

RUDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD AT ST. PETER'S ROOMS ON TUESDAY 18th OCTOBER 2011 AT 7.30PM

Membership

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

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	
G. D. Long	Clerk to the Council
Mrs. L. M. Cooke	Deputy Clerk to the Council
1 member of the public	

In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman took the Chair

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. S. A. Chambers, P. Lyons Lewis, Mrs. S. Kaur Samra and N. Tegerdine.

DECLARATION OF MEMBER'S INTERESTS

Councillors M. S. McGowan and P. F. McGowan declared an interest in planning application 11/01459/FUL.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19th July 2011, having previously been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

RESOLVED:

That the Committee adjourn to allow the member of the public present to make statements on Agenda items.

COMMITTEE IN SESSION

E. 11/810 DEVELOPMENT

RESOLVED:

New Applications

That the observations contained in Planning Schedule 662 be adopted.

Decision Notices

Schedule DN 209 was presented to the Committee and the contents noted.

E. 11/811 POLICING

Ruddington Police Station

The Deputy Clerk reported that the Parish Council Office had received a telephone call from Sergeant Dermot Booth advising that the police would still like to pursue the possibility of co-locating to the old IT Room at St. Peter's Rooms. He explained that the Police would like to use the facility as a "Drop-in Centre" for the Beat Manager and the PCSO only.

The Deputy Clerk also advised that both Sergeant Booth and Inspector Nolan would attend the Parish Council Meeting on 15th November 2011 to talk to members about the use of the room and the process involved.

RESOLVED:

That the above information be noted.

Local Area Group

Councillor Mrs. B. Breakwell reported that she would be attending the Policing Local Area Group meeting on Thursday 20th October 2011 and would report back to the Parish Council in due course.

RESOLVED:

That the above information be noted.

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

E. 11/812 HIGHWAY MATTERS

Ruddington Bus Services

Copies of a report from the Clerk following a meeting with the Highway Liaison Officer had previously been circulated, along with an email from the Highways Department.

The Clerk had accompanied two members of the Highways South Team to look at issues at the junction of Church Street and The Green, where parked cars were causing problems for buses attempting to turn on to Church Street.

An email from Clare Murden, the Senior Highway Liaison Officer, confirmed that the matter has been referred to the Traffic Regulations Order team to see if double yellow lines could be introduced on one side of the road to enable better access. Clare Murden explained that she could not give any timescale on this.

The Chairman thanked the Parish Council staff for their efforts with this issue.

RESOLVED:

That the above information be noted.

Dutton's Hill Parking

Councillor Mrs. B. Breakwell reported that she had received an email from a resident asking whether parking restrictions come within the scope of the Parish Council, with particular reference to parking on Dutton's Hill. The resident explained that he felt that parking immediately outside the store was making it dangerous for vehicles to exit Sainsbury's car park and asked whether double yellow lines with restrictions on goods delivery vans could be considered. The resident was very concerned that his family had witnessed a motorcyclist being knocked off his bike by a driver leaving the car park and subsequently requiring an ambulance.

Councillor Mrs. M. Pell reported that delivery lorries are also parking or waiting at the entrance to Manor Park.

Although members acknowledged that parking does not come within its jurisdiction, they agreed that this is an on-going issue and asked that the Parish Council Office contact Highways to enquire whether it is considering any changes to parking in this area. The Chairman also asked Councillor Mrs. Breakwell to forward the email to Nottinghamshire County Councillor Reg Adair for his attention and to report back to the next Environment & Community meeting on any response to the email.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Parish Council office contacts the Highways Department to enquire whether it is considering any changes to parking on Dutton's Hill and specifically outside Sainsbury's and the store car park.
2. That Councillor Mrs. B. Breakwell forwards her email to Nottinghamshire County Councillor Reg Adair for his attention and then reports back to the Environment & Community Committee meeting on 13th December 2011.

JG/LC

BB

There were no further Highway Matters to report and/or action.

E. 11/813 COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE

Copies of an email from a resident expressing her disappointment at Ruddington's effort to 'tinsel up' for Christmas had previously been circulated. The resident specifically asked whether any consideration had been given to having a large Christmas Tree in the village or even lights along the High Street.

The Deputy Clerk reported that previous suggestions had been for a tree to be sited on The Green, within the grounds of the War Memorial and within the grounds of St. Peter's Church although obviously the latter was not Parish Council property and might require further discussion with the Parochial Church Council. The Green had been dismissed due to a lack of electricity supply and for reasons of security, and the War Memorial had been dismissed following representations from the Royal British Legion.

Members agreed that if the siting of a dedicated Christmas Tree appeared to be unfeasible, the Parish Council could consider dressing an existing tree with festive lighting.

Councillor Mrs. B. Breakwell stated that the letter had come from a Youth Worker at St. Peter's Church and that her support might help to gain consent from St. Peter's Church.

The Chairman asked that the Parish Council Office makes contact with a church representative to ascertain whether it would consider allowing the Parish Council to dress a tree in the churchyard with festive lighting. The Chairman also asked that this item be included on the Finance & Policy Committee Agenda for 1st November 2011

The Chairman also asked that the Deputy Clerk reply to the resident thanking her for writing and advising her of the actions being taken.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Parish Council Office makes contact with a representative of St. Peter's Church to ascertain whether the church would

consider allowing the Parish Council to dress a tree in the churchyard with festive lighting.

JG/LC

2. That the issue of dressing a Christmas tree with festive lighting be included on the Finance & Policy Committee Agenda for 1st November 2011.
3. That the Deputy Clerk replies to the resident thanking her for writing and advising her of the actions being taken.

JG

LC

E. 11/814 2011 GARDEN COMPETITIONS 2011

Garden Competition

Copies of a report prepared by the Clerk in respect of the results of the 2011 Front Garden and Window Boxes / Baskets / Planters sections, which were judged on 19th July 2011 had previously been circulated to Members.

RESOLVED:

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

Winner	£25.00
Second	£15.00
Third	£10.00
3. That the overall winner be awarded an additional cash prize of £25.00.
4. That prizes be awarded as follows:

FRONT GARDEN

WINNER	Mrs. L. Sharp	40 Asher Lane	£25.00
SECOND	Mr. E Radford	11 Sheepfold Lane	£15.00
THIRD	Mrs. J Ward	White Lodge, Old Rd	£10.00

WINDOW BOXES/BASKETS/PLANTERS

WINNER	Mr. V. Calladine	16 Charles Street	£25.00
SECOND	Mr. S.P. Horton	1 Fairham Close	£15.00
THIRD	Mr. D. R. Wharmby	38 Camelot Street	£10.00

OVERALL WINNER OF THE HAROLD WROUGHTON MEMORIAL TROPHY

Mrs. L. Sharp	40 Asher Lane	£25.00
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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

6. That the awards be presented at the Competition Presentation Evening scheduled to take place on 25th October 2011.

"Photographic" Garden Competition

Copies of a report by the Deputy Clerk in respect of the results of the new "Photographic" Garden Competition which was judged by former Parish Councillor Don Bakewell on 19th September 2011 has previously been circulated to Members.

RESOLVED:

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

Winner	£25.00
Second	£15.00
Third	£10.00

3. That prizes be awarded as follows:

WINNER	Mr. P. Brown	6 Shaw Street	£25.00
SECOND	Mrs. A. Wroughton	45 Brookside Road	£15.00
THIRD	Mr. P. Woodhead	22 Musters Road	£10.00

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:-

Prize money	£50.00
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5. That the awards be presented at the Competition Presentation Evening scheduled to take place on 25th October 2011.

E. 11/815 RUDDINGTON FESTIVAL 2012

Copies of a letter and application form from the Ruddington Festival 2012 Planning Group had previously been circulated to Members. The group were asking for confirmation that they have permission for the following:

- Use of Elms Park as a venue for 14th July 2012
- Access to Elms Park Pavilion to address toilet needs / water supply, etc. during the event
- Use of St. Peter's Rooms / Village Hall for future meetings, subject to availability

Councillor Mrs. M. Pell enquired who would be responsible for the cleaning of the premises after the event and the Clerk confirmed that the Festival event would count as a hire period and as such the hirer would be responsible for the premises and the outdoor area during the event and for leaving it in an acceptable condition when leaving.

Members were pleased to confirm that the Environment & Community Committee fully supports the use of Elms Park for the Ruddington Festival on 14th July 2012 and the use of Elms Park Pavilion for toilet needs / water supply, etc. during the event. Members also supported the use of Parish Council facilities, subject to availability, for future meetings of the Ruddington Festival 2012 Planning Group.

That this matter is to be referred to the Finance & Policy Committee for ratification.

RESOLVED

1. That Elms Park be used as a venue for the Ruddington Festival 2012 on 14th July 2012.
2. That the Elms Park Pavilion be available for use for the purpose of toilet needs / obtaining water, etc. on 14th July 2012.
3. That the Ruddington Festival 2012 Planning Group be permitted to use Parish Council facilities for future meetings subject to availability.
4. That this matter is referred to the Finance & Policy Committee for ratification.

JG

RUDDINGTON FESTIVAL 2012 – ‘MARKET PLACE’

Councillor Mrs. B. Breakwell also advised that there will be a ‘Market Place’ where local organisations will be able to promote their group. Councillor Mrs. Breakwell asked whether the Parish Council would be willing to take a stall on the ‘Market Place’ to demonstrate to residents exactly what the Parish Council does, who their Councillors are, what the Parish Council is responsible for, etc?

Members unanimously thought this a good idea and the Clerk and Deputy Clerk offered to assist Councillors with manning a stall at the event. The Chairman asked for this item to be added to the Agenda for the next Parish Council meeting for further discussion, to enable the application form to be submitted by the 30th November deadline.

RESOLVED

That in principle, the Parish Council would take a stall at the Ruddington Festival 2012 ‘Market Place’ subject to further discussion at the Parish Council meeting on 15th November 2011, to enable the application form to be submitted by the 30th November deadline.

JG/LC

E. 11/816 RUSHCLIFFE BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP – RUDDINGTON
“SATELLITE” (Vide minute E. 11/808)

Councillor M. McGowan reported that he had attended the inaugural meeting of the Ruddington “satellite” of the Rushcliffe Business Partnership. He explained that the group meets on a Friday morning once a month and that attendance is increasing at this meeting is informal. He stated that in his opinion the group was to introduce businesses to businesses for the purpose of improving trade and networking. He thought it was possibly not the vehicle that the Parish Council was looking for to discuss issues such as parking with local businesses.

Councillor P. F. McGowan added that although it seemed this group were not covering the issues that the Parish Council wanted to discuss, he felt it should be given more time to establish itself before setting up a parallel group.

Councillor Mrs. M. Pell reported that on attending a course recently, she had been made aware that a chairman of another Parish Council held an annual “Open Evening” when local businesses were invited to meet their Councillors and discuss issues that affected both parties in a social atmosphere rather than at a formal event.

Members agreed that this appeared to be an excellent vehicle to open discussions with local businesses and asked that it be put on the Parish Council Agenda for further consideration. Also that an amount be put aside in the budget for this purpose. The Chairman also asked that Ian Wilson of the Ruddington “satellite” RBP is invited to attend the next meeting of the Environment & Community Committee to discuss their aims and see whether there were areas of common interest that could be pursued.

RESOLVED:

1. That the suggestion of an “Open Evening” when local businesses are invited to meet their Councillors and discuss issues that affect both parties in a social atmosphere, be referred to the next Parish Council meeting for further discussion.
2. That Ian Wilson of the Ruddington “satellite” of the RBP be invited to attend the next meeting of the Environment & Community Committee on 13th December 2011.

JG

LC

E. 11/817 BUDGET 2012-2013

Members discussed whether there were any special items which required to be included in the proposed Environment & Community Budget, which will be discussed at the next meeting of the Committee on 13th December 2011.

Members agreed that an amount be included in the budget for an annual social event for local businesses to meet with their Councillors and staff. It

was suggested that initially this amount be set at £2,000. Members were in agreement that this should be put forward for the Budget meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the Budget 2012-2013 be prepared using the above guidelines.

E. 11/818 THE BUDGET CONVERSATION

An email from Nottinghamshire County Council's Chief Executive's Department in respect of its 2012/2013 'Budget Conversation' had previously been circulated. Members agreed that they would make individual responses.

RESOLVED:

That Members respond individually.

E. 11/819 RUSHCLIFFE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTS

Copies of an email from the Environmental Sustainability Officer at Rushcliffe Borough Council detailing two community grants had previously been circulated.

Members agreed that the Parish Council would probably not be able to identify a suitable project for the Community Food Grant.

Members agreed that the Biodiversity Management Grant would be more suited to an Amenities Project and asked that it be referred to that Committee.

The Chairman asked that details of these grants be made available on the website and in the Newsletter so that other organisations are made aware of their availability.

RESOLVED:

1. That information in respect of the Biodiversity Management Grant be included on the Amenities Committee Agenda for 29th November 2011.
2. That the Deputy Clerk includes information in respect of both grants on the website and in the Newsletter.

JG

LC

E. 11/820 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE CONSULTATION

Copies of documents received from Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue in respect of their consultation about its Fire Cover Review, with Rushcliffe Parish and Town Councils had previously been circulated. The Deputy Clerk advised that since the Agendas had been circulated, the Parish Council Office has been advised that the consultation date has been extended to Sunday 13th November 2011.

Members noted this information and agreed to respond on an individual basis.

RESOLVED:

That members note the information and respond on an individual basis.

E. 11/821 A FRESH APPROACH TO HOUSING GROWTH – NOTHING IS YET DECIDED! (Vide minute E. 11/799)

The Deputy Clerk advised that this had been included on the Agenda to ensure that any information received from Rushcliffe Borough Council could be reviewed without delay.

At this point in time, the Deputy Clerk reported that the Parish Council had not received any additional information.

RESOLVED:

That the above information be noted.

E. 11/822 WAYS TO IMPROVE THE LOOK AND FEEL OF RUDDINGTON
(Vide Minute E. 11/807)

Maintenance of grass verges

Copies of a map indicating areas cut by Ruddington Parish Council, Rushcliffe Borough Council, Nottinghamshire County Council and Spirita had previously been circulated. The Deputy Clerk reminded Members that this item had been included on the Agenda to review the grassed areas currently cut by Nottinghamshire County Council. The Deputy Clerk also reported that a notice on the NCC website announced that although it had initially planned to reduce the number of cuts annually from 6 to 4, it had reviewed its arrangements and agreed to cut 5 times a year.

The Deputy Clerk also reported that Nottinghamshire County Council has issued guidelines for residents who are happy to cut the grass verges outside their homes and she would be including these guidelines in a future edition of the Newsletter and on the website at the appropriate time.

Councillor P. F. McGowan said he was disappointed that some of the areas that the Parish Council wanted information on were not included on the map and were therefore probably the responsibility of the Highways Department. He is specifically interested in Loughborough Road as it forms the entrance to the village and is important to its appearance.

The Chairman requested that the Deputy Clerk continue to make enquiries as to whom is responsible for cutting the verges on the A60 Loughborough Road.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Deputy Clerk continues to make enquires as to whom is responsible for the verges on the A60 Loughborough Road. LC
2. That at the appropriate time, the Deputy Clerk reproduces the guidelines for residents who are happy to cut the verges outside their own properties. LC

Village Clean-up

Councillor P. F. McGowan reported that a few years ago the Parish Council had organised an annual village “clean up” to coincide with the Best Kept Village Competition. He said that this could be a community event and that the Parish Council could approach Rushcliffe Borough Council to provide the bags and any equipment required for the task. He also hoped that for 2012, this event could tie in with the Ruddington Festival 2012 Event.

Members agreed to review this in time for the 2012 entry of the Best Kept Village Competition.

RESOLVED:

That a plan to organise a “Clean-up” community event in time for the Best Kept Village Competition 2012 be placed on the agenda at an appropriate time. LC

E. 11/823 OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS FOR REPORTSt. Peter’s School – visits from India

Councillor Mrs. B. Breakwell reported that she had attended an assembly at St. Peter’s School where teachers from India had been present as part of a 3 year project linking St. Peter’s with a school in Mumbai, India.

New Councillor Training

The Deputy Clerk advised that NALC had organised a New Councillor Training Course to be held at Epperstone Village Hall on 30th November 2011. Any interested Members should advise the Parish Council Office.

The meeting closed at 8.39pm

Chairman

Committee Chairman