

RUDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**DRAFT Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting**

Held at St Peter's Rooms on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2012 at 7.30 p.m.

**Membership**

	W. A. Wood	Chairman
	Mrs B. Breakwell	Vice-Chairman
A	A. Chopra	
	D. J. Hall	
	P. F. McGowan	
	Mrs B. M. Venes	
	M. Walsh	
	Mrs R. Wilson	

Persons absent are marked 'A'

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

Also in Attendance

Councillor	Mrs M. Pell
G. D. Long	Clerk to the Council
R. Shelbourn	Senior Groundsman
3 members of the public	

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A. Chopra.

Declaration of Member's Interests

Councillors Mrs B. M. Venes and M. Walsh declared an interest in any item relating to the Allotments. Councillor Mrs B. M. Breakwell declared an interest in the item relating to Ruddington Fun. Councillor W. A. Wood declared an interest in planning application 12/00399/FUL.

Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2012, having previously been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

Security of Parish Council Property (Vide Minute A. 11/931)

The Clerk reported that the marking materials for security marking had been obtained and that marking was in progress.

Members noted this information.

Trees outside St. Peter's Rooms (Vide Minute A. 11/934)

The Clerk reported that, following a recommendation from the Rushcliffe Borough Council Tree Preservation Officer, Picus Sonic Tomograph Decay Detection had been used to assess the health of the two trees outside St Peter's Rooms. This had indicated that there "was a higher percentage of damaged/dysfunctional wood than sound wood in the base of the main stem" of the tree at the bottom of the drive and that resulted in a recommendation for the tree to be cut down to a stump. Quotations are being obtained.

Members noted this information.

Play area Funding (Vide Minute A. 11/939)

The Clerk reported that a meeting had been arranged on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2012 to organise submitting the bid for play equipment at Sellors Playing Field.

Members noted this information.

Vicarage Lane Cemetery Maintenance (Vide Minute A. 11/941)

The Clerk reported that the letter had been sent to the relevant people with a Grant of Right of burial and that, to date, some items had been removed.

Members noted this information.

A. 12/947 Motion for Adjournment

RESOLVED

That the Committee adjourn to allow the members of the public present to make statements on agenda items.

During the adjournment Councillor Marion Pell reported on a number of issues at Elms Park: Overflowing bins, rubbish on the play area and hedge trimmings left for weeks.

She commented on the planning application which, in her opinion three storeys may not be appropriate for the site and she would have preferred some affordable housing.

**Committee in Session**

A. 12/948 Development

New Applications

RESOLVED

That the observations contained in Planning Schedule 672 be adopted.

A. 12/949 Parish Council Staging

The Clerk reported that the staging owned by the Parish Council is too high to be used without a barrier at the edge. The recommended height for internal portable staging is 400 mm whereas the Parish Council staging is 650 mm high. It has been used in a Parish Council venue only once in the past year and borrowed twice (by St. Peter's Church and Ruddington Golf Club). It is understood that St. Peter's Church has since purchased staging for their own use

RESOLVED

1. That the Parish Council staging is disposed of.
2. That the Clerk contacts the Parochial Church Council to establish whether the Parish Council could borrow their staging if needed.

GDL

GDL

A. 12/950 Policy in the event of a hose pipe ban

Copies of a report regarding the need for the Parish Council to have a policy for Parish Council allotment tenants in the event of a hose pipe ban by Severn Trent had previously been circulated to members.

The Parish Council does not currently have a policy for the eventuality of a hose pipe ban. Having a policy would be of assistance, since action would need to be taken promptly.

RESOLVED

That the policy appended to these minutes be adopted.

GDL

A. 12/951 Ruddington Fun

Copies of correspondence from 'Ruddington Fun' requesting the use of Parish Council facilities during the school holiday periods for up to a maximum of 6 sessions for a maximum of 3 hours per session had previously been circulated to members. The letter also requested permission to use Parish Council play areas for some events

Members were reminded that in 2011 the Parish Council granted free use of its facilities in order for 6 summer activities to be organised for the children of the village.

RESOLVED:

1. That 'Ruddington Fun' be granted free use of Parish Council facilities for up to 6 sessions of 3 hours for holiday activities for the children of Ruddington, and
2. That permission be given for 'Ruddington Fun' to hold some events on Parish Council play areas in consultation with the groundstaff.

GDL

GDL

A. 12/952 Ruddington Colts F.C.

Copies of correspondence from Ruddington Colts F.C requesting the use of Parish Council facilities for a small sided competition on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2012 had previously been circulated to members. They also requested that the Parish Council waive the fee.

RESOLVED

That the Ruddington Colts F. C. be allowed use of Parish Council facilities for a small sided competition on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2012 free of charge.

GDL

A. 12/953 Village Hall (Vide Minute A. 11/929 and F. 11/1090)

The Clerk reported that there are still a number of issues outstanding from the surveyor's report on the Village Hall. The report concluded that the rear part of the building is suffering from progressive movement due to the effect of defective drains and tree roots. It went on to recommend the removal of the sycamore tree at the rear.

The Clerk reported that contractors had been engaged to deal with the rot issue. Most other issues that currently need addressing are either under way or scheduled to be addressed. One item, the kitchen, may need consideration at a future meeting.

RESOLVED

That the sycamore tree be removed.

GDL

A. 12/954 St Peter's Churchyard

The Chairman reported that he had spoken to Andrew Third and that the Parochial Church Council are responsible for completing the application form for a faculty. This would list all of the headstones involved. He will report back when the result of the application is known.

RESOLVED

That the above information be noted.

WAW

A. 12/955 Elms Park Pavilion

Maintenance Unit

Copies of correspondence regarding the lack of fire protection at the Maintenance Unit had previously been circulated to members.

The Clerk reported that this had been raised in a Fire Risk Assessment and he considered that this item should be dealt with as promptly as possible.

## RESOLVED

That a fire alarm system be installed at the Maintenance Unit.

GDL

### Emergency Lighting

The Clerk reported that he had approved the installation of emergency lighting in the corridor at Elms Park outside the changing room area as, once the changing room doors were closed, there was none.

Members noted this information

## A. 12/956 Reports on Amenities Matters

### Parish and Town Council Forum

Councillors P. F. McGowan and Mrs B. M. Venes had recently attended the Parish and Town Council Forum. They reported that Ruddington is set to have a further 250 houses, the siting of which is yet to be determined. The Forum also covered guidance on planning issues.

### Carter Playing Field

The Senior Groundsman reported that the grass cover on the Carter Playing Field had suffered due to the prolonged dry spell. It would need extra grass seed to bring back to a good condition.

### Groundstaff Roles

The Clerk reported that, due to a massive increase in administration required of the Senior Groundsman (for example health and safety risk assessments, completion of inspection of play equipment, supervision of contractors on site), consideration was being given to a moderate restructuring of the roles of the groundstaff.

It is anticipated that the changes will be presented to Finance and Policy Committee on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012.

### Sellors Playing Field

The Clerk reported that the previous Clerk had given permission for a household which backed onto Sellors Playing Field to have access whilst some building work was undertaken. Unfortunately when leaving (on a wet day) the builders lorry had created some deep ruts.

The householders have filled in the ruts and Parish Council groundstaff will complete the re-instatement.

### Dogs on Leads

The Clerk reported that a lady had raised concerns about the Parish Council's 'dogs on leads' policy at the Parish Council surgery on 11<sup>th</sup> February. She stated that very local elderly cannot exercise their dogs elsewhere as they are not mobile enough and that dogs on leads can appear more aggressive as they act to protect their owner. Controlled dogs off-lead are less aggressive.

### Elms Park – New Benches

The Clerk reported that the Senior Groundman, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of Amenities, had researched prices and usage of picnic benches. Two recycled plastic picnic benches have been ordered to be sited near the children's play area.

### Planning Application 11/01890/TPO

This planning application was for the removal of dead wood and to raise the canopy of lime trees at Ruddington Hall, Loughborough Road. The Clerk reported that Mrs Debbie Lowther would like it to be known that the removal of trees, shrubs, etc. along the bridle path from Loughborough Road is nothing to do with Parklands. The hedgerow and trees being removed are not on her land and are not her responsibility.

The Parish Council office has confirmed with Rushcliffe Borough Council that, to the best of their knowledge, all trees removed have been done with the consent of the Tree Preservation Officer.

### A. 12/957 Items for Inclusion on the next Amenities Agenda

1. St. Peter's Churchyard
2. Village Hall
3. Elms Park Play Area Phase 3 – Multi-Use Games Area
4. Future plans for the Amenities Committee

The meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.

Chairman

Committee Chairman

## PARADISE GARDENS & CLIFTON ROAD ALLOTMENTS

### **POLICY IN THE EVENT OF SEVERN TRENT IMPOSING A HOSE PIPE BAN**

MARCH 2012

Paradise Gardens has at least 6 taps along the length of the main path, which supply water through hose pipes to individual allotments, usually to water butts. Allotment volunteer Ron Tew, also has access to a well from which he can pump water up to supply water to storage butts.

Clifton Road allotments do not have a water supply and are dependent on tenants collecting water in butts on the site or tenants who live adjacent to the site allowing others to use their water supply.

In the event of a hose pipe ban:

- a) The Parish Council hopes to keep the water on.
- b) All tenants will be required to remove / lock away their hose pipes (out of sight) so that there is no doubt as to whether they are or are not being used. Hose pipes left on site will be removed by the Parish Council ground staff.
- c) A tenant or tenants seen using a hose pipe, even to fill water butts, watering cans or other containers, will be officially warned not to do so by the Parish Council Office in writing as they are in breach of this policy/agreement.
- d) A tenant or tenants seen using a hose pipe after being given an official warning will be given immediate notice of termination as they are in breach of this policy/agreement. In this case, no compensation for loss of produce, etc. will be made by the Parish Council.

The Parish Council will post a notice requesting that fit and able tenants could volunteer to help those less able to move water around the allotments when necessary.

Signage will be posted at points throughout the allotments so that no tenant can claim that they are not aware of the actions being taken.