed the meeting about a Government funded initiative 'The Big Tree Plant'.

Members discussed the proposal and raised concerns about trees in front of the Library making the Library darker inside, further blocking drains with leaves and displacing the pavement with roots.

It was agreed that other sites around Ruddington should be considered and that members would give this thought and an item put on a future agenda. The Clerk should circulate details of 'The Big Tree Plant'.

**Resolved that:**

1. The Clerk will circulate the details of 'The Big Tree Plant' to members.
2. Members will give consideration to appropriate sites for tree planting.
3. An item will be brought to a future meeting

PCO

All members

PCO

E. 14/10/04 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2014, having previously been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

E. 14/10/05 Action List Update

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

Members noted this information.

E. 14/10/06 Motion for Adjournment

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

Mr Paul Green said that the Red Heart has 2 Sky dishes on the front.

Mr D Hollingworth said that parking on pavements was not restricted to Wilford Road. There was a problem on Charles Street outside the Dance School. The Clerk agreed to write and request that the Dance School asks the parent to park elsewhere e.g. the Parish Council Car Park.

PCO

## **Committee in Session**

### **E. 14/10/07 Development**

#### **New Applications**

**Resolved that:** The observations contained in Planning Schedule 726 are adopted

#### **Decision Notices**

A list of recent decision notices was presented to the Committee and the contents noted.

### **E. 14/10/08 Road Naming**

Rushcliffe Borough Council had contacted the Parish Council regarding the naming of 2 new developments. Members discussed a number of options for each before coming to a decision.

#### **A. Land to the North of Woodhouse Gardens**

**Resolved that:** “The Marl Pits” is put forward to Rushcliffe Borough Council, as this is the historic local name for that area.

PCO

#### **B. Land between Ashworth Avenue and Paget Crescent**

**Resolved that:** “The Approach” is put forward to Rushcliffe Borough Council.

PCO

### **E. 14/10/09 Parking on Wilford Road Footway**

The issue of cars and lorries parking on Wilford Road footway near the Hermitage had been raised a number of times. Members discussed the problem and a number of possible solutions, including getting bollards installed and placing some planters. It was agreed to start exploring the options and that the Clerk would seek advice from Nottinghamshire County Council.

**Resolved that:** The Clerk should seek advice from Nottinghamshire County Council about the possible placement of planters or bollards on Wilford Road near the Hermitage and the types that would be appropriate.

PCO

E. 14/10/10 Late Night Levy (See minute C. 14/09/17)

Parish Council (on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2014) resolved to write to various organisations regarding possible problems in Ruddington which might be caused by the introduction of the Late Night Levy by Nottingham City Council.

The Clerk reported that responses had been received from Ruddington Pubwatch, the Leader of Rushcliffe Borough Council and the Chief Constable. The office of the Police and Crime Commissioner had reported that the Commissioner was away and a response would be sent on his return. A reply was outstanding from the Leader of Nottingham City Council.

Ruddington Pubwatch reported that they were not expecting any impact on Ruddington as the pubs that have cancelled their late night licenses in Nottingham have all altered their closing hour to midnight. Since this is the same as the licensed hours of all pubs in Ruddington there should not be any 'late night influx'.

Nottinghamshire Police reported that there have been no problems so far and they will continue to monitor the situation.

The Leader of Rushcliffe Borough Council reported that they did not expect a 'late rush' to Ruddington as no premises in Ruddington have licensed hours after midnight.

**Resolved that:** The above information is noted.

E. 14/10/11 Grass Verges (see minute E. 13/949)

The issue of poor maintenance of grass verges was one of the main items raised in the discussion following the feedback on the Best Kept Village Competition at Environment and Community Committee.

The grass verges on all footways (i.e. paths than run alongside highways) in Ruddington are the responsibility of Nottinghamshire County Council. They may employ subcontractors to do the work and these change from time to time.

There are also green areas in the Village which are the responsibility of other organisations such as the Parish Council, Rushcliffe Borough Council and Metropolitan Housing.

Members discussed possible approaches to getting the maintenance improved. It was agreed that the Parish Council cannot afford to take on the responsibility of undertaking extra cuts.

It was also agreed that it was extremely unlikely that Nottinghamshire County Council would increase the number of cuts and that the Clerk should contact them to ask them to do so. It was concluded that keeping verges neat and tidy would continue to rely on the goodwill of residents and that there should be a discussion at a future meeting.

**Resolved that:**

1. The Clerk should contact Nottinghamshire County Council and request an increase the number of cuts in verges to footways, and
2. An item should be put on a future agenda.

**Councillor W A Wood arrived during discussion of the following item.**

E. 14/10/12 Job Evaluation Policy (see minute F. 14/1279)

A job evaluation policy and process is needed to evaluate the different jobs within the Parish Council and demonstrate equity and fairness across the board.

Ruddington Parish Council does not currently have a job evaluation policy, although a process was agreed by Finance and Policy Committee on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2014. Until then jobs had remained at the same grade for many years, since the national schemes were discontinued.

A draft Job Evaluation Policy had previously been circulated to members. This was discussed by members, a number of changes were made and the amended policy was agreed.

**Resolved that:** The Job Evaluation Policy (attached to these minutes) is approved.

E. 14/10/13 St. Peter's School – 20 mph Speed Limit

Correspondence from Nottinghamshire County Council regarding introducing a 20 m.p.h. speed limit outside St. Peter's School had previously been circulated to members

This information was noted.

E. 14/10/14 Core Strategy Inspectors Report

Correspondence from Nottingham City Council regarding the Core Strategy Inspectors Report had previously been circulated to members

This information was noted.

PCO

PCO

PCO

## E. 14/10/15 Nottingham City Council Local Plan Amendment

Correspondence from Nottingham City Council regarding two amendments to the Local Plan had previously been circulated to members

This information was noted.

## E. 14/10/16 Policing

There were no policing matters reported.

## E. 14/10/17 Highway Matters (See minutes E. 13/972 & E. 13/972)

### **1. E. 13/972 Highway Matters: Right turning on to Easthorpe Street**

It was agreed to invite an officer from NCC to meet with Councillor K S Piggott.

Response: NCC suggested that the Parish Council need to talk to the Police to enforce the existing restrictions.

### **2. E. 13/972 Highway Matters Parking Issues**

Councillor Miss H Opie reported parking issues on Kirk Lane opposite Elms Park and on Church Street at the exit from Shaw Street where driver's sight lines can be blocked. It was agreed to refer the issues to NCC.

Response: These requests will be included in a list of all such requests. The requests will be assessed in a standard and consistent way. Parking restrictions are implemented in locations where some or all of the following issues are evident:

- there have been 3 or more accidents in the last 3 years which have resulted in personal injury
- emergency services and/or bus services are being severely obstructed by the parking on a regular basis
- problems entering into or out of junctions by emergency services and/or bus services have been repeatedly and regularly reported
- the parking restriction is likely to be respected by drivers and will have a significant beneficial effect on the area
- there would not be a significant transfer of the parking to adjacent areas
- the required public consultation on the restriction would not result in significant objections.

The Clerk agreed to bring the matter to the attention of the Police.

PCO

E. 14/10/18 Meeting with Businesses

Members discussed the Meeting with Businesses held on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014. It was agreed that, although the turnout was slightly disappointing, the presentations had been well received and suggestions coming out of the discussions had been good.

The Clerk explained that the issues raised would be put on the relevant agendas.

Members discussed the issue that for some businesses the time of the meeting is not convenient. It was noted that no one time would suit all businesses and agreed that the pubs, restaurants etc. would be approached and offered a meeting at another time e.g. 4 p.m.

**Resolved that:** The pubs, restaurants etc. will be approached and offered a meeting at another time e.g. 4 p.m.

NJT

E. 14/10/19 Ways to Improve the Look and Feel of Ruddington

The Red Heart is in the Conservation Area. The Clerk agreed to inform the Borough Council about the Sky dishes.

PCO

Improve the gateways to the Village and use the Xmas tree brackets to decorate the Village during the summer (ideas from the meeting with businesses). The Clerk reported that these will be put on appropriate Committee agendas.

PCO

West Bridgford have banners/standards attached to lampposts. It was agreed this should be added to a future agenda.

PCO

The Chairman of Environment & Policy reminded members that they can nominate good restorations for acknowledgment by the Parish Council.

All members

E. 14/10/20 Other environmental matters for report

There were no other matters raised.

E. 14/10/21 Exclusion of Press and Public

**Resolved that:** In view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted the public and press be temporarily excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item in accordance with Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and they are asked to withdraw.

**The Clerk left the meeting at this point.**

E. 14/10/22 Staffing Requirements of the Parish Council office

Committee discussed the proposal at length. In view of the many other recent changes in how Council proposes to operate, and being mindful of the financial implications of the proposal, it was felt to be premature to action the proposal at this time.

It was agreed to defer a decision for six months by which time the position on other related matters would be clearer, and that if required a special Council meeting would be convened in April for the purpose of deciding on the staffing structure for the future.

**Resolved that:** The decision on office staffing structure is deferred for 6 months and a special Council meeting will be convened in April 2015 for the purpose of deciding on the staffing structure for the future.

The meeting closed at 10.22 p.m.

Chairman

Committee Chairman