

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ROOKSDOWN PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE HALL, SAXON WOOD
SCHOOL ON MONDAY 1 FEBRUARY 2010 COMMENCING AT 19.30**

Present: Cllrs Adlam, Cavalier, Cordner, R Dobing, Lewis-Grey, Miller (Chairman), Statham & Parkinson; B. Cllr Cherrett, C. Cllr Reid.

In Attendance: 4 members of the public
No member of the Press
Parish Clerk

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr P Dobing (unwell).

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The Clerk declared an interest in Agenda Item 7(b): Payments for Approval.

3. MINUTES

33/10 It was
RESOLVED to receive, confirm the accuracy of, and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2009.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

At 19:32, the meeting recessed into open forum and resumed at 20:15. A record of the discussion which followed is contained in Appendix B to these Minutes.

5. REPORTS & FEEDBACK: BOROUGH & COUNTY COUNCILLORS AND THE POLICE.

Borough Cllr Cherrett's (KC) detailed Report is Appendix A to these Minutes. A number of areas for report by both Cllr Cherrett and Cllr Reid were previously covered under Public Participation.

6. PLANNING:

a. New Applications:

(i)	BDB/71767	Land At Park Prewett Hospital: Erection of building forming community centre with associated car parking and new access	Comments previously agreed by e.mail were formally agreed.
(ii)	BDB/71778	Basingstoke Hospital: Relief of condition 2 of planning permission BDB71172 to allow the extension of time limit for the removal of the temporary building	No objection
(iii)	BDB/71862	2 Knowle Road: Erection of an orangery to rear elevation	No objection

b. Planning Decisions:

(i)	BDB/71472	Parklands Residential Home, Aldermaston Road: Erection of single storey extensions forming day room and WC: GRANTED.	Noted
(ii)	BDB/71425	2 Gander Drive: Erection of a garden room to rear elevation: GRANTED	Noted

c. Old Golf Course Site (OGC): BDBC had formally announced that OGC land had been "released" for housing. A development partner had yet to be designated by HCA, following which a planning application would be formulated. The Head of Planning & Development at BDBC, Nicki Linihan (NL), had expressed a desire to meet representatives of RPC, but had been unable to attend this meeting. NL to be invited to the March RPC meeting.

7. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) Financial Reports 2009/2010

A financial report to mid January 2010 was noted.

(b) Payments for Approval

34/10 RESOLVED It was to approve the following payments:

CQ No	Payee	Service	Amount
0209	Saxon Wood School	Hall Hire February 2010	£50.00
0210	R Darley	Admin. Expenses August - January	£125.65
0211	R Darley	Salary & office expenses Q3	£821.18
0212	HMRC	PAYE on Salary Q3	172.26
		Total	£1169.09

© Budget/Precept 2010/2011:

A revised Precept and Budget for 2010/2011, to reflect the increased tax base numbers notified by BDBC, had been agreed by an exchange of e-mails between members.

35/09 RESOLVED It was therefore to confirm approval of the revised Precept of £17,200 for 2010/2011 requested from BDBC.

36/09 RESOLVED It was to approve the revised 2010/2011 Budget prepared by the Clerk. *(Attached at Appendix C to these Minutes.)*

37/09 RESOLVED It was to re-appoint Mr John Murray as Internal Auditor for 2010/2011.

8. ROOKSDOWN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The RCA Chairman reported agreed events planned for the coming year – the Summer Fair on 10 July and Woodland Walk on 8 May, and planned events - a Disco for children of infants/junior school age; and a dogshow and other events; health walks, pub walks, Halloween Event. The new Community Wardens also plan games for both sexes during school holidays.

9. ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS

Problems experienced during the recent adverse weather conditions were discussed, principally refuse disposal and snow/ice clearance. Parish, Borough & County Councillors, and Maria Miller MP had been involved in initiatives to improve these issues in future.

38/09 RESOLVED It was to request grit/salt bins at problem point in the parish and a list of 11 bins was to be passed to Maria Miller MP (1. Mill Road, near the RPC notice board, 2. Pumphouse way, about half way along its length, 3. Nightingale Gardens - on council land, 4. Gander Drive, 5. Corner of Mill Road/Julius Close, 6. Sorting Lane, about half way along its length, 7. Peggs Way, about half way along its length, near the traffic calming hump, 8. By the new footbridge over the A340, 9. Moths Grace/Crondall Terrace, at the dangerous point where a footway crosses the carriageway. 10. Gillies Drive, 11. Barron Place).

The Clerk is to respond to residents who wrote to RPC requesting action.

10. MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

None received prior to the meeting.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

A list of correspondence had been circulated to Members and copies of those for discussion, issued with the Agenda were noted.

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39/10 It was
RESOLVED agreed to advise HALC that RPC is not in favour of HALC's withdrawal from NALC, but that HALC should initially work for change from within the national association, to achieve changes and improvements in service and transparency on the part of NALC.

40/10 It was
RESOLVED to advise Barnado's that a textile bank would not be sited in the parish until the Community centre is established.

41/10 It was
RESOLVED that Cllrs Lewis-Grey and Dobing would attend the launch of BDBC's Five Gold Rings community programme at Whitchurch on 10 February.

12. **MATTERS FOR REPORT**

- a. Reports from Working Parties
Newsletter: Cllr Lewis-Grey requested copy for the next newsletter by Friday 12 February.
- b. **Youth:** nothing to report.
- c. **Open Spaces:** Clerk to pursue consultation re installation of benches on Mill Road Open Space and filling of holes on the Nightingale Gardens football area. The Clerk reported that the lease with HCA on the latter had been agreed and signed by both parties. RCA's Insurers have confirmed that activities in that area are covered by insurance.
- b. **Other matters for report.**
 - (i) Some street lights are not working in Pumphouse Way: to be pursued with Taylor Wimpey.
 - (ii) Bushes weighed down by snow are obstructing footways; BDBC to be asked to rectify.
 - (iii) Residents have asked for a third "speed bump" on Sorting Way because cars are speeding on the road which has no footways and children play in the road. Can a Children Playing Sign be erected?

15. **MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS/CLERK**

Cllr Adlam reported her attendance at a presentation at BDH, which was excellent. Copy outlining the presentation will be provided for the newsletter.

16. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Future meetings are: Monday 1 March and 29 March 2009.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 22:31

Date.....

Chairman.....

Update from Borough Cllr Karen Cherrett

Snow, ice and all things cold

As expected the cold snap through December and January created quite a lot of e-mail traffic and interesting debate in the local press. By way of establishing information regarding areas of responsibility for the future, the following may be of assistance:

- Responsibility for gritting and snow clearance on the highway falls to the County Council as the Highways Authority. Borough and District councils work closely with them in identifying areas to target in the event of snow falls. However priority is given to pre-determined routes such as main roads and more minor roads where they provide the only access routes to specific facilities (e.g. hospitals and schools) or communities.
- The County Council does not generally provide grit bins to residential or industrial areas but where it has funding it will do so (often in response to request and where it has a budget allocation). The County has made additional funding available after this year as a result of the adverse weather and a request has been made for areas of Basingstoke. (Following the first snow fall in December and in response to resident requests, I made a formal request for grit bins to be provided in Gander Drive to enable residents to deal with the slope and especially enable disabled residents in the flats to get their vehicles up the slope with the assistance of neighbours.)
- The ongoing responsibility of the County Council is simply to top up grit supplies – not supply labour to spread grit from bins – and topping up in the event of adverse weather will be subject to resource prioritisation i.e. the teams will get to it after main roads are clear.
- Parish and community councils are able to order grit bins from the County Council and place them where there is a local need. Again the County will top up grit bins but use of grit in bins falls to local residents.
- BDBC has a duty of care over its own premises and facilities and whilst not specifically for gritting, the council will deploy street care teams to grit paving surrounding its offices as well as other council managed areas such as paths in parks and cemeteries in the event of snow fall – this is an employment and occupiers liability action not a highways responsibility and is similar to the actions a householder may choose to take
- The Borough Council is not a highways authority and does not have snow clearance or gritting vehicles – it has an adapted vehicle and this is used in and around the town and in areas where a priority need is identified. It also borrows equipment from other areas when the need arises....as it did in December and January.
- Residents and homeowners have a duty of care over their own premises and access to it by visitors. As such homeowners deciding to clear snow or ice do so with good intent and providing they do not in doing so, make the area more dangerous they are unlikely to face legal action if someone slips and falls. Anyone wishing to make a claim has to demonstrate the actions of the householder were negligent and directly contributed to the fall etc

As for the ideas offered by many in the recent snow falls, the councils will be having a review to understand how the snow falls were dealt with and whether disruption could have been better anticipated or responded to. However the councils recognise that the weather was unusually harsh and, even when forecast, was more severe than expected. I will keep you updated about any conclusions

Pooling water on Rooksdown Avenue

I am pleased to report that the pooling on Rooksdown Avenue, which has been a recurring headache, may soon be a thing of the past. As a result of my further enquiry HCC officers visited the site again in November to make a further inspection of the existing soakaways, petrol interceptors and gullies that we have there. As a result the lead officer reported back that his view that the efforts to resolve the pooling in the past had perhaps not gone far enough.

Having looked at the way individual soakaways are loaded with water it is now thought that fitting an extra pipe across the road will enable water to be taken from the puddle zone to another soakaway near the footbridge and thus make a big difference.

This will require road works which cannot happen through the winter but works have been put on the schedule for action before the end of the summer – hopefully sooner. The work will also include a further clean-up of all ten soakaways and petrol interceptors in this area in the hope that water run off is improved.

Community Facility Development Consultation

The planning application for the community building has been submitted and is now progressing through the planning process. It will be heard before the Planning and Infrastructure Committee once a date is set. Assuming approval is granted we can start to make firm plans on the schedule for appointing a contractor and commissioning works.

Other progress with the development

BDBC officers are continuing to meet with developers and discuss the whole range of issues affecting the completion of the area. Current hot topics include:

- Release of land for play space – a letter detailing the works required to be carried out by the developers to enable adoption of the green space (by the Pavilion) was sent to TW in November but all has gone quiet again.
- Transfer of community trust funds – discussions are ongoing and were progressing positively but we need re-engage the developers following the extended Christmas break.
- Pavilions maintenance – a work schedule was agreed at the end of November and I hope to see that the remedial work completed before Christmas is holding its own
- Un-landscaped land in Cutting Drive – confirmation has been received from James Rowley (HCA) that the storage will be removed and the area landscaped this spring.
- Through traffic and road closure – Peggs Way and Rooksdown Avenue passing by Harness House remain the priority for re-surfacing and completion prior to planned adoption of this section of the site (perhaps as early as next year).
- Heavy vehicles access to site – developers have agreed to monitor and warn any offending drivers
- Progress of street lighting – Nigel Phillips (TW) confirms that the trenches have been dug in preparation for the power supplier to come and do the necessary connections. It appears that the continuing delay is with the power suppliers who were originally meant to start back in October. TW are aware that this is their own problem to solve and are continuing to chase their contractors on the matter.
- Site for PCT surgery – the PCT continue to report a willingness to resolve the site but it seems that the Rooksdown Practice representatives have been unavailable for the past two meetings. BDBC officers are trying to re-set dates when everyone can get around the table and resolve the site and timelines for build.

I will continue to provide updates on these topics at the next and future meetings.

Southern area consultation – increased intensity of development

Following the exhibition run by DPP on behalf of Taylor Wimpey and the submission of our comments I have yet to see an application progress to planning and am trying to find out what the current plans and timescales for development are.

Release of land for development

The old golf course at Park Prewett which bounds this parish and the parish of Sherbone St John, has been earmarked for development in the local plan for a number of years. It will thus be no surprise to learn that this land has now been brought forward for housing development as the final phase of Rooksdown. Already comments are being received regarding the nature, housing mix, density and style of development but no formal applications have been made by developers. There will be a lot of local interest in this area of land as it has been subject to casual use for recreation and the parish councillors may wish to form a view on communications in respect of this release of land and how informal and formal input to the planning process will take account of resident views.

I have asked the Planning officers to contact the Parish Council with a view to establishing early contact about how to be involved in the pre-application process and manage both community consultation and wider community engagement.

Trumpet Junction woodland

I looked into the report of tree clearance and land survey activity reported in the woodland around Priestly Road in December. It appears that two pieces of work were carried out, coincidentally at the same time. The first piece of work was undertaken by the Highways Agency – the survey was in relation to the viability and security of the A339 roundabout. The work apparently included:

- a topographical survey
- tree survey
- noise survey
- ecological surveys
- drainage investigations
- traffic surveys

All of which are intended to highlight any issues with the positioning and use of the roundabout on the immediate area and of course the bank on which it is built.

At the same time the landowner undertook some tree clearance to remove dead or damaged branches from trees ahead of winter storms.

This land has also been earmarked for possible development (although it is not necessarily viable) along with Aldermaston Triangle. Again it is important that we keep close to any activity in these areas as well as work with the Planning Team.

Appendix B to mrpc01022010 Dated 1 February 2010

Open Forum

Residents sought an update on various issues:

Roads: (i) Drains are being surveyed with a view to them being signed off for adoption and roads being top dressed in the Spring. (ii) The pinch-point on Park Prewett Road will involve the installation of a “sump-buster” – a high ramp which will permit access only to large vehicles such as buses, service vehicles and ambulances. (iv) The Crondall Terrace/Moths Grace rat-run should reduce once the high ramp on Peggs Way is reduced when the road is properly surfaced. Residents asked if a “sump-buster could not be installed there. (v) Flooding on Rooksdown Way/A339 – further work to install pipework and a larger soak-away is planned for the Spring.

Communication: residents were dissatisfied with communication from Taylor Wimpey. RPC undertook to improve communication via the Rooksdown reporter, the weekly parish reports in the Basingstoke gazette, the Website and facebook.

Community Facilities: (i) residents were advised that the former Central Hall is being developed by the Wessex Christian Trust, but no definite dates were known. (ii) Cllr Cherrett said that the next 18 months will see a dramatic change in the level of facilities. The planning application for the Rooksdown Community Centre was also currently being considered by BDBC. (iii) There is no prospect of a pub on the The Old Barn Site – this is to be housing/commercial (potentially a small office facility) (iv) It is likely however, that a planning application will be re-/restaurant.submitted for the Aldermaston Triangle Site for housing/motel/pub (v) Attempts are being made to work in partnership with the Honeycombe Centre, which is not best placed geographically to meet the needs of Rooksdown children.

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Appendix C to mrpc01022010

Dated 1 February 2010

BUDGET AND PRECEPT CALCULATION 2010/2011		AGREED AT FULL COUNCIL ON 1 FEBRUARY 2010					
	Actual 2008/9	Budget 2009/10	Actual to 31/10 2009/10	Projected 2009/2010	Balance to 31/03/2010	Budget 2010/11	Diff
CAPITAL							
Addition to Reserves (future capital projects)	0	4050			0	10500	6450
Notice Board (08/9); Seats 09/10	1247	1000	906	1200	294	1500	500
REVENUE COSTS							
Admin Costs							
Clerk Salary	3528	3470	1723	3470	1747	3575	105
Clerk's Gratuity (Addition to Reserves)	0	130			0		-130
Admin Expenses }	1177	1400	615	1300	685	1400	0
Training	199	350			0	350	0
Insurance (Cornhill)	406	550	459	459	0	500	-50
Newsletter Costs/Printing	643	1000	393	900	507	1200	200
Meeting Costs	500	750	300	600	300	600	-150
Audit	185	200	210	210	0	230	30
Consultancy	1856	0	0	0	0	0	0
Section 137 (Inc £1070 to RCA)	1180	1500	1100	1500	400	1500	0
Subscriptions							
HAPTC/NALC/DATA PROTECTION	323	400	313	400	87	400	0
Parks & Open Spaces							
Grounds maintenance		350		200	200	350	0
VAT	318		194	194	0	0	0
Gross Expenditure	11562	15150	6213	10433	4220	22105	6955
Income							
Precept	13000	13000	13500	13500	0		
Bank Interest	564	300	13	20	7		-300
Grants	1070	1100	1100	1100	0	1100	0
Other receipts		0	10	10	0		0
VAT Receipts	447	244	318	318	0	194	-50
Gross Income	15081	14644	14941	14948	7	1294	
Surplus/Deficit	-3519	506	8728	4515	4213	20811	
Earmarked Reserves							
Comprising:							
Capital Projects Reserve	25541						
(Clerk gratuity 3.75% p.a)	430						
General Reserve (Min. 25% of revenue costs)	1751						
Total	27722			0	0		
PRECEPT CALCULATION							
Budget 2010/2011 comprising							
Expenditure	£22,105						
Income	£1,294		£20,811				
Bank balances @ 13/11/2008			£39,840				
Projected additional spend to 31/03/2009			£4,220				
Projected additional income to 31/03/2009			£7				
Therefore anticipated bank bals @ 31/03/2008		2-3+4	£35,627				
Which Comprises Reserves:							
a. Capital Reserves			£29,591				
b. Clerk's Gratuity			£430				
c. Prudent Reserve			£2,000				
			£32,021				
Net Balance available to offset Precept level		+5-6-7-8		£3,606			
Net Precept Request		1 minus 8		£17,205	say	£17,200	