

# Ryton and Grindle Parish Council

Chair:  
**Allan Amey**

Clerk:  
**Stephen de Launey**  
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## COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held at St. Andrew's Church, Ryton, on Wednesday 14th December 2016 commencing at 7:30 pm.

**Present:** Cllr Allan Amey (Chair); Cllr Ann Dukes (Deputy Chair); Cllr Mark Dady; Cllr Sarah Williams and Cllr Francis Jellings

**In attendance:** Stephen de Launey, Clerk to the Council and 6 members of the public (including Lawrence Arthurs, the planning applicant for the Former Ryton Playing Fields site).

### **Public Forum**

#### **PF06/16 Welcome**

Cllr Amey welcomed all present and advised that Lawrence Arthurs was attending the meeting to present his plans for the Former Playing Fields.

#### **PF07/16 Hedge Cutting issue**

Hedge cutters being used around the parish were churning up the hedgerow – members of the public questioned whether the hedge cutters being used were the most appropriate.

#### **PF08/16 Ryton Street Lighting**

The potential for street lighting in Ryton village was raised, particularly at the Ryton Road junction.

#### **PF09/16 Grindle House Farm Update**

Cllr Dady provided an update on the position with the Grindle House Farm enforcement action. Written objections/comments were required to reach the planning inspector in Bristol on or before 22<sup>nd</sup> December and a determination of the appeal was expected in May 2017.

The key argument for rejecting the initial planning application had been the unsuitability of the local transport network for HGV trucks that were used for delivery to and from the site. This continued to be the case.

There was also a need to show support for an 8 month period for the applicant to cease operations at the site which had been included in the enforcement notice.

#### **PF10/16 Former Ryton Playing Fields site**

The chair invited Lawrence Arthurs, who had lodged the planning application for the site, to address the meeting. Mr. Arthurs advised that his intention was to erect a steel barn, a log cabin, which would be used as a residence and install solar panels which would be used to provide the electric power required, as it had proved difficult to provide a mains power link to the site. The site would be operated as a 'small holding' but the steel barn would also be used to store a van and a small tractor used for his work as an agricultural contractor. He explained that the log cabin would be replacing the current static caravan on the site and would meet the same planning conditions as the caravan. Cllr Dady advised the meeting that the site in question was within the Ryton Conservation Area. Mr. Arthurs felt that his plans would improve the site. All the proposed buildings would be situated in a small area to the rear of the site and not visible from Ryton Road; he had already started clearing debris from the site and had planted bluebells and daffodils in the wooded area. In response to questions over the changes to access and noise from a generator, he explained it had been necessary to improve the site entrance to provide safer access from Ryton Road and that the generator had been used on the site to aid the initial clearance undertaken.

#### **PF11/16 Close of Public Forum**

The Chair thanked those present for attending and Lawrence Arthurs for explaining his plans. The Public Forum closed at 8:45 pm.

#### **Council meeting**

##### **16/16 Apologies**

None given – all members present.

##### **17/16 Declarations of Interest**

None received.

##### **18/16 To Receive and Approve the Minutes**

It was proposed by Cllr Amey, seconded by Cllr Williams and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 14th September 2016 be approved and signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.

##### **19/16 Former Playing Fields, Ryton Road**

Members noted that the site was within the Ryton Conservation Area and felt that only those developments which enhanced the conservation area should be permitted. As the erection of a steel barn, solar panels and a log cabin on the Former Playing Fields site could not be considered to be an improvement, it was proposed by Cllr Dukes, seconded by Cllr Jellings and RESOLVED that the council object to Planning Application 16/04772/FUL.

##### **20/16 Treasurers Report**

Cllr Amey presented the council's financial position to the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2016:

Balance at 31st August 2016	3418.60
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Payments made:

Remembrance Day Wreath	21.00
IT Equipment	628.98

Website Set up and Training	612.00
Insurance	164.25
Clerk Salary and Expenses	939.19
Folding Table for PC meetings	59.94
Stationary	17.22
St Andrews Church (meetings)	120.00
Total Expenditure	2562.57
Les Income Received:	
Transparency Code Grant 2016/17	345.28
Net Expenditure	2217.29
Balance at 9th December 2016	<b>1201.31</b>

Cllr Dukes proposed, Cllr Jellings seconded and it was RESOLVED to accept the Treasurers Report. It was further agreed that the Clerk would assume the treasurer responsibilities from March 2017 as Responsible Financial Officer.

#### **21/16 Budget 2017/18**

Cllr Amey presented the proposed budget for 2017/18 which had been drafted jointly with the Clerk/RFO – copy attached to these minutes. Cllr Amey advised that based on the budget proposals the estimated reserves as at March 2018 would be £1,250

Members discussed the proposals in detail and Cllr Dady questioned whether the proposed precept would be enough to cover all the expenses of the parish council. Cllr Amey believed that the proposed precept would be adequate and reminded members that this would be a substantial increase over the current year. Cllr Dukes proposed, Cllr Amey seconded and it was RESOLVED to adopt the budget proposals as presented and request a precept of £2,200 for 2017/18

#### **22/16 Planning Matters**

Members raised no objections to Application 16/05310/TCA, relating to work on trees at Ryton Hall and noted the following applications which had been granted planning permission:

- 16/05287/TCA – specified trees at 2 Ryton Park
- 16/04654/TCA – specified trees at 5 Ryton Park
- 16/04607/TCA – specified trees at 1 Wulfrun Lea
- 16/04528/TCA – specified trees at St Andrews Church
- 16/04342/TCA – specified trees at Ryton Grove House

#### **23/16 Removal of BT Phone boxes**

The Clerk reported that BT proposed to close the two phone boxes at Ryton and Grindle due to extremely low usage but advised members that BT would offer both for sale to the council for £1 each for an alternative use. Members were not convinced of the potential benefit which might arise to residents and determined to take no action.

#### **24/16 Environment and Highways Maintenance Grant**

The Clerk outlined the current position on the funding grant and that it would be necessary for the council to formalise a request to Shropshire Council. He also reported that a local company in Shifnal had approached the council expressing

interest in the gardening maintenance aspects of the funding. Cllr Amey reported that the company that undertook maintenance work at Ryton Hall had also expressed an interest in bidding for work. Cllr Dukes proposed, Cllr Dady seconded and it was RESOLVED to enter a formal agreement with Shropshire Council relating to the Environmental Maintenance Grant and that Cllrs Amey and Dukes along with the Clerk be given delegated authority to make an initial award of contract work relating to the grant.

**25/16 IT Equipment and Web site provision**

The Clerk reported that the relevant IT equipment had now been purchased. Work on the website was nearly complete but ideally needed members' pictures and contact details. Following discussion there was some concern from members about having their personal details available on the website. No final decision on the way forward was agreed.

**26/16 Correspondence**

None other than those items which had been circulated to councillors via email.

**27/16 Matters Arising from the last meeting not already covered.**

There were no other matters arising.

**28/16 The meeting closed at 9.40pm and the date of the next meeting was agreed as Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017.**

Signed .....8th March 2017