

RUDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Environment & Community Committee meeting Held at St Peter's Rooms on Tuesday 17th December 2013 at 7.30 p.m.

Membership

| | | |
|---|------------------|---------------|
| | N J Tegerdine | Chairman |
| | Mrs M Pell | Vice-Chairman |
| | Mrs A Auckland | |
| A | Mrs B Breakwell | |
| | Mrs S Kaur Samra | |
| A | P F McGowan | |
| | Miss H Opie | |
| | K S Piggott | |
| A | W A Wood | |

Persons absent are marked 'A'

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

Also in Attendance

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Councillor | Miss S A Chambers |
| Councillor | G Ellison |
| Councillor | D J Hall |
| Councillor | Mrs M Robinson |
| Councillor | Mrs B M Venes |
| Borough Councillor | N Boughton-Smith |
| County Councillor | R Adair |
| R Turner | Deputy Clerk |
| 7 members of the public | |

Apologies for Absence

Apologies of absence were received from Councillors Mrs B Breakwell, P F McGowan and W A Wood, and the reasons accepted.

Declaration of Member's Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th October 2013, having previously been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

E. 13/967 Action List Update

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

Action

PCO =
Parish
Council
Office

PCG =
Parish
Council
Groundstaff

The Clerk reported that the Chairman had delivered a holly wreath to Anna Warren, 26 Easthorpe Street in recognition of sympathetic restoration of a house in the Conservation Area.

Members noted this information.

E. 13/968 Youth Centre and Youth Club (See minute C. 13/1730 and post meeting note from Amenities Committee on 3rd December 2013)

The Chairman explained that as this was a particularly important item and people had been invited especially he would allow, with the consent of the meeting, anyone in the room to contribute.

A number of points were raised, including:

- Those present and expressing views objected to the proposed closure.
- The Centre is good for community activities; it could be better used and developed as a community venue.
- A long term solution is required.
- Closure would be a massive loss for young mothers if Sure Start couldn't meet there.
- There is a petition objecting to the proposed closure
- NCC might be more responsive to a solution to keeping the Centre open.
- There is a need for a clear expression of support for the Youth Centre from the community.
- Key members of the decision making committee should be invited to Ruddington.
- 60 children from local schools had submitted objections.
- There is a poster campaign and the young people have been supplied with leaflets to distribute to encourage objections.
- The Youth Centre is useful but had never fulfilled its potential.
- Parish councillors should collect signatures on the petition.
- We need to contact people e.g. take out flyers, knock on doors.

Resolved that:

1. Ruddington Parish Council supports a petition to keep the Youth Centre open and encourages direct responses to Nottinghamshire County Council.
2. The Clerk will write to Nottinghamshire County Council and inform them that the view of the Parish Council is that the Youth Club and Centre should be kept open,
3. The Parish Council should ask Nottinghamshire County Council not to decide now and to give the Parish Council, partners & the local community time to find a solution which will keep the Centre open and improve usage, and
4. The Chair & Vice Chair of the Children and Young People Committee should be invited to visit Ruddington.

E. 13/969 Motion for Adjournment

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

Committee in Session

E. 13/970 Development

New Applications

Resolved that: The observations contained in Planning Schedule 711 are adopted.

Decision Notices

Schedule DN 221 was presented to the Committee and the contents noted.

E. 13/971 Policing

No issues were raised.

E. 13/972 Highway Matters

Right turning on to Easthorpe Street (See minute E.13/959)

Concern was again expressed at the frequency of drivers illegally turning right from Loughborough Road onto Easthorpe Street. Nottinghamshire County Council have previously stated that there was not sufficient justification to alter the junction. It was agreed to invite an officer from NCC to meet with Councillor K S Piggott.

PCO

Parking Issues

Councillor Miss H Opie reported parking issues on Kirk Lane opposite Elms Park Drive and on church Street at the exit from Shaw Street where driver's sight lines can be blocked. It was agreed to refer the issues to NCC.

PCO

E. 13/973 Christmas Street Market 2013 and Proposed Christmas Event 2014 (See minute 13/960)

The Christmas Market was a great success. Many local businesses got involved and hundreds of Ruddington people attended the Market, visited Santa, sang carols and were at the turning on of the lights in St. Peter's Churchyard. The St. Mary's Play Area Project raised over £1,100 towards equipment.

Due to the popularity of the event a number of logistical issues arose, mainly owing to the sheer number of people in St. Peter's Rooms. These can be planned for in advance of any future event.

The Market has been commented on favourably and an expectation has been raised that a similar event should be held next year. A number of suggestions have been made and some people have volunteered to assist next time.

Parish Councillors agreed that the Parish Council should take a lead in running a Community Christmas Event in 2014 to build on the success of the 2013 market.

Resolved that:

1. The Parish Council should initiate a Community Christmas Event in 2014.
2. The Clerk should produce a report for a later meeting as to how to take this forward in order to involve the community and businesses of Ruddington in delivering the event.

PCO

E. 13/974 Budget 2014/15

Copies of the probable Out-Turn 2013/2014 and proposed Environment and Community Committee Budget 2014/2015 had previously been circulated to members.

Probable Out-Turn 2013/2014

The Clerk explained that wherever possible, allowances had been made for future known expenditure. The Committee noted the comments and agreed the probable Out-Turn as presented.

Environment and Community Committee Budget 2014/2015

The proposed annual budget was discussed and the Clerk explained that the proposed budget assumed Ruddington Parish Council will not get any Transition Grant of (adjusted for inflation) approx. £23,000 in 2014/15. The confirmation (or otherwise) of this is expected in December/January. This equates to 7.2% of predicted gross income for 2013/14.

The budget this year had been prepared on the assumptions previously agreed i.e. a 3% increase in costs and income where a more precise estimate is not possible. The draft budget assumes a 3% increase in Council Tax. The Band D increase is currently calculated assuming no change in the Council Tax base. Information regarding the Council Tax base for 2014/15 is expected in December/January.

The Clerk concluded that overall this is a very tough year financially and the proposed overall revenue budget still has expenditure exceeding

income by £5,096. Options to address this will be considered initially by Finance and Policy Committee.

Members agreed the proposed annual budget for Environment and Community Committee.

Resolved that:

1. That the probable Out-Turn 2013/2014, a copy of which is appended to these minutes, is approved.
2. That the annual budget 2014/2015 for Environment and Community Committee, a copy of which is appended to these minutes, is approved and forwarded to the Finance & Policy Committee for inclusion in the Parish Council's overall budget document.

PCO

E. 13/975 Garden Competition and Photographic Garden Competition 2014

Both the Garden and Photographic Garden Competitions have had a fluctuating but generally reducing number of entrants over the past few years. A suggestion has been received that perhaps there might be more interest if the competitions were not held each year. Members considered this and agreed that both the Garden and Photographic Garden Competitions are 'given a rest' for 2014.

Resolved that: Both the Garden and Photographic Garden Competitions are 'given a rest' for 2014.

PCO

E. 13/976 Planters (See minute E. 12/911)

During spring 2013 the Parish Council sited 3 planters in Ruddington, each with a councillor to assist with keeping them watered. It was agreed to review this in December 2013.

The Parish Council wrote to people living near the planters asking for assistance in keeping them looked after. There were no direct responses to the letters but 2 local people (in addition to the councillors) are assisting in looking after the planters. There is money in the 2013/14 budget for 2 or 3 more planters.

Members agreed that it is important, given the experience so far, that at least one person/group is identified to look after each new planter put in.

Two sites were identified; at the junction of Loughborough Road and Ashworth Avenue (possibly looked after by St. Peter's School) and on Wilford Road near Sellor's Playing Field (Councillor Mrs A Auckland volunteered to look after this one). It was agreed to place an item on the next Parish Council agenda to ask all Parish Councillors if they are willing to look after a planter.

Resolved that:

1. A planter should be sited on Wilford Road near Sellor's Playing Field,
2. The Clerk should write to St. Peter's School to see if they are interested in looking after a planter at the junction of Loughborough Road and Ashworth Avenue, and
3. The Clerk should put an item on the next Parish Council agenda to ask all Parish Councillors if they are willing to look after a planter.

PCG

PCO

PCO

E. 13/977 Advertising in the Village Newsletter

A suggestion has been made that the Village Newsletter carries paid advertising to offset some of the cost and that a volunteer should take this on.

Members discussed this proposal and broadly were not supportive of advertising in the Village Newsletter. However a proposal that each edition could be sponsored by one Ruddington business was agreed. This should be advertised in the Newsletter and on the website.

Resolved that: Each edition of the Village Newsletter may be sponsored by a Ruddington business. This should be advertised in the Newsletter and on the website.

PCO

E. 13/978 Consultation on Bus Services

Details of a consultation by Nottinghamshire County Council regarding Bus Services had previously been circulated.

Members noted this information.

E. 13/979 Consultation on Proposed Future Model for Social Care

Details of a consultation by Nottinghamshire County Council regarding the Proposed Future Model for Social Care had previously been circulated.

Members noted this information.

E. 13/980 Proposed City Wide Extension Designated Public Place Order

Details of a consultation by Nottingham City Council regarding the Proposed City Wide Extension Designated Public Place Order had previously been circulated.

Members noted this information.

E. 13/981 Ways to Improve the Look and Feel of Ruddington

Councillor Mrs M Pell reported that the Christmas Business Window Competition had been a great success. 16 businesses had entered and the winners were:

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| First Place: | Perkins Hardwar |
| Second Place: | Ruddington Post Office |
| Third Place: | Bluebells Florist |
| Highly Commended: | The children of St. Peter's School for the lovely artwork they produced for the Co-op window. |

Councillor Mrs M Pell was thanked for all her hard work in organising this competition.

E. 13/982 Other environmental matters for report

It was agreed that 'Meeting with Businesses' should be a standing item on each Environment and Community Committee agenda.

The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.

Chairman

Committee Chairman