

RUDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Environment & Policy Committee meeting

Held at St Peter's Rooms on Tuesday 10th January 2017 at 7.30 p.m.

Membership

	N J Tegerdine	Chairman
A	G Ellison	Vice-Chairman
A	Mrs D Beecroft	
	J Hawson	
A	Mrs H Hurman	
	Mrs S Kaur Samra	
	Mrs M Pell	
A	K S Piggott	

Action

PCO =
Parish
Council
Office

PCG =
Parish
Council
Groundstaff

Persons absent are marked 'A'

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

Also in Attendance

G D Long	Clerk to the Council
Mrs S Peacock	Deputy Clerk
3 members of the public	

E. 17/01/01 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from
Councillor G Ellison (work)
Councillor Mrs D Beecroft (work)
Councillor Mrs H Hurman (work)
Councillor K Piggott (work)

E. 17/01/02 Declaration of Member's Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

E. 17/01/03 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th November 2016, having previously been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

E. 17/01/04 Action List Update

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

Councillor Mrs M Pell reported that the white lines at the junction of St. John's Road and St. Mary's Crescent have been done.

Members noted this information.

E. 17/01/05 Nottinghamshire Police: Report from Nottinghamshire Police

Two Officers from Nottinghamshire Police attended the meeting – Inspector Craig Berry and PCSO Anthony Davies

Inspector Berry discussed the pressures facing policing in Nottinghamshire. The number of police officers and PCSOs based in Rushcliffe are six and eleven respectively. CID are based in hubs and responsive officers are based in St Ann's rather than Rushcliffe. Local officers are responsible for the local area and concentrate on neighbourhood policing and any on-going problems are looked at collectively between the public and the police.

There has been a reduction in officers from 2,500 to 1,500. The new Chief Constable Craig Guildford is looking at new ways of doing things to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the police force. The local officers are PCSO Cathy Lucock, PCSO Anthony Davies and PC Kelly Carlisle. They cover both Ruddington and East Leake.

Inspector Craig Berry is preparing a new Community Engagement strategy and local plan to look at how effectively the police engage in each area. The police have committed to attend Parish Council Surgeries and attendance at every other Environment and Policy Committee.

Inspector Craig Berry presented the Ruddington Crime and ASB figures. He did explain however that these figures were indicative as the comparative figures for the previous year were prepared on a different basis.

E. 17/01/06 Motion for Adjournment

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

No issues were raised.

Committee in Session

E. 17/01/07 Development

New Applications

Resolved that: The observations contained in Planning Schedule 781 are adopted.

Decision Notices

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

E. 17/01/08 Budget 2017-18

The Environment and Policy Committee considered the portion of the budget and the charges that it is responsible for and make recommendations to Parish Council.

The Clerk reported that the budget had been prepared on the assumptions previously agreed i.e. a 2% increase in costs and income where a more precise estimate is not possible.

A number of significant budgetary decisions had been made during the current year. The budget includes the impact of all these decisions and some changes in circumstances. The main ones were:

The Clerk will be retiring in May 2017. The new clerk will occupy a full time post and this has been built into the budget.

During the year an Apprentice Groundsperson was appointed and the full year effect of this has been included in the budget.

Changes to the contribution to the Village Hall earmarked reserve to reflect the likely expenditure.

The changes to the Business Rates on Jubilee Clubhouse and the core usage agreement with the Colts.

In addition the contribution to the St Peter's Rooms Earmarked Reserve has been reduced to £3,000 as there is now estimated to be sufficient funds to meet the main known upcoming expenditure.

The budget assumes that all the income during 2017/18 from Notts County training on Elms Park/Jubilee will be re-invested in Playing Fields. The best way for this to happen will need to be decided and, of course, will be dependent on the nature of the agreement (if any) with Notts County.

The draft results of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Triennial Actuarial Valuation were released shortly before Christmas. The employer's contribution for RPC is provisionally increased from 14.7% to 17.7%. This will have an impact of approx. £3k p.a. The 'Cash Deficit' element has increased from £3,170 to £9,502 p.a.

In 2016/17 the Wages Earmarked Fund has had a number of calls on it. Two members of staff have had minor operations with a requirement for some extra costs while they recover. There were extra costs incurred while the previous Deputy Clerk was off ill and during her notice period. There is an anticipated overlap agreed as the new Clerk is appointed.

It is prudent to ensure that this Fund is built up to be able to cope with any future contingencies. There is a surplus in the Council's overall budget anticipated in 2016/17. An additional contribution in 2016/17 of £10,000 has been included in the budget, made from the anticipated surplus.

The draft budget includes a 2.00% increase in Council Tax. That is based on next year's Council Tax base, which was released on 15th December.

In order to achieve the 2% increase it was necessary to find savings. The budget includes a reduction in the contribution to the Playing Fields – Equipment Earmarked Fund reduced from £12k to £7k. There is currently £60k in the Fund. Replacement play equipment can often be grant funded. While this is not the ideal contribution there is a sufficient buffer for any likely emergency replacement of playing field equipment.

Environment & Policy had requested that a trial of extra traffic warden time was investigated. This has not been included: It is suggested that any trial is funded from the Environmental Assets Earmarked Fund.

Resolved that:

1. The probable Out-Turn 2016/2017, a copy of which is appended to these minutes, is approved.
2. The annual budget 2017/2018 for Environment & Policy Committee, a copy of which is appended to these minutes, is approved and forwarded to Parish Council for inclusion in the overall budget document.
3. The proposed Scale of Charges 2017/2018 for photocopying, a copy of which is appended to these minutes, is approved and forwarded to Parish Council for inclusion in the overall budget document.

PCO

PCO

PCO

E. 17/01/09 Planter on Dutton's Hill

The Parish Council has previously resolved that "The Clerk investigates with Nottinghamshire County Council the possibility of installing bollards or 'fold down' bollards." (See minute E. 16/11/07)

NCC has been contacted regarding the possibility of installing bollards or 'fold down' bollards and indicated that this was not an option that would be supported because they would be fixed and not free standing.

There are many different options for a planter. A planter meeting the criteria set by NCC can be obtained for less than £300. In addition, the planter would need to be tended, watered and replanted at appropriate points by the Parish Council.

NCC does not consider there is a safety issue at this location, although there may be a 'pedestrian anxiety' issue.

Resolved that: A single planter is sited at the agreed location on Dutton's Hill (Wilford Road).

PCO

E. 17/01/10 Spring Clean

Keep Britain tidy are promoting a 'Great British Spring Clean' in 2017.

A member of the public has requested the Parish Council consider organising involvement in Ruddington.

As well as work undertaken by Parish Council staff it is suggested that a successful campaign will require considerable involvement from a councillor(s) to lead.

Resolved: Not to pursue the 'Keep Britain Tidy' campaign, to investigate other ways of tackling keeping Ruddington tidy and to go back to the member of the public who requested involvement to see if there is a particular area in Ruddington that would benefit from some action.

PCO

E. 17/01/11 Highway Matters

Councillor John Hawson reported incidences of car parking opposite the exit from Church Street car park causing an obstruction. He had been informed that the white lines are only 'advisory'.

E. 17/01/12 Ways to Improve the Look and Feel of Ruddington

There were no matters raised.

E. 17/01/13 Other environmental matters for report

There were no matters raised.

The meeting closed at 8.56 p.m.



Committee Chairman

