

RUDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETINGHELD AT ST. PETER'S ROOMS ON TUESDAY 19th JULY 2011 AT 7.30PM**Membership**

Councillors	N. Tegerdine	Chairman
A	K. S. Piggott	Vice-Chairman
	Miss S. A. Chambers	
A	Mrs. S. Kaur Samra	
A	P. Lyons Lewis	
	M. S. McGowan	
	Mrs. M. Pell	

Persons absent are marked 'A'

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Mrs. B. Breakwell	
Councillor P. F McGowan	
Councillor Mrs. R. H. Wilson	
Mrs. J. A. Goodbody	Clerk to the Council
Mrs. L. M. Cooke	Deputy Clerk to the Council

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. S. Kaur Samra and K. S. Piggott.

DECLARATION OF MEMBER'S INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest made.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7th June 2011, having previously been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the following amendment. Following the Motion for Adjournment and members of the public present making statements, the words COMMITTEE IN SESSION are to be inserted.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

A fresh approach to housing growth – nothing is yet decided!
(Vide Minute E. 11/799)

Councillor Mrs. M. Pell requested that the Committee be kept informed of any feedback from Rushcliffe Borough Council in respect of this issue. Members agreed to keep the item on the agenda for future meetings.

There were no further matters arising from the Minutes.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

There being no members of the public in attendance at the meeting no motion for adjournment was made.

E. 11/803 DEVELOPMENT

RESOLVED:

New Applications

That the observations contained in Planning Schedule 656 be adopted.

Decision Notices

Schedule DN 208 was presented to the Committee and the contents noted.

E. 11/804 POLICING

Nottinghamshire Police Authority – Neighbourhood Priority Survey

Copies of a letter from the Nottinghamshire Police Authority containing a Neighbourhood Priority Survey to be completed online, had previously been circulated. The Chairman reminded members that this was the last meeting to be held before the summer recess and that in order to meet the deadline for the survey, it would be necessary to complete the form on behalf of the Parish Council.

Each member selected up to three priorities and following a tally, the following were selected as the three issues that caused most concern in the neighbourhood as required by the survey.

1. Anti-social behaviour – Environmental issues (e.g. dog fouling / litter / fly tipping).
2. Anti-social behaviour – Vehicle nuisance (e.g. illegal parking / speeding / off-road motorbikes / mini motos)
3. Crime – Criminal damage / vandalism / graffiti

Members also agreed that an increased police presence in the village and occasional speed cameras would improve the issues identified.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk/Deputy Clerk completes the online Neighbourhood Priority Survey as follows:

1. Anti-social behaviour – Environmental issues (e.g. dog fouling / litter / fly tipping).
2. Anti-social behaviour – Vehicle nuisance (e.g. illegal parking / speeding / off-road motorbikes / mini motos)
3. Crime – Criminal damage / vandalism / graffiti

That an increased police presence in the village and occasional speed cameras would improve the issues identified.

JG/LC

Nottinghamshire Police Authority – Public and partner meeting

The letter previously mentioned also contained information about a series of public and partner meetings that the Police Authority is planning from September 2011 and asked whether the Parish Council would be interested to assist with hosting a meeting.

Members agreed that this would be very helpful both to the village and the Parish Council. Councillor P. F. McGowan added that as support for the Local Area Group meetings had dwindled, a meeting with more senior members of the Nottinghamshire Police Authority might generate greater interest from residents.

Members agreed that the Clerk should write to the Nottinghamshire Police Authority expressing an interest in assisting with hosting a meeting.

JG/LC

RESOLVED

Members agreed that the Clerk/Deputy Clerk should write to the Nottinghamshire Police Authority expressing an interest in assisting with hosting a meeting.

JG/LC

Police Priority Setting Meeting

Councillor Mrs. B. Breakwell advised that she will be attending the Priority Setting Meeting on Wednesday 20th July 2011 and would report back to the Parish Council in due course.

There were no further policing matters to report and/or action.

RESOLVED

That the above information be noted.

E. 11/805 HIGHWAY MATTERS

Ruddington Connection Bus Service

Councillor Mrs. B. Breakwell reported that following the previous meeting she, along with Councillor W. A. Wood and the Deputy Clerk, had formulated a letter which she had subsequently distributed to properties on Musters Road and Distillery Street. The letter was asking residents to park responsibly in light of occasions when the Ruddington Connection

bus service had been stopped from continuing due to the road being blocked.

Following this, she had been invited to a meeting with the Team Leader for the Ruddington Connection service to discuss the issues further. Christian Allen-Clay identified several areas as being problematic for buses in the village but the main area of concern was at the corner of The Green and Church Street. Mr Allen-Clay explained that in the event of the route being blocked, the driver was not permitted to leave his bus. The driver would be required initially to sound the horn, then call the Control Room to advise. If the road remained blocked, then the Control Room would contact the Police who would deal with it as an obstruction of the highway.

Councillor Mrs. Breakwell also stated that she had been approached by numerous residents following the distribution of the letter and the publication of a similar article in both the Newsletter and on the website. Residents had suggested that smaller buses be used during the daytime or that residents could put some sort of "card" in the car window advising where they were visiting.

Members concurred that there are many areas in the village where inappropriate parking causes traffic jams and agreed to write to Nottinghamshire County Council Highways Department to ascertain whether they might consider the feasibility of installing double yellow lines for a short stretch on one side of the road at the junction of The Green and Church Street. They agreed that subject to the response, the Parish Council could invite a representative of Highways to view other problem areas and discuss the issues further.

The Chairman added that this could also be discussed with the Police when they visit the Parish Council. He re-iterated that buses are important to the village and that residents should be encouraged to park more responsibly. He added that this issue of encouraging responsible parking should be repeated on the website and in the Newsletter in the near future.

RESOLVED

1. That the Clerk/Deputy Clerk writes to Nottinghamshire County Council Highways Department to ascertain whether they might consider the feasibility of installing double yellow lines for a short stretch on one side of the road at the junction of The Green and Church Street.
2. That on receipt of a response to the above, a representative from the Highways Department be invited to view the other problem areas for further discussions.
3. That the issues of inappropriate parking be discussed with police representatives at future planned meetings.
4. That the issue of encouraging responsible parking should be repeated on the website and in the Newsletter in the near future.

JG / LC

LC

Road works and road closures in Ruddington

A list of proposed road works and road closures had previously been circulated to members. The Clerk advised that since the list had been distributed, she had been in discussion with Richard Crowe at NCC Highways and discovered that there were now amendments to the schedule.

Originally it had been hoped to keep one lane open and use a one-way system on The Green, High Street and Church Street to facilitate resurfacing work. However, the buses would not be able to negotiate the bend from High Street into The Green using one lane only and so there will now be temporary road closures from Kempson Street, along The Green and as far as Parkyns Street between 8th and 12th August. Traffic lights will be in operation on the A60 to enable buses to turn from Easthorpe Street. Also buses will go straight across the junction at Kirk Lane / High Street using Charles Street. Help will be given to residents of The Green with regard to access and egress. The Clerk reported that she is now in receipt of the Press Release for these works and the associated road closures.

The Clerk was advised by Mr Crowe that formal notification had been delayed due to the change in arrangements and the fact that NCC have to give the bus companies at least 10 weeks' notice. The Parish Council is not informed until the Legal Order has been placed and this was late due to the change from a one-way system to road closures.

There were no further highways matters to report and/or action.

RESOLVED

That the above information be noted.

E. 11/806 BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION

Copies of a letter from CPRE announcing the Preliminary Round Results in the Best Kept Village Competition 2011 had previously been circulated.

Members noted that although Ruddington was not placed in the top four for Section A, comments from the judges had been positive. The Clerk helped decipher the hand written comments as below:

- Entrances to village very clean
- Verges and green spaces well kept
- Village Green well kept and tidy
- Main street and shopping area clean
- Commercial properties very clean and tidy
- Very clean and consistent throughout

The Chairman asked that the comments are reported on the website and in the Newsletter and that in future more involvement from local people might help to enhance the village's standing in the competition.

RESOLVED

That the above information be noted and that results are reported on the website and in the Newsletter.

LC

E. 11/807 WAYS TO IMPROVE THE LOOK AND FEEL OF RUDDINGTON (Vide Minute E. 11/800)

New High Street Paving

Copies of a letter from County Councillor Reg Adair had previously been circulated. Councillor Adair explained that he was unable to attend the meeting due to other commitments. However, in response to Members concern about parking on the new paving, he advised that only the Police can stop it occurring and that there is nothing that Nottinghamshire County Council can do. He explained that he had discussed the problem with the local Police and asked them to "take the strongest possible action against those that do so".

Members noted this information and agreed that this was an issue to discuss with the Police at a future meeting.

RESOLVED

That the above information be noted.

Maintenance of grass verges

A report from the Deputy Clerk following a telephone conversation with Claire Murden at NCC Highways had previously been circulated. The report explained that Highways would only consider handing over responsibility for cutting all verges in the Parish and not just ones that were of special interest to the Parish Council. She added that Highways cut verges solely for the purpose of road safety and therefore not necessarily to the standard and quality that the Parish Council might do. The Highways Department currently pays for five cuts a year and no more than five. If the Parish Council wanted additional cuts it would have to organise these. The current rate paid for cutting is 2p per square metre. Highways also asked that the Parish Council take into consideration the requirement of £5million indemnity insurance required for mowing alongside a highway.

It was also suggested that if the Parish Council wanted to pursue this matter further, it could apply for a map showing the cuts done in Ruddington to assess the value of the work.

Members agreed that the Deputy Clerk should request a copy of the map from Andy Oscroft of NCC Highways, so that the issue of cutting the verges could be considered further.

RESOLVED

That the Deputy Clerk requests a map from NCC Highways so that the issue of cutting the verges could be considered further.

LC

To consider other ways to 'Improve the Look and Feel of Ruddington'.

Councillor Mrs. B. Breakwell stated that she had been approached by numerous residents regarding a vine which appeared to be growing over the wall opposite the end of Easthorpe Street on Duttons Hill. The plant appeared to be climbing up the telegraph pole, onto the cables and also down the wall onto and across the pavement.

The Clerk advised that if the vine was impeding or overhanging the highway, then NCC Highways would deal with the problem if it was referred to them. The Deputy Clerk reported that the Parish Council Office is regularly in contact with the Highways Department with concerns raised by residents and would be happy to do the same on this occasion. Members agreed that this would be the most appropriate way of dealing with the problem.

RESOLVED

That the above information be noted.

E. 11/808 RUSHCLIFFE BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP – RUDDINGTON "SATELLITE"

Copies of an email from Ian Wilson, a resident of Ruddington, advising of his efforts to establish a Ruddington "satellite" group of the Rushcliffe Business Partnership had previously been circulated. The email explained that the aim of the new group would be to "raise awareness of the needs of the business community" and "improve the general business environment in Ruddington".

Mr. Wilson asked the Parish Council to consider:

- Agreement to support/sponsor such an event so it has credibility
- Provide membership of the steering committee and attendance at the events
- Provide information and share perspective on issues relevant to the groups aims
- Use of the Parish Council website and newsletter to promote and report on the group

The Chairman stated that he did not know anything about the Rushcliffe Business Partnership and that it might not be what the Parish Council had

in mind when considering establishing a Local Traders / Environment & Community Committee Liaison Group. The Chairman added that the previous Parish Council had agreed to try to pull businesses together and to support them, but that forming a working party to do this had been deferred until after the election. Therefore, in his opinion there were two processes going; one for a Parish Council Liaison Group and one for a “satellite” group of the RBP, and both should continue.

A number of members expressed support for the new RBP Ruddington “satellite” group and emphasised that it appeared to fulfil the criteria that had previously been discussed. Councillor Mrs. B. Breakwell advised that in her opinion the suggestion of a Parish Council led initiative had not moved forward and in the meantime this new group’s aims were the same ie to raise the profile of businesses in Ruddington.

Councillor P. F. McGowan added that if the Parish Council pursued its own liaison group it would be entering into another activity which someone else is already in the process of setting up.

Members agreed that initially Councillor M. McGowan should attend the meeting on 19th August to ascertain exactly what the RBP Ruddington “satellite” group were doing and whether it was appropriate for the Parish Council to be supporting it. Councillor M. McGowan could then report back to the next meeting of the Environment & Community Committee on 18th October 2011 for further discussion.

RESOLVED

1. That Councillor M. McGowan attend the meeting of the Rushcliffe Business Partnership, Ruddington “satellite” group on 19th August and report back to the next meeting of the Environment & Community Committee.
2. That this issue be discussed further at the next meeting.

MMcG

JG/LC

E. 11/809 OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS FOR REPORT

Ruddington Community Event 2012

Councillor Mrs. B. Breakwell reported that there was plenty of support for a community based event for 2012 and a meeting to move the project forward has been planned for Thursday 21st July. Councillor Mrs. Breakwell advised that she will report back to the committee in due course.

Damaged Virgin Media Box

Councillor Miss S. A. Chambers asked whether anyone had reported the damage to the Virgin Media Box which is positioned near to terraced houses on Church Street near St. Peter’s Rooms. The Deputy Clerk advised that the damage has been reported to the company concerned and that they had confirmed receipt of the report.

Poplar tree problems

Councillor Mrs. M. Pell asked what the procedure was for a resident to report problems with a tree in a neighbour's garden. The resident was worried that the roots of the Poplar tree were causing damage to buildings and the resident didn't know how to deal with it. The Clerk advised that Councillor Mrs. Pell could report the problem to Rushcliffe Borough Council Conservation Department on the resident's behalf.

Sunrise and sunset times

The Deputy Clerk reported that Mr Dodd of Loughborough Road had kindly provided the Parish Council office with a copy of sunrise and sunset times for Ruddington in 2011. Mr Dodd had written to say that perhaps someone wishing to organise an event might want to check this information and that they could refer to it in the Parish Council office if they wished. The Deputy Clerk confirmed that she had written to Mr Dodd and thanked him for the booklet.

Garden Competition Results

The Clerk circulated a list of Garden Competition winners for 2012 and advised that these would be publicised in due course.

The meeting closed at 8.56pm

Chairman

Committee Chairman