

RUFFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 21 November 2023 at 6.00 pm at the Markham Suite, Rufford Mill, Rufford

Present: Councillors:

D. Fernley (Chair)
 B.Bates
 J.Ball
 J. Pearce (arrived 6.10 pm)
 A.Drane

In attendance:

C. Wilson (Clerk)
 Scott Carlton (County Councillor)
 Linda Tift (District Councillor)
 C Hanrahan (Parkwood Leisure)
 David Johnson (prospective councillor)
 Marcus Jones (prospective councillor) from 6.25 pm

	DISCUSSION AND DECISIONS	ACTION
RPC/96/23	Apologies for absence: Mr Pearce had been delayed.	
RPC/97/23	Declarations of interest: There were no declarations of interest, direct or indirect, in any items of business on the agenda.	
RPC/98/23	Dispensations: No dispensations required.	
RPC/99/23	<p>Parkwood Leisure Report: Ms Hanrahan reported on Christmas events at the Mill including Santa’s arrival the preceding weekend. The Park had encouraged responsible traffic. Queues had been manageable although people had continued to ignore the “car park full” signs.</p> <p>Councillors had noted that Parkwood Leisure did not have the resources to distribute leaflets but they were unable to assist with this. There was discussion of sharing information for Maylodge Drive residents using their WhatsApp group.</p> <p>Events are publicised on the Park’s website but the 10% reduction for local residents is not published there. Ms Hanrahan will let the clerk and chair know when there will be events attracting the discount and email address to use to request tickets at the discounted rate. Mr Pearce arrived at 6.10 pm during this discussion.</p> <p>Ms Hanrahan noted that the grounds’ staff continued to drive on and damage the soft ground. Ms Hanrahan had raised this and established that this is necessary when the park is busy to keep the public safe. However, it should only be occurring in those circumstances. A councillor confirmed that the driving was occurring at 8 am when the park is quiet. Ms Hanrahan will feed this back.</p> <p>Ms Hanrahan left the meeting.</p> <p>Councillors agreed to move next to item 8 on the agenda (Reports from district and county councillors).</p>	<p align="center">CH</p> <p align="center">CH</p>
RPC/100/23	10 minutes public speaking time: The meeting reverted to this item after discussion of item 8 on the agenda (Reports from district and county councillors). NO public present.	

<p>RPC/101/23</p>	<p>Minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 19 September 2023: The minutes of the meetings on 19 September 2023 were approved.</p>	
<p>RPC/102/23</p>	<p>Matters arising – for information only: No matters arising.</p>	
<p>RPC/103/23</p>	<p>Reports from district and county councillors: This item was considered immediately after item 4 on the agenda (Parkwood Leisure report). Mr Carlton’s reported that that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A meeting of cabinet members and officers had concluded that the first feasibility study was too weak. 2. The next two weeks would see a three step process. 3. A cabinet member would review the feasibility study in three stages before sign off 4. Councillors will be involved in the process 5. It is likely that the process will result in a recommendation that the road be closed permanently because of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The flooding, planning and conservation implications of a bridge b. The probability that lights and cameras will be vandalised c. There had been another incident involving a tractor followed by a car during the recent floods which a permanent closure would prevent d. The probability that the addition of obstacles such as humps would add to the Ford’s attraction e. The ecological implications of a culvert. <p>Councillors raised the question of who would be responsible for maintaining the water course in the event of a permanent road closure. Mr Carlton confirmed that the matter was being considered from all angles, a pavement would remain and the road would remain under NCC’s jurisdiction.</p> <p>The chair summarised the parish council’s position to date. In essence, the council was, and had been for some considerable time, concerned at the potential for a fatality: someone had already lost a limb despite the parish council’s efforts. It would be regrettable if the concept of a ford was lost but there was support locally for a closure. However, there were also local residents who used the road. Mr Jones arrived during this item.</p> <p>Mr Carlton confirmed that NCC recognised that the public must be consulted. He was aware that there had been issues with deliveries because of the closure.</p> <p>Councillors asked that the relevant cabinet member and senior officers attend a parish council meeting. They also expressed the view that at least one parish councillor should be involved in the decision making process going forward. To this end, Mr Carlton will share Ms Horton’s email with councillors to enable them to be represented.</p> <p>There was also discussion of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The recent heavy flooding and watercourse issues. Mr Carlton noted the flood alleviation scheme at the golf club and the dredging was needed further up. 2. The A614 improvement works were still on track with Ollerton roundabout the likely starting point for works 3. The worst case potential for a NCC £60m budget shortfall <p>Ms Tift reported on:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Levelling up developments at NSDC ii. The re-opened community grants scheme for community groups iii. The inception of the Active 4 Today Committee looking at how residents might be encouraged to be more active iv. A climate change initiative. <p>The meeting reverted to item 5 on the agenda (10 minutes public speaking time).</p>	
RPC/104/23	Reports from Councillors: The clerk will write a second letter to the resident who had contacted the chair regarding flooding.	Clerk
RPC/105/23	<p>Co-option of two new councillors: Councillors noted that the vacancies had been publicised and co-option was a specific agenda item.</p> <p>They welcomed Mr Johnson and Mr Jones to the meeting as candidates for the vacancies. Each was invited formally to share their skills, experience and reasons for wishing to become a parish councillor.</p> <p>Both having done so, the clerk confirmed that, on the basis of the information provided, each was eligible for appointment and had provided valid ID.</p> <p>Councillors unanimously co-opted David Johnson and Marcus Jones as parish councillors on a show of hands. The clerk will email acceptance of office forms and registers of interest to both.</p> <p>The chair welcomed Mr Jones and Mr Johnson to the parish council.</p>	Clerk
RPC/106/23	2024 meeting dates: Councillors unanimously approved the 2024 meeting dates, noting that the March 2024 date may be liable to change. The clerk will share the dates with Ms Hanrahan.	Clerk
RPC/107/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Financial position as at 31 October 2023: Councillors considered and noted the clerk's report showing the precise financial position at 31 October 2023 (incorporating the 2023-24 budget figures). b. Accounts for payment: Councillors unanimously approved five payments totalling £573.41. c. Appointment of internal auditor: Councillors agreed that Halam parish clerk should be asked whether she would be prepared to undertake the role for a further year. d. Review system of internal control: Councillors discussed the operation of the system of internal control and agreed that it was adequate for the size and needs of the council and continued to operate effectively, subject to the appointment of an internal auditor which was in hand. e. Consider need for interim internal audit: The clerk advised councillors as to the on-going nature of the internal audit process. Councillors considered their financial affairs for the financial year to date. They decided that, given the annual internal audit carried out by Halam parish clerk, an interim internal audit would be disproportionate and was not justified. f. Insurance matters: Discussion confidential. Minuted separately. 	
RPC/108/23	<p>Planning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Applications: 23/01838/FUL - Internal and external alterations, new external canopy and entrance porch, buggy park, dining pods, children's play area and 	

	<p>associated works- Foresters Inn Sherwood Forest Holiday Village Old Rufford Road Rufford: Councillors considered the application and unanimously decided that they had no comments on the proposal.</p> <p>b. To note planning decisions by NSDC: 23/01501/FUL Change of use from redundant annex to dwelling including extensions to the north and west elevations Annexe, Broad Oak, Old Rufford Road, Rufford, NG22 9DD - Refusal noted.</p> <p>c. Enforcement matters: 22/00205/ENFB - Alleged change of use from B1 industrial to B8 storage & distribution - Rufford Hills Farm, Rufford Lane, Rufford, NG22 9DQ: Councillors noted that NSDC is taking enforcement steps. As regards Works at Fairways Farm, Rufford (23/00421/ENFB) councillors noted that NSDC took the view that. Although there had been a divergence from the planning permission, it was not significant and the case was being closed.</p> <p>d. Incinerator in Bilsthorpe – Discuss matters raised in RAGE presentation at Annual Parish Meeting 2023: Councillors noted that the matter continued to remain on the agenda in case of any developments.</p>	
RPC/109/23	Parish environment and appearance including Rufford Ford – See RPC/103/23 above (Reports from district and county councillors).	
RPC/110/23	Service faults: None.	
RPC/111/23	Correspondence: None	
RPC/112/23	Agenda items for next meeting: As above	
RPC/113/23	Date of next meeting: Next meeting: Tuesday 16 January 2024	

The meeting closed at 7.40 pm