

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ROOKSDOWN PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE HALL, SAXON WOOD
SCHOOL ON MONDAY 26 APRIL 2010 COMMENCING AT 19.30**

Present: Cllrs Adlam (DA), Cavalier (RC), Cordner (AC), P Dobing (PD), R Dobing (RD), Lewis-Grey(JLG), Miller (CM) (Chairman), Parkinson (JP), Statham (CS).
Miller (Chairman) (CM), C.Cllr Reid, B. Cllr Cherrett

In Attendance: 2 members of the public
No member of the Press
Parish Clerk

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs C.Cllr Stephen Reid.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES

52/10 It was
RESOLVED to receive, confirm the accuracy of, and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 29 March 2010

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

At 19:32, the meeting recessed into open forum and resumed at 20:02. A record of the discussion which followed is contained in Appendix A to these Minutes.

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

B Cllr Cherrett's report is attached at Appendix B. following further discussion,

53/10 It was
RESOLVED to press the police to ticket all residents parking on footways and causing an obstruction.

C. Cllr Reid was not present, and no report was received.

6. PLANNING:

a. New Applications:

(i)	BDB/72215	Rooksdow Practice, Mill Road: Erection of 1 no. two bedroom coach house, 6 no. three bedroom and 7 no. four bedroom houses, associated parking, landscaping and access arrangements	No objection, subject to fencing of open space with gates at top and bottom as in Mill Road Open Space. Reasons: (i) for children's safety and (ii) to eliminate the prospect of traveller nuisance.
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b. Planning Decisions: None received.

7. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) Financial Reports 2009/2010

A financial report to the end of 2009/2010 was noted.

(b) Payments for Approval

54/10 It was
RESOLVED to approve the following payments:

CQ No	Payee	Service	Amount
0220	Saxon Wood School	Hall Hire 26 April 2010	£50.00

Accounts 2009/2010

55/10 It was
RESOLVED to confirm continued approval of RPC's Risk Assessment setting out the council's risk management procedures.

56/10 It was
RESOLVED to confirm that members acknowledge their responsibility for the preparation of the Accounts and approved the signature of Statement of Assurance contained in Section 2 of the Annual Return 2009/2010.

57/10 It was
RESOLVED to approve and sign the Accounts (**Appendix F to these Minutes**) and Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2010 for submission to the Internal Auditor appointed by the Council, and subsequently to the Audit Commission.

8. ROOKSDOWN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Cllr Adlam (RCA Chairman) reported the following RCA events: (i) RCA AGM on 27 April (ii) Woodland Walk on 8 May. The recent children's disco event had been a huge success.

9. MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

None were received prior to the meeting.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

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

58/10 It was
RESOLVED to press Royal Mail to approve the inclusion of "Rooksdown" in the address of Rooksdown residents.

11. MATTERS FOR REPORT

- a. Reports from Working Parties
Newsletter: the further Newsletter will be issued at the end of June.
- b. **Youth:** Covered earlier under Item *.
- c. **Open Spaces:** A number street lights are being occluded by nearby trees. This is being pursued .
- d. **Other matters for report:** the Chairman fed back information arising from the meeting with BDBC (Nicki Linihan) & Taylor Woodrow (Nigel Philips) re development of the Old Golf Course Site.

12. MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS/CLERK

- (i) It was reported that a car had been broken into on the estate. Residents to be warned, again, about leaving valuables in their cars.
- (ii) The need to facilitate a meeting of all Neighbourhood watch co-ordinators was recognised. Clerk to contact the police officer responsible.
- (iii) Grit bins: there had been no response from our MP. RPC to press via Cllr Cherrett for bins on TW/HCA land.
- (iv) Benches: these were to be installed within 7 days.
- (v) Annual Parish meeting: it was felt that there is no necessity to ask TW/HCA to attend the APM, since RPC meets them every other month.
- (vi) Vice-Chairman: it was agreed to consider the appointment of a Vice-Chairman at the next meeting.

13. **DATE/VENUE OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Future meetings will be held on Monday 24 May 2010 (The Annual Parish Meeting will also be held on Monday 24 May 2010) and 26 July.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21:36.

Date.....

Chairman.....

Open Forum

Mrs Cox had attended the meeting to seek the support of RPC to her proposal to purchase a small piece of open space from BDBC (alongside No 24 Gander Drive) as part of their domestic curtilage, to enable them to build an extension, which was to be the subject of a planning application. She reassured RPC that the land in question is currently a "dead area" between an existing bush screen and their fence line, and encouraged members to view the situation.

Mr Ward asked about the future of The Old barn and was advised that the former proposal to incorporate a public house on that site had been changed. Currently it is planned to use it for a small commercial building (perhaps a professional practice such as an architect's office, and some housing).

He then asked about removal of fencing and improved footpath access, particularly to schools, and other facilities.

Cllr Statham outlined the gist of a recent discussion with the developers – (i) Shops: TW have been making contact with potential retailers and there is tentative interest (ii) Adoption of roads/lighting: all drainage is being surveyed (the major factor in past adoption delays) and it is hoped that this will be completed at the end of April, with a view to commencing road surfacing during May (in the Southern Area – Limes Park etc). This will include a "sump-buster" on Park Prewett Road as part of the no-through road scheme there. (iii) Street lighting: the contractors have suffered a high failure rate of lighting equipment. This is being investigated with suppliers (iv) Pathway Access: it is intended that there will be an access on Sorting Lane/Mailing Way/Pillar Box. TW are to ask other developers to open them asap (v) Access to footbridges: the footway from Trenchmead is expected to be opened in mid-May (vi) Road Access into the Carey's development: that will be opened in the near future so there will be some changes in various road accesses. (vii) Bus Services: better bus services is dependant upon the financial viability of routes. When Rooksdown is fully developed, there may be increased services (viii) Allotments: there is a demand for allotments, but the cost of the land may be prohibitive. This has been raised in meetings with TW and the land-owners – Homes & Communities Agency.

Update from Borough Cllr Karen Cherrett

Community Facility Progress

The approval for forward funding of the community building passed through Full Council last month and work is now progressing to appoint a contractor for the final design, clearance and build works.

The next stage payment of S106 monies is due in the summer and I will let you know as this happens.

Conversations with HCA and TW continue to make good progress in respect of the transfer of land, development of the Community Development Trust and completion of works in the Rooksdown development. The meeting between the Parish Council and TW on 9th April seemed informative and constructive and it's hoped this will continue as we make progress towards the transfer of land and build of the community facility. These meetings, together with the development meetings between TW and BDBC seem to be adding to the momentum and improved communication.

Litter in Limes Park

Following the request to place litter bins and ask the street cleaner to visit Limes Park I can confirm that the street cleaner (man with a broom and cart) has started to visit the area and litter pick where he can. He is limited by the ability to get the push cart into some areas because of temporary raised curbs and road surfaces – but it's a start!

I am waiting for a reply from the head of service re purchase and placement of litter bins but she is on leave until May 6th. I have thus asked that another officer looks into it for me but do not have a firm commitment as of today.

Graffiti and nuisance

It was disappointing to see the end of the Easter break result in a rash of graffiti across Rooksdown. I have reported the graffiti in Mill Road (sub-station and community store) but encourage us to seek and report any other areas via the BDBC web pages or phone line. The sooner it goes the stronger the message we will not tolerate it! If anyone knows the owner of the tag – let me or PC Hoile know.

The Easter holidays also caused a rush of complaints re kids playing ball and causing nuisance after sun down. I have referred the comments to the community team and also the housing landlords where appropriate for action.

Neighbourhood Watch AGM

This take place on Thursday 29 April at 6.30pm at the Costello Technology College, Crossborough Hill, Basingstoke, RG21 4AL. The AGM will highlight what has been happening with NHW and how the police, council and partner agencies are working together to support it. There will be guest speakers from the police, council and Hampshire Trading Standards. A variety of displays will be on show, some of which will have crime prevention products/information available to take away.

Attendance at the AGM would be a valuable opportunity to hear how others deal with the nuisance issues we have (albeit we have in small measure). It will also be a good opportunity to highlight any successes as well as the opportunity to ask questions of the committee or some of the agencies who are attending. If you would like to know more about the AGM or attend the meeting, please let Paul Green know on 01256 – 845316 or email:

paul.green@basingstoke.gov.uk)

Park Prewett Main Hall

Wessex Christian Fellowship continues to pursue the transfer of land for development in Wessex Close in order to fund the conversion of Park Prewett Main Hall to a church and community building. Both myself and Maria Miller have met Pastor Bob recently to see if we can assist in progress whilst recognising it is a planning and development matter so our ability to influence matters is curtailed by appropriate procedure. That said, the intent towards use of Main Hall remains strong and the plans are very advanced and exciting but the sale of Wessex Close is understandably proving difficult in this climate.

Southern Area planning application

The anticipated planning application has been submitted (ref. BDB/71914) and is being scheduled for consideration prior to the decision to let being made. Various amendments to the application have been made following consultation, including:

- Alterations to design and layout of properties surrounding the 'circus' namely Plots 19-24, 47-50, 60-79 (including Blocks A and B) and 93-98.
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- Alterations to the open space provision within the central 'circus' area. Plot 39 relocated to the side of Plots 56-59.
- Removal of conservatories from Plots 50, 93, 97 and 98.
- Alterations to internal highways layout.
- Plans showing internal highway visibility splays.
- Alterations to car ports and garages to meet parking standard requirements.
- Provision of 1.8m high brick walls to garden enclosures adjacent to the public domain.
- Cycle storage shown on submitted plans.
- Alterations to the detailed landscaping plans.

If further comment is required and wishes to be fed into the planning process we need respond to the planning officer, Mike Townsend in the next 10-14 days.

Old Golf Course development

I understand that the pre-development meeting with BDBC officers in respect of this site went well and plans for early local consultation were discussed. It is intended to have that these meetings periodically so that the community can be more actively engaged in the future development of this site. I am already aware of resident wishes to maintain woodland paths, open space and potentially see the inclusion of allotment space.

School and Saxon Wood attended an education meeting with HCC last week and took the opportunity to ask about the prospect of a Rooksdown primary school and also report some concerns about the upkeep of Saxon Wood (in terms of exterior decoration and surfacing of the entrance, car park spaces etc.).

In terms of Rooksdown primary, the council remains non-committal given the nature of public finances and S106 funding, however it does not rule the possibility out for future years. As ever the placement of any facilities in BDBC area will be subject to demonstrating a need and demand for places in locations that cannot be served by existing schools with surplus places. However the county is currently working through a whole Hampshire review of education provision and is working with our officers at BDBC to determine local need.

In terms of the issues at Saxon Wood school, the HCC officers will speak with the school and look at what can be done to prioritise any works agreed as necessary to assist with access and parking.

Parking concerns: Mill Road and Barron Place (Saxon Wood)

At my request the Police did visit these locations recently and assessed that the vehicles parked on pavements were causing an obstruction but not a dangerous obstruction and no more so than many other cars parked in the same way across Rooksdown. If we seek enforcement we must use 101 to report issues and when police attend, all cars parked on kerbs and corners would be treated the same way.