

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ROOKSDOWN PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE HALL, SAXON WOOD SCHOOL ON TUESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2008 COMMENCING AT 19.30

Present: Cllrs Adlam, Cordner(from 20:03), Lewis Grey, Miller (Chairman), Statham.

In Attendance: 1 member of the public.
County Cllr Reid
Borough Councillor K Cherrett
Parish Clerk

11. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr P. Dobing (holiday), R Dobing (holiday).

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The Clerk declared an interest in Item 8(b) – payments.

3. MINUTES

22/09 It was
RESOLVED to receive and confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 22 July 2008.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

An open forum was not required.

STANDING ORDER 23[d]

23/09 It was
RESOLVED to alter the order of business, and defer Item 5 until the arrival of a prospective co-optee, who had been delayed.

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

B Cllr Cherrett's report is at Appendix A to these minutes. In the discussion which followed, concern was expressed at the potential delays in securing the S106 contributions from Taylor Wimpey. BDBC is to be exhorted to press for early settlement. The problem of motorbikes/quadbikes on the Old Golf Course Site is to be vigorously addressed, with complaints to the owners of the site, the police, BDBC Environmental Health Department etc. Residents are to be asked to ensure that they formally complain to the police as ammunition for future positive action. The continued delays in adoption of roads and footpaths in Rooksdown is to result in a question being tabled at the County Council meeting on 20 November. RPC is to consider making a deputation at that meeting. The Clerk is to request an adoption plan of the area. The Clerk highlighted a report in the press about incorrect collection of the Rooksdown Precept and is to write to BDBC on the matter.

County Cllr Reid reported the issue of a press notice announcing further road closures on the A340 roundabout, and that the planned development of the Aldermaston triangle had been refused. In the present financial climate, that application is unlikely to be put back in for a few years. He also reported the publication of a local planning document setting out proposed sites in the district. The Clerk is to obtain a copy to ascertain the significance for Rooksdown.

5. CO-OPTION TO FILL A VACANCY

24/09 It was
RESOLVED to co-opt Mr Ross Cavalier to fill the vacancy arising from the resignation of Cllr Uzell in July.

7. PLANNING

25/09 It was
RESOLVED to note and comment as follows on planning applications/decisions received:

a. New Applications:

- (i) BDB/69392 North Hampshire Hospital: Extension to main entrance and internal refurbishments and alterations to level B: **GRANTED** No objection
- (ii) BDB/69406 North Hampshire Hospital: Display of externally illuminated fascia sign No objection
- (iii) BDB/69450 5 Highpath Way: Change of use from dwelling house to house of multiple occupation OBJECT
- (iv) BDB/69474 North Hampshire Hospital Erection of anti-climb mesh fencing on existing parapet wall No objection
- (v) BDB/69365 29 Vitellius Gardens: Erection of a 1 metre high metal fence to side bound No objection
- (vi) BDB/68682 Weybrook Park Golf Club: Construction of 9 new holes with associated landscaping (amendment to permission BDB/54884 involving the relocation of greens landscaping and planting proposals) part retrospective. and planting proposals Repeat comments on past applications on this site re traffic.

b. Planning Decisions:

- (i) BDB/68931 Land At Park Prewett Hospital Conversion of existing tower to form 5 no. one bedroom dwellings including partial demolition and front and side extensions. **GRANTED** Noted
- (ii) BDB/69156 26 Barron Place: Erection of a single storey side extension. **GRANTED** Noted
- (iii) BDB/68148 North Hampshire Hospital: Extension to existing car park to provide 192 additional car parking spaces: **GRANTED** Noted
- (iv) BDB/68446 Land At Priestley Road and Aldermaston Road: Erection of 313 no. apartments and 50 bedroom hotel/restaurant with associated access, car parking and landscaping: **REFUSED** Noted

8. FINANCIAL REPORT & PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL

Financial Reports 2008/2009

A financial report to the mid September 2008 was noted.

Payments for Approval

26/09

RESOLVED

It was to approve the following payments:

CQ No	Payee	Service	Amount
000158	Saxonwood School	Hall hire July 2008	£50.00
000159	R Darley	Salary & expenses Q2 of 2008/2009	£834.45
000160	HMRC	PAYE on salary	£180.19
000161	Oliver Shirley & Associates	Consultancy fee Inv 8017	£495.00
Total			£1,559.64

9. ROOKSDOWN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The RCA Chairman reported that the Playscheme events had been adversely affected by weather, but the Teddy Bears' Picnic had been a great success. The events organised every Wednesday throughout the summer by the Community Wardens, which included a BBQ had been very well attended and a great success..

10. CORRESPONDENCE

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

The Clerk outlined a proposed admin change, whereby copies of correspondence requiring input from councillors will be passed to them on a periodic basis, initially weekly, rather than issue all such documents, en masse, shortly before at the monthly meetings. Councillors will need to retain these copy documents and append them to the monthly agenda when received.

27/09
RESOLVED It was that the circulation of copies of correspondence requiring member input, will be passed to them on a periodic basis, initially weekly – for a trial period of six months.

BDBC had provided a leaflet giving information on food recycling bins.

28/09
RESOLVED It was that the parish would offer to issue these leaflets in Rooksdown. RCA would distribute with the newsletter.

29/09
RESOLVED It was that Cllr Statham may attend the Paths for Partnership conference on 9 October, and claim appropriate expenses.

30/09
RESOLVED It was that the Clerk would attend the HALC AGM on 27 September and claim appropriate expenses.

31/09
RESOLVED It was that the Clerk would vote in favour on behalf of RPC in favour of both Motions at the HALC AGM on 27 September.

32/09
RESOLVED It was that the Clerk may attend the Clerks' Forum on 22 October, and claim appropriate expenses.

11. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION/REPORT/DECISION

- a. Streetcare Working Group (Cllrs R & P Dobing, Phipps & Cordner). nOthing to report.
- b. Youth facilities Working Group (Cllrs Adlam, Statham & Cordner). Nothing to report.
- c. Communication/Newsletter Working Group (Cllrs Lewis Grey, Ray Dobing, Mrs G Dady & Mr T Botten) A draft of the first newsletter was circulated. Three quotes for publication had been obtained, and

33/09
RESOLVED It was to have the newsletter printed by Personalised Print at a cost of approximately £269 for a 20 page A5 publication, to be issued 3 or 4 times a year.

12. MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Lewis-Grey: had obtained information regarding provision of seats which might be sited in the parish. Clerk to include in main agenda of the October meeting.

Cllr Lewis Grey : asked about the possibility of the provision of "gateways" into Rooksdown, in particular at the entrance from the A340. The Clerk is to investigate.

The Clerk: reported that he had secured agreement to siting a parish notice board near the entrance to the health centre, and is to arrange for this and a second board to be erected by a contractor.

There was general concern about flooding within the site. The Clerk is to investigate whether corrective measures can be taken.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday 27 October. Further meetings will be held on 24 November 2008, (at which the 2009/2010 Budget & Precept will be set), 26 January, 23 February & 23 March 2009.

The meetings closed at 22:13

Borough Councillor's Report

Rooksdown Parish Update 22 September 2008

Update from Borough Cllr Karen Cherrett

Bus stops – nuisance at Vitellius Gardens

I have received a complaint regarding the use of the bus stop at this location combined with a request from a resident to have the bus stop removed or re-sited. As you are aware the bus routes were revised earlier this year to deal with the temporary road closures and since re-instigating the routes, the buses have been seen to be busier. The operators are informally open to suggestion re moving or withdrawing bus stops but are concerned that it will have an impact on the route overall. I have suggested to the resident raising the issue that it comes to the Parish for your views on whether or not to make formal request to the bus operators for investigation and action.

Flooding at entrance to Rooksdown Avenue

Work is planned in November to correct flooding at Shothanger Lane. It will improve drainage and require diversions and speed restrictions on the A339 from Winklebury roundabout towards Newbury for a period of two weeks. I have enquired of Hants CC whether this will relieve the pressures on the drainage entering into Rooksdown Avenue and Lane where flooding occurs. Unfortunately it is unrelated however I have learnt that HCC has already tried two fixes at Rooksdown Avenue (gully clearance and power jetting the drains) which have made little impact. A further piece of work - excavation and remedial works – is set for the second half of the current financial year but has yet to be programmed planned with contractors. Hence some progress but not a solution as yet.

Developer signs at the entrance to Rooksdown Avenue

As you are aware I have written many times about the proliferation of signage at the entrance to Rooksdown Avenue and it presenting confusion for motorists and danger to pedestrians. Whilst developers might still make a retrospective application, officers have assured me that they are convinced that the main board and flag poles are a breach of the Advertisement Regulations and that enforcement action should be taken in any event. There would not seem to be any good reason for maintaining such an extensive display, particularly where this is outside the site of the new development itself. It is now time for more formal action. This should be to get all flags removed and the board relocated. I have asked if action can be taken before the end of BST.

I will keep you updated.

Adoptions of Balsan Close, English Wood, Highpath Way, Trenchmead Gardens

I am advised that the officer dealing with the easements and adoptions is now back off sick leave and hopefully will be able to get some progress on the remaining adoptions. I have engaged in quite stern correspondence once again with the County and am now calling for timelines and progressed action plans. I feel sure Cllr Reid will again assist in getting attention from the County Council to this matter to press their legal team for a swift completion.

However after seven years it's a matter of watch this space!!

Off road bikes

There is a recent increasing occurrence of scrambler type motorbikes using the old Park Prewett / Weybrook Park Golf course road and the path in the copse. The speed is a worry to walkers and youngsters and the noise a disturbance to residents. I have notified the Police and Prevention teams and also asked residents to report every occurrence via 101. We need gather intelligence re bikes and any jackets etc worn by riders and consistently report the nuisance if we are to get action from the Police. However their powers are limited because the land is not common land

Trees at Nightingale Gardens and copse

I have again started the correspondence with BDBC and Sanctuary Homes to get reedial maintenance works done on the overhanging trees. The issue of land ownership remains unresolved but I have now discovered powers under which the Council can enforce or take its own action. I have asked that these powers are used forthwith and have had confirmation from BDBC that they are progressing on this basis.

Pavillions

In spite of correspondence with Taylor Wimpy about safety glass they can use and actions they can take to better secure the safe use of the areas around the pavilions, it seems that little action has been taken by them. I am progressing this with officers to find out what action can be taken directly but we are also writing to the developer's chief executive to see what he has to say about the lack of consideration in the construction of the development in general.

Dog waste bins

A nightmare of mislaid orders and changed contractors but I am now told the new and extra bins will be here in October.

Community Facilities

A verbal update to be provided at the meeting, following my meeting with officers on the afternoon of 22 Sept immediately prior to Parish Council. The meeting will cover:

- Community Hall
- Shops
- Surgery

Developer views and officer views on the next steps.