

RUDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

HELD AT ST. PETER'S ROOMS ON TUESDAY 8<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2011 AT 7.30PM

**Membership**

Councillors	J.V. Norton	Chairman
	Mrs. B. Venes	Vice-Chairman
	D. Bakewell	
	Mrs. B. Breakwell	
	Miss S.A. Chambers	
	Mrs. M.G. Grice	
A	Mrs. S. Kaur Samra	
A	P. Lyons Lewis	
	P.F. McGowan	
	K.S. Piggott	
	N.J. Tegerdine	
	M. Walsh	
	W.A. Wood	
A	Mrs. M. Woodhead	

Persons absent are marked 'A'

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Mrs. J.A. Goodbody	Clerk to the Council
5 members of the public	

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. S. Kaur Samra, P. Lyons-Lewis and Mrs. M. Woodhead.

Councillor P.F. McGowan expressed his thanks to Councillor K.S. Piggott for standing in for him during his recent extended holiday.

C. 11/1424 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

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.

Councillors Mrs. B.M. Venes and M Walsh declared an interest in any Agenda item relating to the Allotments, Wilford Road.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2011, having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

## C. 11/1425 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

### Elms Park Play Area (Vide Minute C. 11/1407)

The Clerk reported that she had written to Rushcliffe Play Forum expressing the Council's thanks for their help at the Official Opening of the new play area which took place on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2011.

The Clerk advised Members that despite the horrible weather, all the children and parents who attended the event thoroughly enjoyed themselves and the additional activities provided by members of the Play Forum, which took place in Elms Park Pavilion, added to this.

Members expressed their gratitude to the organisers of the Official Opening for the success of the event.

## C. 11/1426 MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

### RESOLVED:

That the Council adjourn to allow the members of the public present to make statements on Agenda Items.

During the adjournment the following item was raised:

David Hollingworth referred to the installation of bollards on the new paved areas along the High Street and advised Members that during an item which had appeared on Central News earlier in the evening focussing on Bingham, he noticed that the whole of the paved area around the market place was surrounded by bollards. He also said it was interesting to note that bollards are in place along the grass verges on Loughborough Road, West Bridgford in the vicinity of West Bridgford School presumably to deter parents collecting pupils from school from parking on the verges.

## **COUNCIL IN SESSION**

### C. 11/1427 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### 90th Birthday

The Chairman advised that an outdoor planted arrangement had been delivered to Eric Radford of Sheepfold Lane on the occasion of his 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2011.

The Clerk advised that Mr. Radford had brought in a selection of cream cakes for the Parish Council Staff as a 'thank-you'.

#### Golden Wedding Anniversary

The Chairman advised that a flower basket had been delivered to Mr. & Mrs. McCullough of Peacock Close on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2011.

## C. 11/1428 COMMUNICATIONS

### Rushcliffe Voluntary Transport Scheme (Vide Minute C.11/1420)

The Clerk read to Members the contents of a letter from RCVS thanking the Parish Council for its proposed donation of £100 towards the work of the transport scheme, particularly as the scheme makes such a difference to the lives of so many people in Rushcliffe. The letter states that the support of Ruddington Parish Council is really valued both in financial terms and because of the boost it gives the people working on it (volunteers and staff) knowing that their work is valued.

Members noted this information.

### Rushcliffe Borough Council – Introduction of a new charging scheme for green waste collections

The Clerk reported that information had been received from the Borough Council in respect of the introduction of charges for green waste collections in the new financial year. The correspondence gives details of how the service will be introduced in four key phases:-

- Advertising and Registration
- Reminder to register
- Payment and welcome pack
- 1<sup>st</sup> July 2011 – last collection day for all green wheeled bins which have not been paid for

The Clerk circulated a copy of the document to all Members present in order that they may have the information to hand should they be questioned by any members of the public.

Members noted this information.

### County Council Civic Service 2011

The Clerk reported that the County Council Civic Service 2011 will be taking place at Southwell Minster on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2011 at 3.00pm. She advised that any Member wishing to attend should let her know as soon as possible.

Members noted this information.

## C. 11/1429 QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 8

There were no questions raised under Standing Order No. 8.

## C. 11/1430 RESIGNATION OF PARISH COUNCILLOR

Copies of a letter of resignation from D.J. Hall had previously been circulated to Members.

The letter, dated 5<sup>th</sup> February 2011, advised that Mr. Hall was tendering his resignation as Parish Councillor for the Camelot Ward and as Chairman of the Amenities Committee with immediate effect.

The Clerk advised Members that as there was less than six months to go before the Parish Council Elections take place it is not necessary to replace Mr. Hall. However, the Parish Council could, if it so wished, co-opt someone onto the Council for the remainder of the current term of office of the Council.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Parish Council accepts the resignation from Mr. David Hall as a Parish Councillor representing Camelot Ward.
2. That the vacancy for a Parish Councillor to represent Camelot Ward be left unfilled for the remainder of the current term.
3. That Rushcliffe Borough Council be advised of the resignation of David Hall
4. That Rushcliffe Borough Council be advised that the Parish Council does not intend to fill the vacancy on Camelot Ward.

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C. 11/1431 DEVELOPMENT

New Applications

RESOLVED:

That the observations contained in Planning Schedule 645 be adopted.

C. 11/1432 COMMITTEE REPORTS AND MINUTES

The Chairman advised that as the Amenities Committee Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2011 had not been quorate, those Members present discussed the items on the Agenda and a record of the discussions had been presented as a Report. He advised that the report contains 'Recommendations' as opposed to 'Resolutions' but provided the Parish Council approves the report, any recommendations will become resolutions in as far as actions to be taken are concerned.

The Minutes and Reports as set out below were presented and motions made for approval and adoption:

Amenities Committee	8 February 2011
Environment & Community Committee	15 February 2011
Finance & Policy Committee	1 March 2011

It was proposed by K.S. Piggott, and seconded by W.A. Wood, that the recommendations contained within the Amenities report be adopted.

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations contained in the aforementioned Minutes and Reports be adopted.

C. 11/1433 PARISH COUNCIL SURGERY

12<sup>th</sup> February 2011 – Borough/Parish Councillor Mrs. B.M. Venes;  
Parish Councillor K.S. Piggott

Members were reminded that County Councillor Reg Adair had previously given his apologies for this surgery as he would be attending a Councillors Conference.

The following matter was raised at the surgery:-

Dr. Jo Aldridge of Elms Gardens – reported that there is a deep channel on The Green which has not been filled in; an outline where the cabins were; tarmac cracked. She needs to be informed of progress and informed of what is happening and when The Green will be improved.

The Clerk advised that on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2011 an email was sent to Dr. Aldridge advising her that an inspection of the area is scheduled to take place in the Spring in order that all outstanding re-instatement issues can be completed to the satisfaction of the Parish Council. The email also advised that regular updates have been, and will be, included on the Parish Council Website and in the Village Newsletter.

Members thanked the staff for their prompt action in responding to Dr. Aldridge.

Councillors K.S. Piggott and Mrs. B.M. Venes advised that following the surgery they had been to The Green to look at the issues raised.

RESOLVED:

That the above information be noted.

C. 11/1434 CRICKET FACILITIES

The Chairman reported that following receipt of the report prepared by Ruddington Cricket Club which had provided the Parish Council with the information it had been requesting, it had been agreed to progress with the matter of providing cricket training facilities.

The ground-staff had been requested to look at the most suitable place to install the training facilities, and as a result of this some brief notes, together with a plan of the proposals, were circulated to Members at the meeting.

Members discussed the proposals and agreed to proceed.

RESOLVED:

1. That the construction of cricket training facilities proceeds. RS/CC
2. That the proposals suggested by the ground-staff with regard to the siting of the training facility, incorporating the re-arrangement of some football pitches, be agreed. RS/CC

C. 11/1435 ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Great Poppy Party Weekend

Copies of information received from the Royal British Legion regarding the above had been passed to Mr. G. Fearn of the Ruddington Branch of the Royal British Legion in order that this matter could be discussed at their next branch meeting.

A reply had been received from the Branch Secretary advising that the branch had not received any information about this and would therefore take no action. However, if the Parish Council decided to host any event, the branch would offer its support.

RESOLVED:

1. That the above information be noted.
2. That no further action be taken.

Village Christmas Tree

The Ruddington Branch of the Royal British Legion discussed the content of Minute No. E.10/766 from the Environment & Community Committee Minutes dated 7<sup>th</sup> December 2010 in which it was stated that "the Parish Council was planning to purchase a Christmas tree to be situated within the railings of the War Memorial. The tree would use the existing electricity supply to power lighting and the grounds-men intend to install a goal post socket to hold and secure the tree."

The Secretary of the Ruddington Branch of the Royal British Legion had responded to this proposal is as follows:-

*"My members understand that the location of a Christmas Tree in Ruddington would require careful planning because of vandalism and the availability of electricity supply, but they did feel that the war memorial was not a proper place for it to be."*

*"The war memorial is a special place to the people of Ruddington as witnessed by the large crowd who always attend the annual Service of Remembrance and containing as it does the names of men and one woman who were killed in action. During the years as a branch we have worked to open up the memorial by getting rid of a yew hedge, laurel bush and a tree so that any unlawful activity could easily be seen from the street. We would not like to see a further tree planted which may obscure the view especially as thanks to the efforts of the Parish*

*Council together with their gardeners the memorial is now looking at its best and remains free from the attention of vandals.”*

*“May we suggest that a more appropriate place would be in St. Peter’s Churchyard after all Christmas is a church festival celebrating the birth of Christ and we believe a tree with lights has been shown before in the churchyard. The tree would be behind railings away from the bus stop but very visible from the street. The lights on the tree could be connected to the floodlights and would be controlled by them.”*

*“My members cannot agree to the placing of a Christmas tree on the War Memorial, and although Minute E. 10/766 states members of the Environment & Community Committee were unanimous in their approval of the arrangement we hope that Committee members will reconsider this matter and give thought to the placing of the Christmas tree in St. Peter’s Churchyard.”*

Members fully understood the comments made by the Royal British Legion and agreed that this matter should be referred to the Amenities Committee in order that further discussion could take place and an alternative site sought.

RESOLVED:

1. That the above information be noted.
2. That this matter be referred to the Amenities Committee for further discussion.

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C. 11/1436 RUDDINGTON FUN

Copies of correspondence from a newly formed group of volunteers who aim to provide a variety of holiday pastimes within the village had previously been circulated to Members.

Councillor Mrs. B. Breakwell explained that following on from the successful “Summer Fun in Ruddington” Scheme in 2010 a group of volunteers within the village have recently formed an organisation called “Ruddington Fun”. The rationale behind doing so is that with the cutbacks that are being felt by so many organisations the support the village received last year is less likely to be available this year. The constitutional aim is to *“Provide directly or through partnership with other organisations School holiday activities/events for children, young people and families within Ruddington”*.

As a formal organisation the group will be able to apply for grants and to fundraise to hopefully build a fund to support the aim to provide a variety of holiday pastimes within the village. They strongly believe that Ruddington families should not have to leave the village to access activities as there are several facilities within the village that could be used for such events.

The correspondence had been sent to introduce the existence of the group to the Parish Council and to potentially seek its support in raising their profile within the village. The group would like to organise an Easter related activity, possibly on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2011 and asked whether the Parish Council may be in a position to offer a venue for 2 hours to enable the group to recruit more support and work toward their goal of making Ruddington a vibrant fun filled community.

Members applauded the work being done by “Ruddington Fun” and readily agreed to the use of Elms Park Pavilion free of charge on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2011. It was suggested that it might be advantageous for a member of the group to attend the Annual Parish Meeting in order to ‘spread the word’.

RESOLVED:

1. That the above information be noted.
2. That “Ruddington Fun” be granted use of Elms Park Pavilion during the afternoon of Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2011 free of charge.

C. 11/1437 “A FRESH APPROACH TO HOUSING GROWTH – NOTHING IS YET DECIDED!”

Copies of a notice from Rushcliffe Borough Council advising of a public meeting taking place on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2011 at Ruddington Methodist Church Hall commencing at 8pm had previously been circulated to Members.

*The notice advises “the Borough Council only last year consulted communities on where significant housing growth might take place. This was because the previous Government required around 12,000 new homes to be built in Rushcliffe by 2026. But since then there has been significant change.”*

*“The new Government is dropping this top-down housing requirement and, at the same time, is giving the Borough Council and local residents more control to decide how much new housing and related growth is needed locally and where it might go.”*

*“Before these important decisions can be taken, however, we need to work with you to know a little more about what you think about issues such as: whether your village needs to grow or change; whether there is a local need for more homes and, if so, what sort of homes; and whether growth is needed to support or provide local services, jobs and facilities”.*

*“As part of this discussion, **Councillor Neil Clarke, Leader of Rushcliffe Borough Council** will be at **Ruddington Methodist Church Hall** on 16<sup>th</sup> March at **8pm** to listen to your views. He will give a short talk followed by a chance for you to ask questions or make your point of view. Please come along! Everyone is welcome.”*

RESOLVED:

1. That the above information be noted.
2. That as many Members as possible attend the meeting in order to make their views known.

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C. 11/1438 RUSHCLIFFE BOROUGH COUNCIL – JOINT PARISH COUNCIL STREET CLEANSING ARRANGEMENTS

Copies of correspondence from David Banks, Head of Environment and Waste Management, at Rushcliffe Borough Council had previously been circulated to Members.

The correspondence advises that the Borough Council will cease the current joint street cleansing arrangements in the new financial year and therefore the part-time cleaner posts in the larger villages will stop. However, there would still be a Streetwise service in the village, but for a shorter period of time than the current 4 hours per day worked by the current post holder.

The Borough Council is keen to hear whether any of the larger Parish Councils would be interested in taking on its local part-time cleaner on a permanent basis.

The Clerk advised that she had ascertained from the Borough Council the costs involved should the Parish Council wish to take up the offer.

Members agreed that there was no funding available to employ a part-time street cleaner at the current time. It was suggested that the situation with regard to the new arrangements being put in place by the Borough Council should be regularly monitored by the Environment & Community Committee.

RESOLVED:

1. That the above information be noted.
2. That the Parish Council does not take up the offer by Rushcliffe Borough Council to employ the existing part-time cleaner.
3. That the new arrangements with regard to street cleansing by Rushcliffe Borough Council be regularly monitored by the Environment & Community Committee.

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C. 11/1439 NOTTINGHAM CITY TRANSPORT – SERVICE NO. 10  
(Vide Minute C. 11/1418)

Copies of the response by Nottingham City Transport to the suggestion put forward by a local resident had previously been circulated to Members. The letter from the Marketing Manager reads as follows:-

*"I have already commissioned a review into the use of our electronic destinations during bad weather and we are currently collating a list of all the different variations to route we operated in the most recent period we were affected by snow".*

*"In cases where buses have followed the same diversion on several occasions, we would prefer to display specific information relating to the diversion route taken, rather than a generic 'main road only' message because many of the roads we would classify as 'main roads' could not be used due to poor conditions and our customers would not know where to wait for their bus."*

*"We have several methods of communicating diversions during bad weather, such as our website, bus stop displays, Call Centre and local media and we expect the use of destination displays to enhance this further."*

*"Our communication however does not resolve the reason we have to divert services, with many roads suffering from treacherous conditions, particularly the Packman Drive area in Ruddington, and any support the Parish Council can offer in resolving this would be much appreciated."*

**RESOLVED:**

That the above information noted.

**C. 11/1440 BOROUGH/PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION – 5 MAY 2011**

Copies of correspondence from Rushcliffe Borough Council advising that in addition to the above elections on 5<sup>th</sup> May there will be a national Referendum on the Alternative Vote System had previously been circulated to Members.

The letter from Allen Graham, Returning Officer, advises that there are currently a number of directions which could possibly have the impact of increasing the financial cost to the Parish Council should a contest be required, including:-

- All polling staff must attend a face to face training session for which they receive a fee. (As the total cost of the election would increase this will impact upon the cost charged to the District, Town & Parish Councils)
- Poll cards must be combined for the Referendum and Borough Council Election only. Therefore should additional polling cards for a Parish or Town Council election be required the cost will now be borne totally by the Parish or Town Council. (This in effect is the same practice as adopted by Rushcliffe in the local elections in 2007)

- Postal votes will be combined for the Referendum and Borough Council election. This means we would be unable to include Parish or Town Council ballot papers in the same envelopes as the District election. Therefore the postal votes sent out for the Parish election will incur additional printing costs, outward and inward postage costs and therefore will be borne totally by the Parish or Town Council. (Once again, this is a similar practice to that adopted by Rushcliffe for the local elections in 2007).
- Polling stations with more than 750 electors must have 2 poll clerks and polling stations with over 1500 electors must have 3 poll clerks. (This is additional to the staffing allocations incorporated previously and will therefore increase the staffing costs for the election).

Whilst it is possible that some of the normal costs of running the election may reduce if your Parish/Town Council is contested, I wanted to make you aware of the likely costs that may be incurred as a result of the directions that have been issued by the Chief Counting Officer and I suspect have not been budgeted for within Parish or Town Council budgets.

For information, the total cost incurred by Ruddington Parish Council at the last District election was £78.19. The current estimate of direct costs that could be incurred if an election was required for the Parish Council in May are £3253.45 (contested) or £400 (uncontested).

RESOLVED:

That the above information be noted.

C. 11/1441 RISK ASSESSMENTS (Vide Minute F. 11/1008)

Copies of Minute F. 11/1008 taken from the Finance & Policy Committee Minutes dated 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011 had previously been circulated to Members.

The Finance & Policy Committee made the recommendation that the Risk Assessment Document be adopted by the Parish Council and subsequently monitored by either the Amenities Committee or Finance & Policy Committee.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Risk Assessment Document be adopted.
2. That Risk Assessments be monitored either by the Amenities Committee or the Finance & Policy Committee, as appropriate.
3. That Members' thanks be recorded to the Deputy Clerk for all the work undertaken in producing the Risk Assessment Document and the excellent manner in which it has been compiled.

LC

## C. 11/1442 REPORTS

### Borough Councillors

Councillor Mrs. B.M. Venes reported that she had attended the induction ceremony for the new Vicar of St. Peter's Church. She had also attended several meetings of the Fairham Brook Inland Drainage Board.

### Rushcliffe Community Cohesion Network

Councillor Mrs. B. Breakwell reported on her attendance at the Rushcliffe Community Cohesion Network Meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2011 at which Hate Crime and its impact on Community Cohesion had been discussed.

She explained to Members that Hate Crime is classed as "harassing, victimising, intimidating or abusing someone because of their race, faith, religion, disability or because they are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender". The meeting was advised that racial Hate Crime accounted for 72% of all hate crime in Rushcliffe in the last year and this amounted to 55 reported offences – interesting in the context that 98% of the Borough is White British. Various organisations talked about their role in supporting victims of Hate Crime. Their main aim is to empower people, be it the victim or a witness, to report what has happened and support them through the process until a satisfactory outcome is reached. Lots of victims, by nature of their individual needs, may not be capable of doing so independently so communities need to be alert to potential issues.

The aim is to raise awareness that Hate Crime is something that should not, and will not, be tolerated. The Fiona Pilkington case in Leicester has raised the profile of Hate Crime, but communities need to look at ways to make people aware of how they can report incidents. The main points of contact are 'Stop Hate UK' or the Police.

It was pointed out that within Ruddington there are several homes where vulnerable people live and it may be beneficial if the Parish Council was to contact them to make them aware of the above information. It was suggested that this matter be pursued by the Environment & Community Committee.

### Internal Audit

The Clerk reported that the Internal Auditor would be attending on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2011 to commence the internal audit of the accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011. Members noted this information.

### Leys Court

The Clerk reported that she had recently contacted Spiritia in order to ascertain what was happening with Leys Court as several residents had reported that currently only about half of the properties are

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occupied and rumours are circulating that the properties are to be let to either Students or Homeless persons.

The Clerk had been advised that a review of all sheltered housing is taking place and once more financial information is to hand the future of the main building will be decided. It is currently felt unfair to move residents into the property whilst its future is under discussion but existing residents have been kept informed of the situation. The properties will definitely not be offered to students or the homeless, but it may be necessary to reduce the age qualification. Members noted this information.

#### Royal National Institute for the Blind

The Clerk advised that she had been contacted by the Royal National Institute for the Blind regarding the possibility of siting a mobile unit on Church Street Car Park for a couple of hours on different dates. Apparently they had originally spoken to the Medical Centre, who had considered it to be a good idea, but suggested that they contact the Parish Council as owners of the car park.

They would like to bring a mobile unit to the village on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011 from 1pm – 3pm.

Members considered that Church Street Car Park would not be the most suitable place to locate the mobile unit, particularly if they wished to attract passers-by.

The Clerk was asked to ascertain the objective of their visit and discuss possible alternative sites with the RNIB.

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The meeting closed at 9.30pm

Chairman