

RUDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD AT ELMS PARK PAVILION, LOUGHBOROUGH ROAD, ON TUESDAY
25th MAY 2010 AT 7.30PM

Membership

	Councillors	D.J. Hall	Chairman
		K.S. Piggott	Vice-Chairman
		Miss S.A. Chambers	
A		P. Lyons-Lewis	
		P.F. McGowan	
		J.V. Norton	
		Mrs. B. Venes	
		M. Walsh	

Persons absent are marked 'A'

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Mrs. B. Breakwell	
Mrs. J.A. Goodbody	Clerk to the Council
Mrs. L.M. Cooke	Deputy Clerk
R.S. Shelbourn	Senior Groundsman

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor P. Lyons-Lewis.

DECLARATION OF MEMBER'S INTERESTS

Councillors Mrs. B. M. Venes and M. Walsh declared an interest in any item appertaining to the Allotments. Councillor Mrs. B.M. Venes advised Members that she will be serving on the Borough Council's Development Control Committee when a final decision is taken on planning applications and will therefore abstain from voting when planning applications are discussed.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13th April 2010, having been previously circulated, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**Vicarage Lane Playing Field (Vide Minute A. 10/789)**

The Clerk reported that she had hand delivered letters to those properties that she considered could have their television reception affected by the leylandii trees sited within Vicarage Lane Playing Field prior to the trees being removed. To date she had received no direct response, although

on a recent visit to the site a local resident expressed his gratitude and said the area looked much better.

Councillor Mrs. B.M. Venes reported that she had received favourable comments from one or two local residents regarding the removal of the trees.

Members noted the above information.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 11th May 2010, having been previously circulated, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

There being no members of the public present, no motion for adjournment was made.

A. 10/794 DEVELOPMENT

New Applications

That the observations contained in Planning Schedule 624 be adopted.

A. 10/795 CRICKET FACILITIES (Vide Minute A. 784)

Provision of cricket training facilities.

Councillor J.V. Norton advised that he had met with members of the cricket club at a recent charity cricket match and had been impressed with the level of interest shown by them regarding encouraging youth cricket and the provision of cricket training facilities. The cricket club now had a sponsor and the charity match had raised quite a lot of money for their chosen charity.

During the discussions, the Parish Council's groundstaff had been highly praised for the excellent facilities provided and the Club had been asked to advise the Parish Council formally of their structure going forward, their interest in promoting youth cricket and what they are looking for to be provided to assist them in their endeavours. As a result of this, a letter had been received and circulated to Members prior to the meeting answering all the issues raised.

Councillor J.V. Norton reported that the Cricket Club are willing to some of the work themselves in respect of the provision of training facilities and had offered to talk to other local cricket clubs to ascertain what facilities they had and how they had managed to achieve them. The Cricket Club are hoping that some members of the Club will attend cricket coaching

courses in order to gain the expertise to offer coaching in Ruddington to local youngsters interest in learning and ultimately progressing to play for the Club.

Councillor J.V. Norton advised that he is intending to meet with members from the Cricket Club in the next 2-3 weeks and during the discussions will give them advice regarding possible funding opportunities.

RESOLVED:

1. That the above information be noted.
2. That Councillor J.V. Norton continue his dialogue with Ruddington Cricket Club. JN
3. That Ruddington Cricket Club investigates with other clubs the type of training facilities available and advise the Parish Council of what they would like to see at Ruddington. RCC
4. That Ruddington Cricket Club takes the opportunity during the current season to raise funds towards the cost of cricket training facilities. RCC
5. That this matter be further discussed at the next meeting of the Committee. JG

A. 10/796 ELMS PARK PLAY AREA (Vide Minutes A. 10/785)

Councillor J.V. Norton reported that the working group had met to discuss the schemes which had been presented by three suppliers – Proludic, Playdale and Lapsett. Although all three schemes included equipment and facilities for both the toddler area and the teen area, including a goal mouth/basketball area, the working group felt that the scheme provided by Playdale achieved a good balance, looked worth the money and best mirrored the playbuilder requirements.

The Chairman advised that an application for funding had been submitted to the Rushcliffe Borough Council Capital Grant Scheme towards the cost of provision of the above.

The Chairman reported that County Councillor Reg Adair had suggested to him that there could be a funding opportunity through the Local Improvement Scheme Initiative to enable the Parish Council to go for a more ambitious scheme in respect of a multi-sports area. A funding application has therefore been submitted to the Local Improvement Scheme Initiative for a multi-sports area which will not only include a goal mouth and basketball area but also cater for 5-a-side football, hockey, 2 tennis courts and cricket all sited on Tarmac surfacing and completely enclosed by fencing. It is possible that the floodlighting, which had originally been provided for the now redundant all-weather area, could be brought back into use to enable a new multi-sports area to be used for training in the evening. The outcome of the application should be known in the not too distant future.

The working group will discuss all possibilities once it is known how much funding will be available, but it was pointed out that as funding is already available for the original scheme in respect of the toddler and teen area this will go ahead.

The Chairman reported that he was currently awaiting quotations in respect of Tarmac paving the area which will accommodate the proposed multi-sports facility.

The Chairman advised that in addition to the above two funding applications being submitted, he had contacted Veolia with a brief outline of the proposed scheme and had received a response stating that the project may meet the required criteria for consideration of a grant, but more detailed information will be required. A project application form is to be completed and submitted before 30th July 2010 for consideration at the next Board Meeting to be held on 26th October 2010.

Councillor P.F. McGowan expressed concern regarding the effect a large multi-sports area would have on local residents and the potential of creating an area where youths would congregate in the evenings. He asked, therefore, whether it would be beneficial to consult with neighbouring properties. It was pointed out that the facility would be freely open during daylight hours whilst the groundstaff were in attendance and available for hire in the evening for training purposes and as a similar facility had been available in the past it would not be compulsory to conduct a consultation. However, this is something that the working party will discuss once detailed information is to hand.

Councillor Mrs. B. Breakwell advised that following an approach to Shephed Building Society in respect of possible funding, they had shown a keenness to become involved in local projects. Bearing this in mind, it was suggested that it may prove beneficial to approach other businesses such as Experian with a view to possible funding.

The working group will present plans for both the original scheme and the 'grander' scheme, together with details of what it would **like** to achieve, funding available and what **can** be achieved, to the next meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED:

1. That the above information be noted.
2. That the working group report back to the next meeting of the Committee with details of both proposed schemes.

W/G

A. 10/797 ST. PETER'S CHURCHYARD (Vide Minute A. 10/786)

Copies of a report prepared by the Clerk showing a brief history of St. Peter's Churchyard since its closure and maintenance was passed over to the Parish Council had previously been circulated to Members.

Members noted the contents of the report and said it was pleasing to note the aspects of maintenance which had not been passed on to the Parish Council. Particular mention was made regarding the paths and it was emphasised that the paths are primarily to enable access to the Church and not the churchyard.

Councillor J. V. Norton reported that there was nothing further to report but pointed out that now the Vicar had left discussions would need to be continued with the Parochial Church Council regarding the most sensible way to progress matters.

Members agreed that Councillors J.V. Norton and W.A. Wood should continue discussions with the Parochial Church Council. Councillor J.V. Norton stressed that nothing will be agreed without the approval of the Parish Council.

In the meantime, the Clerk was requested to seek advice from both the Nottinghamshire Association of Local Councils and a Solicitor through the Parish Council's Legal Insurance with regard to the Parish Council's obligations in respect maintenance/health & safety issues regarding the paths which provide access to the church building but which pass through the closed churchyard.

RESOLVED

1. That the above information be noted.
2. That Councillors J.V. Norton and W.A. Wood continue discussions in respect of St. Peter's Churchyard with the Parochial Church Council.
3. That clarification be sought from NALC and a Solicitor regarding the paths at St. Peter's Church.
3. That this matter be further discussed at the next meeting of the Committee.

JN/AW

JG

JG

A. 10/798 JUBILEE CLUBHOUSE (Vide Minute A. 10/787)

Councillor J.V. Norton reported that the next meeting of the Jubilee Clubhouse Working Group will be held in August.

He advised that the Ruddington Village Colts Football Club had secured sponsorship from the Shepshed Building Society for the coming season. He pointed out that the Club had been advised that any advertising banners/boards the Shepshed Building Society may wish to set up on match days could only be sited on the back fence of Jubilee Field. It has been emphasised to them that no advertising should be visible from the A60 Loughborough Road or be attached to the building in any way.

RESOLVED:

That the above information be noted.

A. 10/799 ALLOTMENTS COMPETITION 2010

Copies of a report prepared by the Clerk had previously been circulated to Members. Members were reminded that all allotment gardens within the Parish are automatically entered into this competition.

RESOLVED:

1. That the judging takes place by an independent judge on the evening of Tuesday 6th July 2010 commencing at 6.30pm at Paradise Gardens (Wilford Road Allotments).
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:-

£50.00	First Prize and The Thorncroft Trophy
£25.00	Second Prize
£15.00	Third Prize
£10.00	Fourth Prize
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:-

a.	Prize Money	£100.00
b.	Judge's Fee	£30.00
5. That the current year's winner be requested to stand down from entering the next year's competition.

A. 10/800 VICARAGE LANE PLAYING FIELD

Copies of a report from Councillor Mrs. B. Breakwell regarding the poor state of the path leading from Barton Close to the play area had previously been circulated to Members.

The Chairman advised that he had arranged for City Asphalt to provide a quotation for renewing this path and would report back to the next meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED:

That this matter be further discussed at the next meeting of the Committee.

JG

Mr. R. Shelbourn, Senior Groundsman left the meeting at this point.

A. 10/801 PLAY ACTIVITIES DURING SUMMER 2010 (Vide Minute A.10/780)

Councillor Mrs. B. Breakwell reported that she had attended a further meeting with SureStart at which it had been confirmed that they would be providing 3 sessions of activities in Ruddington during the summer. She advised that she would be attending a meeting with Extended Services next week to further discuss additional activities which may take place.

The owner of Gino's Italian Restaurant had agreed to host a cookery session for children who would prepare a meal, set up the restaurant and serve the meal to their parents.

It is anticipated that the time-table for events in Ruddington will be finalised by 13th July to enable the schools, SureStart, various websites and newsletters, to have the information in time to notify parents prior to the start of the summer holidays.

Councillor Mrs. B. Breakwell stressed that the events being organised had been carefully programmed around other events taking place in Ruddington and/or Rushcliffe.

Councillor P.F. McGowan suggested that the Mayor of Rushcliffe be invited to attend a key event.

Councillor Mrs. B. Breakwell advised that at the end of the programme it is intended to carry out an evaluation in an effort to get a group of parents in the village to work together to enable them to go for additional funding so that a bigger and better event could take place in Summer 2011. She said that SureStart are impressed with the number of mums already coming forward to help.

Members agreed that the Parish Council logo could be included as a supporter in any publicity surrounding the event.

RESOLVED:

1. That the above information be noted.
2. That Councillor Mrs. B. Breakwell be thanked for all the hard work and effort she had put into bringing Summer Activities for Summer 2010 to the village.

A. 10/802 FLAWFORD CHURCHYARD (Vide Minute A. 10/792)

The Clerk reported that since the last meeting of the Committee the groundstaff had tried to identify the outline of the old church at Flawford Churchyard. In an effort to aid them, the Clerk had managed to find copies of outline plans and from these they had managed to locate much of the original outline which had been laid with stones several years ago.

Following mowing of the whole area, the stoned area was sprayed to get rid of all the weeds, and spraying will take place again this week. Once the stoned area becomes more evident, additional stones will be installed so that the outline can be more clearly seen.

Members were advised that Chris Churches and Steve Mills from the Parish Council's groundstaff had spent a total of 14 hours during May on maintenance at Flawford Churchyard and it is hoped that future mowing will take place approximately every 10-14 days.

Members were reminded that the Parish Council has a written agreement with St. Peter's Church to maintain Flawford Churchyard.

RESOLVED:

That the above information be noted.

A. 10/803 VILLAGE HALL

Main Hall Floor

The Deputy Clerk reported that 'flaking' of the varnish at the two ends of the main hall floor had recently appeared and she had therefore asked the contractor who had originally carried out the maintenance of the floor in July 2008 to examine the floor in an endeavour to ascertain the reason for this. Copies of the response from FloorCare Services had previously been circulated to Members.

The Deputy Clerk advised Members that since the original report of the 'flaking' the situation had not deteriorated further or spread to other areas. She therefore suggested that the situation be monitored over the next few weeks before a decision is taken whether to go ahead with a re-sealing project which would necessitate cancelling bookings.

RESOLVED:

That the situation in relation to the main hall floor at the Village Hall be monitored over the next few weeks.

Future Maintenance of Village Hall

Councillor K.S. Piggott said he felt the time had arrived that the Parish Council should look at the future of the Village Hall in respect of maintenance, taking into account its location and options to improve.

It was acknowledged that there are problems associated with the built-on sections to the rear of the main building and the toilet areas at the front. Members were reminded that there is a Noise Abatement Order on the building and this will always be a problem in respect of lettings etc.

LC

Councillor Mrs. B.M. Venes stated that it was important to bear in mind that the income from lettings at the Village Hall compares favourably to the income received for St. Peter's Rooms, both venues offering a low cost venue for hire by local groups and organisations.

The consensus of opinion was that a working group should be set up later in the year to discuss the future maintenance of the Village Hall in order to take a broad view of the situation and set future plans prior to the new Council being elected in May 2011. It was therefore agreed to defer further discussions until the Amenities Meeting scheduled to take place on 5th October 2010.

RESOLVED:

That this matter be placed on the Agenda for the Amenities Meeting to be held on 5th October 2010.

A. 10/804 THE GREEN

Copies of a report prepared by the Clerk, a copy of which is appended to these Minutes, in respect of a complaint about the chains surrounding The Green had previously been circulated to Members.

A lengthy discussion took place on the contents of the report. Members agreed that, as there are clearly two pathways in situ to enable residents to gain safe access to the Temporary Medical Centre, anyone taking a short cut by stepping over the chains does so at their own risk.

RESOLVED:

That no action be taken.

A. 10/805 REPORTS ON AMENITIES MATTERS

Grass verges on A60 Loughborough Road

Councillor P.F. McGowan reported that the grass verge at the junction of Kirk Lane/Loughborough Road was badly in need of cutting and asked whether it would be possible to get this work carried out before judging commences in respect of the Best Kept Village Competition. He offered to mow the area in front of the Esso Service Station.

Football

Councillor J.V. Norton reported that he understood that the Three Crowns Football Club had ceased to exist and advised that in view of this the Parish Council may be contacted by the team from the Red Heart with a request to take over the hire of the football pitch vacated by the Three Crowns F.C.

The Deputy Clerk reported that the Administration Staff had been informed of this but advised that some former members of the Three Crowns F.C. had transferred to Ruddington Village F.C. 3rd Team and there may not therefore be a free pitch available for hire.

Church Street Car Park

The Clerk reported that she had been contacted by Myles Harvey from Thomas Long & Sons Ltd. to advise that a large crane will be required to be sited in Church Street Car Park for a period of up to 3 days during w/c 7th June 2010 to enable the steels to be lifted into place for the Medical Centre roof.

He had suggested that on Health & Safety Grounds it would be prudent to close the car park whilst this work is being carried out.

Members agreed to this request, but emphasised that it would be the responsibility of Thomas Long & Sons Ltd. to ensure adequate signage was posted in the vicinity of the car park both prior, and during, this period of activity.

The Clerk agreed to verbally advise Myles Harvey of the Parish Council's decision and conditions.

JG

A. 10/806 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AMENITIES AGENDA

1. Cricket Facilities
2. Elms Park Play Area
3. St. Peter's Churchyard
4. Jubilee Clubhouse
5. Play Activities during Summer 2010
6. Flawford Churchyard

The meeting closed at 9.37pm

Chairman

Committee Chairman