

Rudston Parish Council

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Minutes of a Meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday, 28th January, 2015

1. Present: Mr. N. Watson (Chairman)
Mr. S. Rhodes
Mr. P. Wood
Mr. R. Overfield
Mr. T. Smallwood
Mr. R. Van der Heijden
Mr. A.S. Ezard
Mr. B. Warcup
Mr. J. Moorfoot (arrived later)
Mr. P. Crossland (Clerk)
+ 7 residents observing.

2. Apologies: Mrs. A. Starkey

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting
The Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd December, 2014, were agreed and signed as a true record.

4. There were no Declarations of Interest.

5. Public Representations.
As there were to be Public Representations for the first time since the requirement was introduced, the Chairman outlined procedure. In particular that speakers were restricted to five minutes and that members should make no immediate response.
 - (i) Mrs. Trisha Owen read from a prepared statement with a conflicting view to recent parish council decisions regarding a Tree Preservation Order (T.P.O.) and a planning application, both to be discussed later in the meeting. Factors regarding the T.P.O. in particular appeared to be contrary to parish council understanding, and a request for a changed response to E.R.Y.C. was made.
 - (ii) Mrs. Anna Cowton then spoke from a prepared statement about the planning application. The parish council had found in favour of the plans, but as nearest resident Mrs. Cowton felt that she should have been consulted and held strongly opposed views. It was felt that the parish council may not have accounted fully

enough some of the reasoning to lead to an opposite conclusion.

6. Matters Arising:

(i) Tree Preservation Order (item 7 iv)

The Chairman noted that Mr. Richard Moorfoot (who was present) had sent a letter to all members and Clerk. As all members had read the letter, it was not felt that it needed to be read out at the meeting. This letter also questioned parish council actions and posed numerous questions as to how it had reached its decision. The felling of trees before the T.P.O. was applied for was noted, as it appeared that there had been more than the parish council had believed. Mr. Ezard was also concerned that an elm tree in particular should be involved. Another interested observer was Mr. P. Burgess, who by the Chairman's invitation read from a Forestry Commission letter explaining its reasoning.

At this point discussion became heated. There were a series of interruptions from some of the observers, who refused the Chairman's request for quiet. The Chairman wished to close the meeting to regain order, but members decided it should continue. Mr. J. Moorfoot arrived, and discussion resumed.

Mr. Overfield felt there was a danger that "anyone" could come along in future years and fell trees, but that discussion should rather be concentrating on the T.P.O. itself. After further discussion, the Chairman remarked that the parish council would need a sound reason if it were to change its decision that the T.P.O. was unnecessary. A vote by show of hands showed a majority in favour of a possible change however. It was agreed that a Special Meeting be called for the following Wednesday, when members of the public would again be admitted. Prior to that, a site meeting on Sunday morning was arranged, which members were encouraged to attend.

(ii) Dog Fouling (item 8 i)

Nothing further was reported. (Clerk's note: there was a change of Animal Warden at E.R.Y.C., and their requested article should appear in February newsletter)

(iii) Precept (item 9)

The parish council's unchanged Precept figure of £3,800 had been accepted by E.R.Y.C. with the news that it would actually mean a slight decrease in Rudston Council Taxes equivalent to 72p. on band D.

(iv) Telephone Box (item 11)

There had been no comment from the village after the news had appeared in the newsletter, so removal of the telephone box had been requested. However, Mr. Warcup spoke at the meeting in favour of retention and re-siting with a view to housing a defibrillator if that should be agreed in future. Clerk to contact B.T. with a request to hold the removal if possible, and enquire about re-siting.

(Clerk's note: email 29/1/15)

(v) Kilham Road (item 16 vi)

The Clerk had received new dates for the closure of Kilham Road which varied from roadside signs subsequently erected. However, closure had commenced that week

and was expected to continue for two weeks, weather permitting. Any further work would take place separately later in February.

(vi) Defibrillator (item 16 x)

In the absence of Mrs. Starkey, this item held until the next ordinary meeting.

7. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:

(i) Thornholme Wind Farm (item 6 iii, 25/6/14)

The Clerk had received no official communication, but eventual refusal of these plans had been well publicised and the Clerk had kept a newspaper report for the record. The Chairman explained that the plans had now been considered after appeal at all levels, and it was thought this would be the end of the matter.

(ii) North of Westcroft (item 6 iv, 15/10/14)

Appeals to the Inspectorate had been made for both plans for: erection of dwelling. In both cases the Inspectorate had ruled contrary to county and parish council recommendations, and allowed planning permission. The Chairman explained a little more. (Clerk's note: one of the conditions is that the sycamore tree is to have a protective fence placed around it whilst work is in progress).

8. Planning Applications

(i) Timber Lodge (Land west of Bunkers Hill)

Application for: erection of timber lodge for use as holiday accommodation. The plans had been received in December and passed around members in the usual way. There had been no comment by most, but as two had considered it to be a positive application, the Chairman had constructed a response accordingly. As had been shown earlier in the meeting there was opposition in the village, and Mr. Van der Heijden apologetically questioned the Chairman's interpretation. There was some discussion, and Mr. Overfield defended, and explained, a "no comment" stance. A decision was made that the Clerk should change the form which he attaches to planning applications to include a "yes or no" feature. This would be done as soon as possible and these plans then circulated once more. Although the original response date was long past, Mrs. Cowton had advised that the date of hearing at E.R.Y.C. was not until 9th February, which should give enough time for a fresh response to be submitted if that should be deemed necessary.

9. Website

The Chairman reported that an "upgrade" of websites by E.R.Y.C. had led to loss of some parts of the Rudston website, and apologised for any inconvenience. Repair in hand.

10. Register of Electors

On receiving a new Register of Electors the Clerk had requested copies for members as usual, which had been distributed. Total showed an increase of one to 351.

11. Members' Village Issues

- (i) Mr. Overfield raised the matter of sewage smells on Water Lane. This was a recurring problem and the Chairman explained procedures as known.
- (ii) Mr. Ezard suggested that street lights could be turned off at earlier times rather than being on all night. This idea to be conveyed to E.R.Y.C. as there would probably be money saving potential for them. (Clerk's note: e-mail 29/1/15)

12. Payment of Accounts

The Clerk's action in paying the following accounts as a matter of urgency was approved:

E.R.Y.C. (Street Lighting Maintenance)	£1,020.44
(This was same price as previous year)	
H.M. Revenue & Customs (P.A.Y.E.)	£ 53.20
E.R.V.A.S. (Payroll services)	£ 5.00
Play Inspection Co. (Playground inspection, 2014)	£ 78.00
(Repayment expected from Playground Committee)	

Payment was authorised and cheques signed for:

Clerk's salary (quarter to 31/12/14)	£ 284.80
Rudston Village Hall (Hire)	£ 7.50

There was also a receipt of £105.84 for Recycling. This was for the period July to September, and surprisingly showed a glass collection only in August with nothing at all in September.

13. Correspondence

- (i) 2 issues of Parish News included a reminder of the bulk oil buying scheme.
- (ii) The Clerk read out details of a new scheme called "N.H.S. Involve", which parish council members particularly were being asked to join. Poster to display.
- (iii) Letter from Yorkshire Water advising of reduction to come in water bills.
- (iv) 2 issues of Police News. Nothing in Rudston. (Passed to Mr. J. Moorfoot).
- (v) Another letter regarding Lissett Wind Farm Fund. (Passed to Chairman).
- (vi) New Community & Crime Reduction Officer, includes Neighbourhood Watch.
- (vii) Letter from Sir Greg Knight, M.P., reminding members of his availability for any issues. Means of communication includes up-to-date "Twitter".
- (viii) Letter from Councillors Evison and Owen regarding Election expenses in May. From figures given the Clerk had estimated an increase of £10 on 2011, providing no election was necessary. For the benefit of newer members and public still in attendance, the Chairman explained a little more about this.
- (ix) Advice that street lighting maintenance was to increase by 1 ½ % from April. This was on the parish council's current level of service – level 2 was to increase by 2%.
- (x) Message from Humber & Wolds Council requesting signatures to a petition, after government had announced withdrawal of funding to them. The Chairman advised however that though funding may be reduced, it would not now be withdrawn.
- (xi) The Clerk had suddenly received an update letter from the company involved in a Wind Farm at Fraisthorpe. Not known how many turbines planned there.

14. Any Other Business

The Chairman reported that e-mail correspondence between Mrs. Owen, the Clerk and himself had highlighted the fact that the parish council's Standing Orders were out of date. He proposed that these, and all other relevant documents be updated, and after agreement by members, drawn together as a pack. Twelve copies of this would be produced, one for each member and one for the Clerk to keep up-to-date as new legislation was received. Retiring members would surrender their copy to be passed on to their replacement new member.

Volunteers to assist Chairman and Clerk in this task were sought, and Mr. Warcup and Mr. Rhodes volunteered. Dates and times to be arranged.

15. Date, Time & Place of Next Meeting

Special Meeting (as detailed in item 6 i) to be held on Wednesday, 4th February. The next ordinary meeting to be held on Wednesday, 25th March. Both to take place in the Village Hall, at 7.30 p.m

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05 p.m.

