

MINUTES OF MEETING OF ROSSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT MEMORIAL HALL, ROSSINGTON, AT 7.00 P.M. ON TUESDAY, 8th FEBRUARY 2011

Present:

Chairman	Councillor T Wilde
Councillors :	J Adam, C Beaumont, T Chandler, D Clark, B Harrison, T Jewsbury, C Judd, A Milner, W Pagin, G Sheldon.
Clerk	S Merriman
Public	7

3615 PUBLIC FORUM

The Police were absent. The clerk read out a police report that he had been sent, covering monthly changes in crime and anti social behaviour rates between December 2010 and January 2011.

During the public forum the following items were raised and where applicable responded to :

- Proposed Library closure – the public forum discussion informed the discussion of the substantive agenda item – see Minute 3624 below.
- The notice of this meeting in the library – the clerk reported that he had received an email receipt from the librarian on Friday 4/2/11.
- The voting in respect of the miners wheel contract – the clerk pointed out that this information was in the agenda papers.
- The market – the public forum discussion informed the discussion of the substantive agenda item – see Minute 3623 below.
- The stopping off point for gypsies – it was agreed the clerk would write to DMBC to be kept updated about any decisions.

3616 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED to accept apologies from Cllr J Greenhalgh

3617 DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL OR PREJUDICIAL INTEREST, IF ANY.

RESOLVED to note there were no declarations of interest

3618 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11/01/11

RESOLVED To approve the minutes as a true record

3619 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 11/01/11

3619.1 PUBLIC FORUM MATTERS AT 11/1/11 MEETING (minute 3597 refers)

RESOLVED to note an update from DMBC Cllr Andrea Milner on police action on anti-social behaviour at Wilkinson Avenue shops and on DMBC remedial action regarding litter on Lansbury Avenue.

3619.2 BEVAN AVENUE PARKING PROBLEMS (minute 3603.1 refers)
RESOLVED to note that DMBC are also producing banners to place outside schools.

3619.3 TRICYCLE (Minute 3610 refers)
RESOLVED to note that the DMBC Neighbourhood office have expressed a desire to utilise the tricycle.

**3620 DMBC STANDARDS DETERMINATION SUB-COMMITTEE :
SUMMARY NOTICE OF FINDING IN RELATION TO AN INVESTIGATION OF
AN ALLEGED BREACH OF ROSSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL'S CODE OF
CONDUCT. NOTICE DATED 14th JANUARY 2011.**

The Standards Determination Sub-Committee of Doncaster MBC, at a hearing held on Thursday 13th January 2011, in respect of allegations made by Mr Malcolm Clark, determined that there had been no failure by Parish Councillor Terry Wilde, Chair of Rossington Parish Council, to comply with Paragraph 5 of the Code of Conduct ("You must not conduct yourself in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing your office or authority into disrepute").

It was alleged by Mr Malcolm Clark that Parish Councillor Terry Wilde, Chair of Rossington Parish Council, made disreputable claims in an election campaign leaflet and at the Annual Parish Meeting of Rossington Parish Council on 11th May 2010 regarding the outcome of the Standards Determination Sub-Committee hearing held on 6th April 2010 (Standards Committee Complaint Reference PC7).

Having regard to the report and findings of the investigation conducted by Helen Potts, Investigating Officer on behalf of the Monitoring Officer, the Standards Determination Sub-Committee accepted the Investigating Officer's findings that there had not been a failure by Parish Councillor Wilde to comply with Paragraph 5 of the Code of Conduct in respect of the allegations detailed above, for the reasons identified in the Investigating Officer's report.

The Standards Determination Sub-Committee was chaired by Mr David Harle, Independent Member and comprised fellow Independent Members Philip Beavers and John Flitcroft, and Parish Councillors Brian Jackson and Richard Johnson. The Council's Monitoring Officer, Roger Harvey and Paul Ranns, Principal Legal Officer provided legal advice to the Sub-Committee. The hearing was clerked by Andrea Hedges. The Sub-Committee considered the report of the investigation conducted by Helen Potts, (DMBC Principal Legal Officer). (Standards Committee Complaint Reference PC12).

RESOLVED To note.

3621 TO FILL A CASUAL VACANCY BY CO-OPTION

Following the resignation of Cllr Diane Field the parish council at it's meeting on 11/1/11 resolved to fill the vacancy by co-option rather than leave the vacancy unfilled between now and the election in May 2011.

Despite the vacancy being advertised on the Website, at the Library and in the Notice Boards there were no applicants by the closing date of 7/2/11 6pm.

The clerk reported that he had accordingly, informed DMBC Elections office.
RESOLVED to note

3622 DMBC NEIGHBOURHOODS LETTER ABOUT THE MARKET

It was reported that DMBC felt that the unused part of the market could be used to create a development opportunity.

RESOLVED to support and reiterate the parish council chairman's holding reply that was based on the previously agreed position to upgrade the visual and social potential on the area in question.

3623 DMBC NEIGHBOURHOODS LETTER ABOUT THE PUBLIC TOILET

It was reported that the toilets had had to be closed due to several water leaks following the cold weather. Subsequently, DMBC was trying to reduce its costs and was asking what the parish council's attitude was to closure of the public toilet. DMBC asked how well used were the toilets and what impact there would be on the community if they were closed.

A number of motions were aired, most of them in support of retention. It was felt that the provision of a clean and convenient public toilet, for a modest charge or preferably free, was the hallmark of a civilised society. Cllr George Sheldon identified legislation covering public toilets that appeared to strongly support the case for retention.

RESOLVED to respond to DMBC putting the case for the retention and upgrading of an essential public convenience and to agree that the parish council chairman should liaise with the Neighbourhood Manager to discuss a way forward.

3624 DMBC PROPOSED CLOSURE OF ROSSINGTON LIBRARY

It was reported that DMBC had made a decision to close the Rossington Library at McConnell Crescent, with the possibility of a reduced library service being provided at Holmescarr School by volunteers.

A range of issues were discussed :

- Past and present usage of the library
- The DMBC Library Survey
- Petitions
- The best location for the library
- The possible future use of the library site
- The current campaigns being run across the Borough
- The fact that the library staff were not yet on 3 months notice

RESOLVED to form a Library Preservation Committee (Cllrs T Wilde, C Beaumont, B Harrison, G Sheldon, W Pagin, T Jewsbury) with support from member of the public Mrs C Hughes and to actively campaign (petition; public meetings, protests) to keep the library at McConnell Crescent.

3625 PARISH COUNCIL DEEDS

RESOLVED to ask the History Group to review the parish council's deeds file.

3626 INSURANCE RENEWAL

RESOLVED to note the renegotiation of insurance premiums involving a competition between three insurers had resulted in an annual saving of £573 for the next three years.

3627 ALLOTMENTS

It was reported that there are 39 people on the ever rising waiting list of which 23% are women. The parish council had previously asked DMBC on 29/11/09 if it would lease additional land to the parish council to meet the demand for allotments in Rossington and to help progress NHS health objectives in Rossington. No reply had been received.

RESOLVED To make further representations asking if the recent DMBC land and asset review of Rossington could help identify available land.

3628 FLOOD DEFENCE

RESOLVED to nominate Cllrs T Wilde, W Pugin, C Judd and the clerk to attend the DMBC Emergency Control Centre Open Day on 11/3/11.

The Chairman gave a report on the Potteric Internal Drainage Board meeting of 18/1/11 covering :

- The government’s 25% cut in flood defence funding
- The proposed future sacrifice of land to flooding
- The opposition of the Association of Drainage Boards of the provision in the Public Bodies Bill that will allow the overruling of drainage boards by Ministers

RESOLVED to refer these matters to the next Flood Defence Committee on Friday 18/2/11 7pm.

3629 PARISH COUNCILS JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE 18/1/11

The Chairman reported briefly on concerns expressed at PCJCC about proposed changes in the Localism Bill about Planning arrangements that would give increasing influence to developers over community interests.

RESOLVED to note

3630 QUESTION TIME ON THE FUTURE OF NHS

RESOLVED To nominate Cllrs T Wilde, W Pugin and the clerk to attend the above session at Doncaster Rugby Club on Friday 11th February 2011 10.00am to 12.15pm, with Free Buffet provided.

3631 FINANCE – ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED To approve the following payments :

Payee	Cheque Number	Amount £-pp
S Merriman - Jan 11	BACS	1016.23
J Gilsenan-Lewis - Jan 11	BACS	184.64

L Docherty - Jan 11	BACS	697.84
Zurich Management Services	2509	174.00
Inland Revenue Jan 2011	2510	663.65
SYPA Jan 11	2511	642.58

3632 AUDIT COMMITTEE 26/1/11

At its meeting held on 29/12/10 the Parish Council asked the Audit Committee to examine the circumstances of how information about the Miners Wheel contract that was confidential to the Finance Committee was given out by a member of the public in the public forum (minute 3596 of 29/12/10 refers).

RESOLVED Audit Committee members to approve the 26/1/11 minutes as a true record.

RESOLVED To approve the recommendations of the Audit Committee :

- That a letter be sent to all parish councillors reminding them of the 10 General Principles of Public Life, the General obligations under the Code of Conduct and their personal responsibility to consider at every meeting whether they have a personal or prejudicial interest. (Note : the clerk handed out copies to all members present a copy of the Standards Board for England red Pocket Guide to The Code of Conduct. He also offered to members copies of the larger orange SBE Guide for Members).
- That for any future contract, tenderers will not be informed of the Finance Committee's recommendation, they will only be contacted after the parish council has awarded the contract.

3633 CORPORATE STRATEGY COMMITTEE MINUTES 28/1/11

RESOLVED :

- Corporate Strategy members to approve the minutes as a true record.
- To note progress on the parish councils 2010 priorities.
- To write to Government about its Localism Bill along the lines suggested.
- To write to DMBC about its 2011/12 Revenue Budget as suggested.
- To approve the parish council's priorities for 2011.

3634 ROSSINGTON IN BLOOM

RESOLVED To approve a request from the clerk to make the RIB group a proper committee (Cllrs T Wilde, C Beaumont, D Clark, T Jewsbury, B Harrison) and for the new committee to review the RIB budget in the light of budgeting decisions made in July 2010 that were unintentionally overlooked in the 2011/12 budget setting process undertaken in December 2010.

3635 POTHLES

Cllr G Sheldon highlighted concerns about several badly potholed roads in Rossington. DMBC Cllr A Milner read out an officer's advice about the present thresholds that would trigger an emergency repair by DMBC (i.e. 40 mm or

deeper), about DMBC's scarce patching resources and about how those resources were being managed.

RESOLVED to write to DMBC bringing its attention to the pothole hotspots : King Avenue, Duke Avenue, The Circle, West End Lane, Queen Mary's Road, Station Road outside the Amythyst and Stripe Road by the railway bridge.

3636 PARISH COUNCILLOR CHAMPIONS AND VOLUNTEERS

Cllr Bev Harrison suggested there was a need for more councillor 'Champions' and for more councillors to volunteer for committees in order to get more things done. The discussion moved on to cover the need for additional financial resources to enable the parish council to achieve its objectives.

In response, the clerk felt that more had been achieved in the past 12 months than in the previous 10 years. This had resulted from the parish council's efforts but it was also the product of the successful mutually beneficial partnership that had been developed with DMBC Neighbourhoods. With regard to resources, the clerk emphasised that he had been drawing attention for the last 10 years to the fact that Rossington was still by far the lowest spending parish council in the Borough for its size. As a result of the Coalition Governments cuts in DMBC funding he thought it was inevitable that there would be pressure to increase the parish council precept in 2012/13.

With regard to delivering the parish council's recently declared priorities for 2011, the clerk observed that the parish council had a committee in place to deal with each one of them.

RESOLVED to note

3637 SYPTE INCREASE IN CHILDRENS CONCESSIONARY FARE

RESOLVED To note the likely increase from 40p to 50p from 1 April 2011.

3638 DMBC RESPONSE ON FUTURE OF MEADOW COURT

On 27/12/10 the parish council wrote to DMBC to object to the closure of Meadow Court and made a request for someone to attend a parish council meeting to discuss the future of sheltered housing.

RESOLVED To note DMBC's reply.

3639 ROSSINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD UPDATE JANUARY 2011

RESOLVED To note

3640 FISHING COMPETITION SATURDAY 12th MARCH 2011-02-01

Steve Lelew is organising a fishing competition at Rossington Brickpond. It is for Ages 8 to 16. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Start Time 10am, Finish Time 3pm. £2 registration. Please contact Barry's Fishing Tackle Shop at 14 King Avenue, Rossington.

RESOLVED to note