

RUDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETINGHELD AT ST. PETER'S ROOMS ON TUESDAY 8th JUNE 2010 AT 7.30PM**Membership**

Councillors	N. Tegerdine	Chairman
	W.A. Wood	Vice-Chairman
	D. Bakewell	
	Mrs. B. Breakwell	
	Mrs. M.G. Grice	
A	Mrs. S. Kaur Samra	
A	D.E.G. Williams	
	Mrs. M. Woodhead	

Persons absent are marked 'A'

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor D. J. Hall	
Mrs. L. M. Cooke	Deputy Clerk to the Council
3 members of public	

Prior to the formal commencement of proceedings, the Chairman paid tribute to Stuart Hurman, a former Parish Councillor, who died peacefully at home on 2nd June 2010, following a long illness. The Chairman gave details of the funeral arrangements and asked that those in attendance observe a few moments of silence.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs. S. Kaur Samra.

DECLARATION OF MEMBER'S INTERESTS

Councillor W. A. Wood declared an interest in Planning Application No. 10/00676/FUL in respect of 25 Kirk Lane.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20th April 2010, having previously been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTESBest Kept Village Competition 2010 (Vide Minute E. 10/724)

The Deputy Clerk reported that confirmation of Ruddington's entry in to

the Best Kept Village Competition 2010 had been received and that the first round of judging would take place between 7th and 25th June 2010.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 11th May 2010, having previously been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Councillor Mrs M. Woodhead advised that whilst marked as being in attendance for this meeting, she had actually sent apologies and was on holiday. The Deputy Clerk stated that the minutes would be amended as appropriate and initialled by the Clerk.

JG

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

RESOLVED:

That the Committee adjourn to allow one of the members of the public present to make a statement on an Agenda item.

During the adjournment the following matters were raised:

Mrs. B. Dickman stated that Planning Application No. 10/00676/FUL which was for consideration during the meeting, was for a retirement property for herself and her husband, in the grounds of their current home. Mrs. Dickman asked for it to be noted that in her opinion the property would make it more private for properties on Sycamore Close as they would no longer be overlooked by number 25. She stated that there were no upstairs windows facing north, east or south and therefore no windows would overlook adjoining properties. Mrs. Dickman also advised that she had visited a number of neighbouring properties with details of the plans and that none of them had objected to the plans.

The Chairman thanked Mrs. Dickman for her comments.

COMMITTEE IN SESSION

E. 10/728 DEVELOPMENT

New Applications

That the observations contained in Planning Schedule 625 be adopted.

Decision Notices

Schedule DN 201 was presented to the Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of Schedule DN 201 be noted.

E. 10/729 POLICINGPolice Priority Settings Meeting

A report from Councillor Mrs. B. Breakwell giving details of the meeting which took place on 21st April 2010 had previously been circulated.

Councillor Mrs. Breakwell advised that the PCSO Jenny Buggy had asked that a Councillor attend the next meeting on 21st July at 1pm at the West Bridgford Police Station.

The Chairman asked if any other Member would like to attend and it was agreed that Councillor Mrs. B. Breakwell would represent the Parish Council at the next meeting and report back to this committee.

RESOLVED

1. That the above information be noted
2. That Councillor Mrs. B. Breakwell attend the next meeting of the Police Priority Settings Meeting on 21st July 2010 and report back to the Environment & Community Committee Meeting on 19th October 2010.

BB

Other Policing Matters

The Deputy Clerk advised that following poor attendances at the evening Local Area Group Meetings, Beat Manager Ann Gill had confirmed that the next LAG Meeting would coincide with the Parish Council Surgery on Saturday 10th July between 10am and 12 noon. PC Ann Gill will be in attendance at St. Peter's Rooms and it is hoped that this new arrangement will encourage more residents to attend.

RESOLVED:

That the above information be noted.

E. 10/730 HIGHWAY MATTERSCorrespondence from resident at 140 Loughborough Road

Copies of a letter from R. J. Norton asking for action on two issues in the village had previously been circulated.

Councillor D. Bakewell stated that the issue of HGV's passing through the village was one which had been discussed on numerous occasions and had only recently been featured in both the Village Newsletter and on the village website. Councillor Bakewell added that it was his opinion that residents were holding the Parish Council responsible for getting something done about this situation rather than referring it to Highways at Nottinghamshire County Council. Councillor Bakewell produced a document which he hoped would be printed in the Newsletter and website

asking for residents to take responsibility for parking. The Deputy Clerk added that following a previous article in the Village Newsletter, the Parish Council office had received a response from Hardstaffs advising that they would do everything possible to encourage drivers to avoid the centre of the village and asking for input from residents to see if anything else could be done.

Councillor W. A. Wood added that in his opinion there were numerous inaccuracies in the resident's letter, specifically that over a period of 6 weeks the Parish Council office had surveyed the car park twice a day Monday to Friday and that there was never an occasion when there were no spaces available. He stated that in his opinion it would be very difficult to prove that the village was being used as a car park for people working in the city and that a good proportion of the vehicles were possibly for people who were working in the village. He also stated that a number of HGV's did have business in the village and therefore had legitimate reason for using the High Street.

Councillor Mrs. B. Breakwell reminded Members that there were already parking restrictions around the High Street area where Rushcliffe Borough Council's Civil Enforcement Officers are regularly in attendance.

Councillor Mrs. M. Woodhead asked whether it might be possible for the Highways of Nottinghamshire County Council to put up a sign advising HGV's that the High Street is for "Access only" and Councillor W. A. Wood advised that this had been brought up on previous occasions and rejected by the appropriate departments.

The Chairman stated that he had taken onboard all comments made by Members and that with the consent of Members, and in association with the Clerk, would compose a letter to Mr Norton, advising him of the Committee's observations.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman composes a letter to Mr R. J. Norton in association with the Clerk in response to Mr Norton's letter of 10th May 2010.

NT/JG

Other Highways Matters

The Deputy Clerk circulated a report from the Clerk in respect of a telephone conversation she had with a resident of Clifton Lane. The Report stated that a resident from Clifton Lane telephoned on the morning of 8th June 2010 following reading the article in the Newsletter about Ruddington entering the Best Kept Village Competition.

The resident is concerned that the frontages of the large properties on the southern side of Clifton Lane do not get cleaned by Streetwise and there are often bottles, cans etc which householders clear away. The Clerk explained that the street sweeper is employed by Rushcliffe Borough Council to mainly keep the central area of the village clean, although he does occasionally go down Clifton Road and Wilford Road.

Likewise, many of the householders mow the grass to the frontage of their property. At the end of March the frontages were cut by Nottinghamshire County Council and one of her neighbours was advised at that time that the frontages do not belong to the properties, but are highway verges and as such will be cut by Nottinghamshire County Council SEVEN TIMES A YEAR. She pointed out, however, that the verges have not been cut since the one and only cut at the end of March.

The householder was told that he could not cut the verge himself, as this would contravene Health & Safety Regulations. (It is understood that he has confirmation of the above facts in writing). The Clerk advised the resident that highway verges are normally only cut twice a year by the County Council but that she would bring this matter to the attention of the Environment Committee at tonight's meeting and suggest to the Committee that confirmation be sought from Nottinghamshire County Council:

- (a) To whom the verge belongs – Nottinghamshire County Council Highways or householders?
- (b) How many times a year does Nottinghamshire County Council propose to cut these particular verges?
- (c) Why is Nottinghamshire County Council stopping householders from maintaining the area to the front of their property if they wish to keep it under control and looking attractive?

Members were unanimous that the response from the Clerk was appropriate and that the Clerk report back to the Committee when a reply had been received from Nottinghamshire County Council.

RESOLVED

1. That the Clerk write to Nottinghamshire Country Council and request clarification on the above issues.
2. That the Clerk report back to the Environment & Community Committee when a reply is received.

JG

JG

E. 10/731 ANNUAL GARDEN COMPETITION 2010

Copies of a report prepared by the Clerk had previously been circulated to Members.

RESOLVED:

1. That judging takes place by an independent judge on the 15th July 2010 commencing at 9.30am from St. Peter's Rooms.
NB This date may be subject to alteration as at the time of booking (4th May 2010) the Judge had advised the Clerk that the growing season was approximately 2 weeks behind normal.

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

Winner	£25.00
Second	£15.00
Third	£10.00
4. That the Overall Winner be awarded the Harold Wroughton Memorial Trophy together with an additional cash prize of £25.00.
5. 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	£125.00
b.	Judge's Fee	£20.00

E. 10/732 SEVERE WINTER WEATHER

Copies of a letter from Nottinghamshire County Council Service Director / Highways, Bob Hart, had previously been circulated.

Councillor W. A. Wood suggested that the Parish Council's response should include reference to the currently ineffective gritting of pavements, which in his opinion was generally done "too little, too late". He added that in the past, gritting of pavements appeared to be done randomly and generally not until the Parish Council had received complaints from residents. Councillor Mrs. B. Breakwell added that it would be helpful if the Parish Council could receive clarification on the Health & Safety issues in respect of gritting pavements and who would be responsible in the event of an accident as a result of gritting.

Councillor Mrs. M. Woodhead agreed that gritting pavements should be a priority but added that cleaning the pavements once snow has cleared should also be taken into consideration.

Councillor Mrs. M. G. Grice suggested that clearing access roads for ambulances in areas like Shrimpton Court where there were many elderly residents, should be a priority during bad weather.

Members agreed that the Deputy Clerk should reply to the Highways Service Director highlighting the above issues.

RESOLVED:

That the Deputy Clerk replies to Bob Hart's letter highlighting the following items:

- a) That gritting of pavements is done more promptly and effectively.

LC

- b) That Nottinghamshire County Council advise the Parish Council on the Health & Safety issues related to gritting of pavements.
- c) That arrangements be made for grit to be cleared away when the problem has passed
- d) That areas where there is a predominance of elderly people, eg sheltered housing, are a priority for gritting of roads and pavements.

E. 10/733 DRAFT LIBRARY SERVICE CONTRIBUTION POLICY CONSULTATION

Copies of the above consultation document had previously been circulated to Members.

Councillor W. A. Wood reported that he had read the document fully and that in his opinion there was nothing contained in the document to disagree with.

The Chairman agreed with Councillor Wood's comments and asked that a response to this effect be sent in reply.

RESOLVED

That the Deputy Clerk emails a reply stating that the Parish Council is in agreement with the recommendations of the consultation document.

LC

E. 10/734 SMALL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES PROGRAMME - PARISH PLANTING AND LANDSCAPING SCHEME

Copies of correspondence including an application form were previously circulated to members.

After some discussion and following a request from Councillor D. J. Hall, this item was referred to the Amenities Committee Meeting on 13th July 2010 to consider a scheme to compliment the Elms Park Play Area.

RESOLVED

That the Small Environmental Improvement Schemes Programme 2010/2011 – Parish Planting and Landscaping Scheme, be referred to the Amenities Committee Meeting on 13th July 2010.

JG

E. 10/735 VILLAGE WEBSITE (Vide Minute E. 10/722)

The Deputy Clerk reported that visits to the site continue to be around 2,800 to 3,000 per month and that HOME page is currently featuring an article to see whether there is any interest in reviving the Twinning Association as requested at the last Environment & Community Meeting.

The Chairman asked the Deputy Clerk to estimate how much time was taken up with maintaining the website and was advised that along with the Village Newsletter, probably about 4 hours a month, plus the time taken to distribute the Newsletter.

RESOLVED

That the above information be noted.

E. 10/736 VILLAGE NEWSLETTER (Vide Minute E. 10/723)

The Deputy Clerk reported that take-up of the Newsletter was now more than 1,100 copies per calendar month. The Chairman asked whether it is now being distributed through public houses in addition to High Street shops and was advised that The Red Heart, Three Crowns and White Horse public houses take 50 copies each and the uptake is being monitored.

RESOLVED

That the above information be noted.

E. 10/737 WAYS TO IMPROVE THE LOOK AND FEEL OF RUDDINGTON
(Vide Minute E. 10/724)

The Chairman stated that he is continuing to bring this item to the Committee to enable a plan to be formulated in order to move the issue forward. He added that once the Committee had a plan of what is required, they could then decide on the finer detail and how to fund it.

Councillor Mrs. B. Breakwell reported that during a visit to a local coffee morning for carers of young children, residents were pleased to be introduced to a Parish Councillor and it was an opportunity to speak with younger residents of the village and find out what they wanted to see in their village.

Councillor Mrs. M. Woodhead reported on the floral arrangements and planting within the City of Nottingham and commented that Ruddington would benefit greatly by having floral displays around the village. Councillor Mrs Woodhead suggested that the Parish Council could approach local businesses to see whether they would be prepared to sponsor areas of planting or planters. Councillor Mrs. M. G. Grice added that during a visit to Keyworth she noticed an impressive display of flowers around the village which was very welcoming.

Councillor W. A. Wood suggested that the Parish Council ask Councillor Reg Adair whether Nottinghamshire County Council would object to the Parish Council siting planters or planting schemes on green areas which are their responsibility.

The Chairman thanked all Members for their contributions and suggested that this item continue until a plan has been formulated which meets the requirements of the aim to “Improve the look and feel” of the village. The Chairman added that once decisions had been made as to what is required, the committee can look to source funding for the projects.

RESOLVED

That the above information be noted.

E. 10/738 OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS FOR REPORT

Councillor Mrs. B. Breakwell reported that along with Councillor Mrs. M. Woodhead, they attended the Wildlife Trust Coffee Morning and Sale on Saturday 29th May. They took the opportunity to promote the Best Kept Village Competition 2010, the Garden Competition 2010 and recycling/composting in general including discounted composters from Rushcliffe Borough Council. Whilst the main event went on inside the building, they braved the weather outside speaking to residents as they arrived and left.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Chairman

Committee Chairman