

RUDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD AT ST. PETER'S ROOMS, CHURCH STREET ON TUESDAY 13th JULY 2010 AT 7.30PM

Membership

Councillors	D.J. Hall	Chairman
	K.S. Piggott	Vice-Chairman
	Miss S.A. Chambers	
	P. Lyons-Lewis	
	P.F. McGowan	
	J.V. Norton	
	Mrs. B. Venes	
	M. Walsh	

Persons absent are marked 'A'

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Councillors	Mrs. B. Breakwell
	Mrs. M.G. Grice
Mrs. J.A. Goodbody	Clerk to the Council
R.S. Shelbourn	Senior Groundsman

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

DECLARATION OF MEMBER'S INTERESTS

Councillors Mrs. B. M. Venes and M. Walsh declared an interest in any item appertaining to the Allotments. Councillor Mrs. B.M. Venes advised Members that she will be serving on the Borough Council's Development Control Committee when a final decision is taken on planning applications and will therefore abstain from voting when planning applications are discussed.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25th May 2010, having been previously circulated, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Flawford Churchyard (Vide Minute A. 10/802)

Councillor Mrs. B.M. Venes asked whether the additional stones had been installed depicting the outline of the original church and was advised that the groundstaff were still waiting for the weeds to die down.

The Senior Groundsman said that the additional stones would be installed in the near future. Members noted this information.

Grass Verges on A60 Loughborough Road (Vide Minute A. 10/805)

Councillor P.F. McGowan reported that the verges on the A60 Loughborough Road had been cut back prior to the commencement of the judging for the Best Kept Village Competition. Members noted this information.

Church Street Car Park (Vide Minute A. 10/805)

The Clerk reported that since the last meeting the Architect on the Medical Centre Project had indicated that he was not intending to close the car park completely whilst the crane was in attendance. He advised that two 'banksmen' would be stationed at the entrance to the car park and within the car park in order to maintain the flow of vehicles requiring to park.

The Clerk reported that due to adverse weather conditions during week commencing 7th June 2010, the crane did not arrive on site until 6am on Thursday 17th June 2010 and once it was in position the area surrounding it was cordoned off, leaving car parking spaces available. Two men were on duty organising parking, one at the entrance and the other guiding vehicles into available spaces and out again. There was constant communication between the two men as to the number of spaces available.

The Parish Council received no complaints at all regarding the operations being carried out or parking – in fact some members of the public remarked how nice it was to be directed into the car park. The only known problem was caused by inconsiderate on-street parking at the end of Church Street, near The Green, which held one of the buses up for several minutes.

John Hallatt reported to the Clerk on the morning of Friday 18th June, that the roof steels had all been put in place by 4.30pm on the 17th and therefore the crane would not be returning on the 18th. He said that in all the years he had been overseeing projects he had never come across such an efficient crew and he was therefore proposing to write to the company concerned to express his appreciation and to congratulate them on the efficiency of their employees.

Members noted this information.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

There being no members of the public present, no motion for adjournment was made.

A. 10/807 DEVELOPMENTNew Applications

That the observations contained in Planning Schedule 628 be adopted.

A. 10/808 CRICKET FACILITIES (Vide Minute A. 10/795)Provision of cricket training facilities.

Councillor J.V. Norton reported that he had again met with members of the cricket club and had advised them of the Parish Council's suggestions. They are intending to look at the type of training facilities offered by other cricket clubs and will advise the Parish Council of their investigations, at the same time giving an indication of what they would like to see at Elms Park. They are also looking to raise funds towards the cost of training facilities.

Councillor J.V. Norton advised that he will continue his dialogue with the cricket club in order to progress this matter to a satisfactory conclusion for all concerned.

RESOLVED:

1. That the above information be noted.
2. That Councillor J.V. Norton continue his dialogue with Ruddington Cricket Club.
3. That this matter be further discussed at the next meeting of the Committee.

JN

JG

A. 10/809 ELMS PARK PLAY AREA (Vide Minute A. 10/796)

Councillor J.V. Norton reported that the working group had recently met with Proludic to discuss their revised plans. He explained that Proludic had provided the initial plan for the scheme, but as the project had progressed and become more ambitious, the working group had agreed that Proludic should be given the opportunity to re-quote on a similar basis to the other suppliers who had since provided quotations. One other supplier has, however, been contacted and asked to upgrade their quotation so that the working group can review the quotations received on a like for like basis. The two preferred schemes will ultimately be presented to the Parish Council in September/October in order for a decision to be made to move the project forward.

Councillor J.V. Norton pointed out that the project has been divided into two schemes – one for toddlers and one for the 8-14's i.e. the Playbuilder Grant specifically relates to provision for 8-14's. It is anticipated that work will commence on at least one of the schemes before Christmas.

The Chairman reported that he and Councillor Mrs. B. Breakwell would be meeting the Social Fund Executive of Shepshed Building Society on

Wednesday 14th July 2010 to discuss the possibility of them becoming involved with the Parish Council with regard to providing some funding for the project. Apparently the Chief Executive of Shepshed Building Society is keen to help, even though they have never been involved in working with a Parish Council before.

The Clerk reported that the application for funding through the Rushcliffe Borough Council Capital Grant Scheme had now gone through and will be held until the review of all applications takes place in September. It is anticipated that the outcome of the application will be known by end September or early October.

The Clerk read to Members the contents of a letter received in respect of the application for funding which had been made through the Nottinghamshire County Council's Local Improvement Scheme. The letter advised that all scheme suggestions received will be considered during January 2011. Following this County Councillor Richard Butler (Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability) will make the final decision on the list of schemes programmed for implementation during 2011/2012. The Parish Council will be contacted again in April/May 2011 to advise on the outcome of its application.

RESOLVED:

1. That the above information be noted.
2. That the working group report back to the next meeting of the Parish Council with details of two schemes to enable a decision to be made on the way forward with this project.

W/G

A. 10/810 ST. PETER'S CHURCHYARD (Vide Minute A. 10/797)

The Clerk reported that Councillor W.A. Wood had advised that the person acting on behalf of St. Peter's Church with regard to this matter was currently away on a church visit to Africa. He, therefore, suggested that further discussion on this matter be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED

1. That the above information be noted.
2. That this matter be further discussed at the next meeting of the Committee.

JG

A. 10/811 JUBILEE CLUBHOUSE (Vide Minute A. 10/798)

Jubilee Clubhouse Working Group

Councillor J.V. Norton reported that the next meeting of the Jubilee Clubhouse Working Group is scheduled to take place in August. It is anticipated that funding streams for the future will be discussed, along with designs for the trophy cabinet which will be located in the Clubhouse

and for which the Parish Council had previously given approval, subject to its design.

RESOLVED:

That the above information be noted.

Bookings at Jubilee Clubhouse

The Clerk reported that a sports afternoon had recently been booked through the Parish Council Office for use of both the Jubilee Field and Clubhouse on a Sunday afternoon.

When the hirer arrived at the venue, she found that the premises were already open and there were children and adult trainers there who had just finished playing football. The training session had not been booked through the Parish Council Office and therefore no record of this had been made, which meant that no charge would be generated for the use of the facilities. It was pointed out that this could have caused a problem for the 'official' hirer had the training not just finished, and this is not the first time the facilities have been used without prior knowledge.

The Administration Staff are concerned about this type of action being taken by the football club without any consultation with the Parish Council Office to ascertain whether there are any prior 'official' bookings.

Members agreed that the relevant information regarding days when the facilities had been used by the football club but not booked through the Parish Council Office should be passed on to Councillor J.V. Norton in order that this matter can be discussed at the next Working Group Meeting. It was noted that the football club pay for 'core' usage but this needs to be defined.

RESOLVED:

1. That this matter be discussed at the next Working Group Meeting.
2. That the meaning of 'core' usage be defined so that the Parish Council Administration Staff are fully aware when the facilities are being used by the football club, and similarly the football club are aware that additional usage must be booked through the Parish Council Office.

W/G

W/G

A. 10/812 ALLOTMENTS COMPETITION 2010

Copies of a report prepared by the Clerk detailing the results of this year's competition had previously been circulated to Members. Members were reminded that all allotment gardens within the Parish are automatically entered into this competition.

The Clerk advised that the Judge had been very impressed with the high standards achieved this year, and the additional uptake of allotment gardens throughout all the allotment sites within the village.

RESOLVED:

1. That awards be made as per the Judge's recommendations.
2. That cash prizes be awarded as follows:-

£50.00	First Prize and The Thorncroft Trophy
£25.00	Second Prize
£15.00	Third Prize
£10.00	Fourth Prize

3. That awards be made as follows:-

Winner	Bob & Mary Smith	Paradise Gardens
Second	Brian Booker	Buttercup Gardens
Third	Wayne Farrington	Paradise Gardens
Fourth	Roger Byrne	Paradise Gardens

Highly Commended:

Barry Voce & Douglas Cheetham	Buttercup Gardens
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4. That the Council in accordance with its powers under Sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act of 1972 should incur the following expenditure which in the opinion of the Council is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them commensurate with this expenditure:-

a.	Prize Money	£100.00
b.	Judge's Fee	£30.00

5. That the current year's winner be requested to stand down from entering the next year's competition.
6. That the awards be presented at the Parish Council Meeting scheduled to take place on 21st September 2010.

A. 10/813 VICARAGE LANE PLAYING FIELD (Vide Minute A. 10/800)Footpath leading from Barton Close

Copies of three quotations in respect of renewal of the path leading from Barton Close to the play area had previously been circulated to Members. The quotations received are as follows:

City Asphalt	£6938.00 exc. of VAT
J.A. Kent Services	£8429.00 exc. of VAT
D.J. Houghton & Sons	£6671.00 exc. of VAT

RESOLVED:

That the quotation from D.J. Houghton & Sons in the sum of £6671.00 exc. of VAT be accepted.

Play Area Gates

The Chairman advised that the new gates for the play area will be installed during w/c 19th July 2010 and will require painting once they are in situ. Members noted this information.

A. 10/814 PLAY ACTIVITIES DURING SUMMER 2010 (Vide Minute A.10/801)

Councillor Mrs. B. Breakwell reported that the programme of events had now been printed and distributed to children at both schools in the village, as well as toddler groups. Thanks were expressed to the Parish Council, County Councillor Reg Adair, SureStart and Extended Services who had all made contributions to enable the play activities to take place in Ruddington.

Councillor Mrs. B. Breakwell advised that it is hoped that a Sensory Tent can be made available at one of the events through the Aim High Programme. This is specifically designed to enable children with disabilities to join in with activities and personal invitations will be sent to those concerned, including siblings, via the local schools.

RESOLVED:

That the above information be noted.

A. 10/815 RUSHCLIFFE BOROUGH COUNCIL PARISH SUMMER SPORTS OFFER (Vide Minute C. 10/1353)

Copies of Minute No. C 10/1353 taken from the Parish Council Minutes dated 29th June 2010 had previously been circulated to Members.

Councillor Mrs. B. Breakwell reported that she had completed the application on behalf of the Council and was awaiting a response as to whether the Parish Council will receive funding/equipment as well as Cricket Tickets.

It was suggested that if the Parish Council does receive the Cricket Tickets, these could be offered to Ruddington Cricket Club to enable their use towards fundraising. This was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED:

That the Cricket Tickets, if received, be offered to Ruddington Cricket Club.

A. 10/816 SMALL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES PROGRAMME 2010/2011 (Vide Minute E. 10/734)

The Chairman advised that this matter had been discussed by the Environment & Community Committee at its meeting held on 8th June 2010 at which time it had been agreed to refer the discussion to the Amenities Committee.

It was suggested that the scheme in respect of Elms Park Play Area, which will incorporate the provision of trees and shrubs, be submitted as an outline application. The Senior Groundsman was requested to consider the type of species available through the scheme and discuss with the Chairman which should be included in the request for funding.

RESOLVED:

1. That an application be made through the Small Environmental Improvements Scheme Programme for trees and shrubs in respect of Elms Park Play Area.
2. That the application be completed by the Senior Groundsman following discussions with the Chairman of the Amenities Committee on the species to be included in the application.

RS/DH

A. 10/817 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – DELIVERY OF LOCAL SERVICES (Vide Minute C. 10/1348)

Copies of Minute No. C. 10/1348 taken from the Parish Council Minutes dated 29th June 2010 had previously been circulated to Members.

At the Parish Council Meeting it had been suggested that the Amenities Committee should discuss which services the Parish Council may wish to consider taking on and subsequently refer this to the Finance & Policy Committee for consideration in respect of the financial implications.

Councillor J.V. Norton, who had attended the NCC Forum at which this matter had originally been discussed, advised that several smaller villages do carry out some services on behalf of the County Council, particularly as they wish to ensure that certain areas within their parish look especially attractive etc. He suggested that Members come up with examples of where they would like to see improvements made in Ruddington in respect of the services provided by the County Council and that these be discussed in more depth at the next meeting of the Committee.

It was pointed out that the Parish Council does, and has done for many years, carry out extra cuts to some verges within the Parish in order to present a better visual impact, particularly at the various entrances to the village.

It was suggested that a copy of the NCC Schedule for grass cutting and sign cleaning within the Parish be obtained prior to further discussion taking place.

RESOLVED:

1. That a copy of the NCC Schedules in respect of grass cutting and sign cleaning be obtained.
2. That this matter be further discussed at the next meeting of the Amenities Committee scheduled to take place on 5th October 2010.

JG

JG

A. 10/818 LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME – IMPROVEMENTS TO HIGH STREET (Vide Minute C. 10/1343)

Copies of photomontages supplied by Nottinghamshire County Council showing the footpaths and forecourts on High Street with paving in Autumn Mix (red) and Autumn Gold (yellow) coloured blocks, with delineation paving in charcoal coloured blocks, had previously been circulated to Members.

The Clerk reported that she had spoken to Sue Jaques, the Programme Manager, who had suggested that she points out to Members that it has been observed in West Bridgford that the Autumn Mix blocks appear to go darker and duller with wear, whereas the Autumn Gold seem to wear better. However, she said the final choice in respect of Ruddington remains with the Parish Council.

RESOLVED:

1. That the choice for paving blocks in respect of improvements to High Street be Autumn Gold (yellow). with delineation paving in Charcoal.
2. That this information be conveyed to the Local Improvement Scheme Team straight away to enable the scheme to proceed on schedule.

JG

A. 10/819 WAR MEMORIAL

The Chairman reported at the time the planting at the War Memorial was taking place he had noticed that the circular base of the memorial appeared to have moved and some of the paving was cracked. He had preliminary obtained the opinion of a member of Thomas Long & Sons Ltd. staff, who had advised that any repair would need to be carried out by a specialist stonemason. He had subsequently met with Stephen Ansty, a specialist in the restoration and conservation of historical buildings, who had advised that in his opinion the damage has more than likely been caused by subsidence and it would be necessary to take the base down in sections so as to avoid disturbance and removal of the memorial itself.

Copies of a quotation from Stephen Ansty Stonemasons Ltd. had previously been circulated to Members. The quotation in the sum of £3900.00 exc. of VAT covered carefully taking up and re-bedding the steps in sections and refix using NHL 3.5 Hydraulic lime mortar to a sound and solid base, pointing up and clearing the site on completion. In addition, a quotation in the sum of £1400.00 exc. of VAT had been obtained to re-cut the worn letters on the memorial.

The Clerk, together with a representative from The Royal British Legion, had obtained information from the War Memorials Trust regarding the provision of advice and possible funding assistance in respect of repairs to war memorials.

Members agreed that in the first instance the Expression of Interest Form in respect of grants through the War Memorials Trust should be completed and the matter discussed further once the information is to hand.

RESOLVED:

1. That the above information be noted.
2. That the War Memorials Trust Expression of Interest Form be completed.
3. That this matter be discussed at the next meeting of the Amenities Committee scheduled to take place on 5th October 2010.

JG

A. 10/820 REPORTS ON AMENITIES MATTERS

Vicarage Lane Cemetery

The Clerk reported that a local resident, Mrs. Ruby Bromhead, had asked her to thank the Parish Council Groundstaff for their work at Vicarage Lane Cemetery and said how beautiful it looks. Members noted this information.

Annual Inspection of Children's Play Equipment

The Clerk reported that the Annual Inspection of Children's Play Equipment had taken place on 18th May 2010 and the following general comments had been made:

Sellors Play Area	The present overall risk rating is LOW No remedial maintenance recommended
Vicarage Lane Play Area	The present overall risk rating is LOW No remedial maintenance recommended
Elms Park Play Area	The present overall risk rate is MEDIUM Some works recommended to reduce the risk

The Clerk advised that the results of the inspection will be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting of the Committee. Members noted this information.

Ruddington Seniors Football Team

The Senior Groundsman reported that he had been approached by the Manager of Ruddington Seniors Football Team to advise that under NSL Rules it is now necessary for 'dug-outs' to be provided. It has since, however, been learned that the Senior team has been relegated to a lower division and it is therefore not known whether this rule will apply. Members noted this information and agreed to discuss it further if and when it arises in the future.

A. 10/821 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AMENITIES AGENDA

1. Cricket Facilities
2. Elms Park Play Area
3. St. Peter's Churchyard
4. Jubilee Clubhouse
5. Flawford Churchyard
6. War Memorial

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

Chairman

Committee Chairman