

Ranton Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 27TH MARCH 2008 AT RANTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllr. N. MacLeod (Chairman)
Cllr. R. Thomas (Vice Chairman)
Cllr. J. Forrester
Cllr. N. Bayliss

IN ATTENDANCE: 5 members of the public.

1 Apologies

Mrs J. Hill (clerk)

2 Minutes of the previous meeting

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 24th February 2008 as a true record and they were signed by the chairman

3 Finance

a) The following accounts for payment were approved by the council:

£ 99.72 J. Hill

£ 12.12 Haughton Parish Council (photocopying)

b) The financial statement was received and approved.

4 Reports

a) Mowing and maintenance – no activity

b) Highways – Butt Lane to be checked to see if it has been repaired. Hextall Lane still has standing water.

c) Footpaths – Complaint received from Mrs J. Tranter about electrified fence across bridle path where both she and her dog were injured by the fence. This is to be checked with the farmer (Mr P Jones)

d) Seighford Airfield – Certificate of Lawful use – rejected. 2 planning applications – rejected. Residents say they have been operating every Saturday and Sunday except Easter and Mothers Day. They should now have used their 14 ad hoc events.

DriveMe may appeal against the CLEUD judgement.

Check on Seighford Parish Council to see if they have been notified of the reason for rejection. Also we should ask for the reasons for the rejection.

e) Parish Plan – We need to call for a second meeting and we need to give 2 weeks notice and issue a leaflet on the day – “Do you care about your village.” Jeff will draft a leaflet. Meeting date Thursday 10th April.

5 Clerks Report

Planning application for The Cottages – Councillors expressed concern about the proximity to adjacent properties. Concern about overlooking adjacent properties. The response should reflect these two concerns.

6 Public Questions

A question was asked regarding the state of Coton Lane. Cllr. Forrester will contact CLARENCE.

7 Chairman's Questions

Cllr. Thomas is clearing the rubbish from the road side. Cllr. Forrester is now a Community Governor for Ranton School.

8 Planning

One item dealt with under Clerk's report.

9 It was resolved that a meeting be held on Thursday 24th April 2008 at 8.00pm. And it was resolved that the Annual Assembly would held on the same date at 7.30pm.

The meeting was closed by the Chairman.

Signed.....

Date.....

Ranton Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD ON THURSDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2008

AT RANTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllr. N. MacLeod (Chairman)
Cllr. R. Thomas
Cllr. N. Bayliss

IN ATTENDANCE: Members of the public
Mrs. J. Hill (clerk)

1 Apologies

Cllr. M. Winnington and Cllr. J. Forrester sent apologies.

2 Minutes of the previous meeting

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2008 as a true record.

3 Finance

a) The following accounts for payment were approved by the council:

836	Audit commission	£58.75	Annual audit
837	Mr. R. Thomas	£7.10	
	Photocopying		
838	Bayliss Agricultural Services	£452.08	Clerk salary & exes

b) The financial statements to the end of January 2008 were accepted by the council.

4 Reports

a) Mowing and maintenance – Cllr. Thomas reported that he had walked around the village with John Hall regarding the grass cutting. The clerk produced the quote received which came to nearly £3,000. Mr. P. Jeffries had also quoted for the work and offered the same terms as last year. The council decided to retain Mr. Jeffries for the 2008/09 season.

b) Highways – reports had been received of flooding on Brook Lane near Mr. S. Jeffries. Water was still lying on Hextall Lane and did not seem to be a Severn Trent Water problem but more probably a consequence of the high

water table. Some work had been carried out on Butt Lane but had only moved the problem elsewhere. Coton Lane continues to be covered with mud. The clerk would try contacting CLARENCE again.

c) Footpaths – nothing to report.

d) Seighford Airfield – Cllr. Thomas went through a report he had given to the special meeting on 12 February. If the Certificate of Lawful Use was granted the parish could

make a formal complaint to the ombudsman. If it felt that Stafford Borough Council had misrepresented themselves it could apply for a high court judicial review which would be costly. A barrister's opinion would be useful, however, if more planning arises on the site. Seighford parish could be asked for a contribution towards costs and Ranton parish has reserves put aside for situations such as this. Members of the public said that they would be willing to contribute to a fund and were sure others would as well.

The Chairman said that Cllr. Sutherland had called in the two retrospective planning applications that had been put in by Driveme. Both Councillors Sutherland and Winnington had declared personal interests, however.

5 Local Development Framework consultation

At the special meeting held on 12 February members of the parish council had put together a response for ratification at this meeting. **It was now resolved that the response should be entered on the consultation website by the clerk.**

6 Parish Plan

The Chairman had contacted the Village Hall Committee, the Women's Institute, Kate Plant of the Parochial Church Council and Kerry Jones of the PTFA regarding support for the Parish Plan. He would shortly be issuing a parish newsletter to everyone to include a date for the first public meeting on the Parish Plan.

7 Clerk's Report

The council went through the correspondence received as listed in the report.

8 Public Questions

None.

9 Items for Information/next Agenda

None

10 Planning

None

- 11 It was resolved that a meeting be held on Thursday, 27 February 2008 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall.**

The meeting was closed by the chairman.

Signed

Date

Ranton Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD ON TUESDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2008

AT RANTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllr. N. MacLeod (Chairman)
Cllr. R. Thomas
Cllr. N. Bayliss
Cllr. J. Forrester

Borough Cllr R Sutherland

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs. J. Hill (clerk)

1 Apologies

Cllr. M. Winnington

2 Local Development Framework Consultation

Cllr. Forrester and the clerk gave a report on the consultation meeting held on 6 February at the Civic Centre chaired by Borough Councillor D. Davies. Consultation meetings were being held with groupings of parish councils to give the background to the various proposals being put forward by the Borough Council.

The government has handed down to the Borough a minimum target of 10,300 new houses under the new LDF with 7,000 to be built in Stafford. There are also targets for land for creation of new business. To help the Borough make its decisions it has produced a description of each village including infrastructure and facilities and wishes the parishes to study these and to correct any errors.

The Parish Council felt that the description for Ranton fell short of its actual state. It requested the clerk to add the following to the consultation site for Ranton:

The village lies on an unclassified road between the Great Bridgford/Newport road and the A518 at Haughton. All five entries to Ranton are single track roads at some point along them. It is surrounded by five working farms which have an impact upon the road system. The sewerage system is not fit for the present housing and the storm water system is not adequate for the parish as a whole. The electricity system is weak and the broadband connection is low speed. There is no gas supply to the village and the bus service is actually the Ruralink car service that connects to the bus service. There is an infants school for 5 – 7 year-olds. There are no shops. There is one pub and one pub/restaurant neither of which is in the village proper. There is a church and

a village hall but no other recreational or sports facilities. Ranton could only support minor development without major infrastructure work.

The Borough had also provided six options for the location of new housing which ranged from all at Stafford and Stone, some at the bigger villages and a scattering to all settlements. The Parish Council felt that Option C should be the preferred option i.e. development in areas that already have infrastructure, facilities, health centres and shops.

Cllr. Sutherland said that Stafford Borough Council will make sure any development will include infrastructure through Section 106 payments from the development partners.

Feedback from the consultation will be received at the next meeting on 19 May 2008.

3 Seighford Airfield

Cllr. Thomas tabled his latest report which was read by councillors. He felt strongly that events and changes have taken place that had not been under planning control at all. He intended to write to the Borough Chief Executive, David Rawlings, rather than the Borough solicitor, A. Welch, who had a personal interest in the site.

The meeting was closed by the chairman.

Signed

Date

Ranton Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD ON THURSDAY 24 JANUARY 2008

AT RANTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllr. N. MacLeod (Chairman)
Cllr. M. Winnington
Cllr. N. Bayliss
Cllr. J. Forrester

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs. J. Hill (clerk)

1 Apologies

Cllr. R. Thomas sent apologies as he was on holiday.

2 Minutes of the previous meeting

Cllr. Winnington asked for two amendments to the minutes. The funds he had offered for the oil tank at the village hall had not been refused but the Village Hall Committee was not in a position to accept them. Also he had declared a personal interest in Seighford Airfield as a friend of J. Eld but had no prejudicial interest in the matter. Apart from these alterations **it was resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 25 October 2007 as a true record.**

3 Finance

a) The following accounts for payment were approved by the council:

833	Stafford Borough	£66.00	Civic amenity vehicle
834	Mrs.J. McCleod	£7.99	RCD for Xmas lights
835	Mrs. J. Hill	£122.87	Clerk salary & exes

b) The financial statements to the end of December 2007 were accepted by the council.

c) The clerk distributed a revised budget for 2008/09 which was reviewed by the council. **The budget was accepted.** The clerk had returned a request for precept of £3,930 to the Borough Council.

d) The clerk went through the current procedure for internal audit and risk management by the council. The clerk produced statements of finances each month which agreed with the reserves. The bank reconciliation was checked at regular intervals by the council. At the end of the financial year the final set of accounts, the books of account and the completed Annual Return are passed to

the internal auditor, currently Mrs. M. Johnson, for review. The internal auditor, if happy with the paperwork, signs the Annual Return which is then sent to the Audit Commission for external audit. The council conducts an annual review of its insurances to see that they are adequate to cover the risks faced by the council and revises them accordingly. The council also carries out a

health and safety review of the grass cutting contractor and the machinery he uses.

The council decided that the current procedures should be continued with regular reviews.

e) Civic amenity vehicle – **the council resolved to have the same number of visits as last year on approximately the same dates.**

4 Reports

a) Mowing and maintenance – the clerk was asked to arrange for a quote from JWH Ground Maintenance for mowing White's Meadow, the verges and the churchyard and for disposing of the grass from White's Meadow. The rest of the grass would continue to be deposited in the churchyard.

b) Highways - the clerk had requested the resurrection of the contract for minor highway repairs with the County Council and was asked to contact the clerk for Seighford regarding someone to do the maintenance work. It was agreed that the contract should run from 2008/09. The clerk was also to request a walk round the village from Mr. M. Webb of the Highways Department in company with a councillor or the clerk to inspect the areas of concern.

Cllr. Forrester agreed to contact CLARENCE regarding the state of Coton Lane.

Cllr. Winnington informed the meeting that the County Council has promised to carry out works to the footpath and car park near the school in February.

c) Footpaths – nothing to report.

d) Seighford Airfield – the council went through the correspondence with the planning department and Environmental Health concerning noise levels at the airfield. It was decided to defer this subject to the next meeting. Consultation documents had been received concerning two retrospective planning applications for earthworks and portable buildings that have appeared on the site. It was the feeling of the meeting that the majority of the electorate was against the developments because of the visual impact on the countryside with semi-industrial buildings in an agricultural setting. Moreover the developments are pre-empting the judgement on the certificate of legal use. The clerk would send a preliminary response to the planning department to be followed by a formal letter later. The clerk was also asked to contact Seighford and Great Bridgeford on their views.

5 Parish Plan

The council had received an offer of grant from Defra of £750 towards the production of a Parish Plan provided certain conditions were met. **It was resolved to accept the terms and conditions of the grant.** The timetable and organisation of the first public meeting would be dealt with at the next meeting.

6 Clerk's Report

The council went through the correspondence received as listed in the report.

The consultation meeting on the Local Development Framework would be attended by Cllr. Forrester and the clerk.

The chairman had received invitations to the Borough Council Spring Ball, and to the freedom of the town to the Signals Regiment ceremony on 19 April

The Borough Council's twinning department was asking for a young candidate to go to a camp that was being held between the twinned towns.

7 Public Questions

None.

8 Items for Information/next Agenda

None

9 Planning

None

- 10 It was resolved that a meeting be held on Thursday, 21 February 2008 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall.**

The meeting was closed by the chairman.

Signed

Date

Ranton Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD ON THURSDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2007

AT RANTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllr. N. MacLeod (Chairman)
Cllr. R. Thomas (Vice Chairman)
Cllr. M. Winnington
Cllr. J. Forrester

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs. J. Hill (clerk)

1 Apologies

Cllr. N. Bayliss sent apologies due to ill health.

2 Minutes of the previous meeting

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 25 October 2007 as a true record and they were signed by the chairman.

3 Finance

a) The following accounts for payment were approved by the council:

770	Ranton Village Hall	£92.00	Room hire
831	Mr.P. Jeffries	£62.95	Mowing contract
832	Mr. R. Thomas	£145.19	Petrol for mower

b) The financial statements to the end of October 2007 were accepted by the council and it was decided that £2,500 should be transferred from the current account to the reserve account.

c) The clerk distributed a draft budget for 2008/09 which was reviewed by the council. **It was decided to increase the figures for mowing and mower service to £1,350 and £600 respectively and to include £100 towards a Parish Plan. The budget was then accepted.**

d) It was decided that the precept for 2008/09 should be increased by 3% to £3,930.

e) Review of governance – this was deferred to the next meeting.

a) Mowing and maintenance – the ride-on mower required servicing over the winter but the pedestrian mower did not. Cllr. Thomas agreed to obtain quotes for the service.

b) Highways – it was noted that Severn Trent were regularly visiting the water lying in Hextall Lane. The clerk was asked to look at the water lying in Butt Lane and report it to

CLARENCE. Cllr. Winnington reported that he had spoken to Mr. Webb of County Council Highways about the same matter. The clerk also agreed to contact John Sly of Highways to resurrect the maintenance agreement for clearing grips and cleaning signs.

c) Footpaths – It was queried whether or not some slabs could be laid in front of the notice board. The clerk would follow this up.

d) Seighford Airfield – **Cllr. Winnington has declared a personal interest as a friend of Mr. J. Eld but has no prejudicial interest in the matter.**

Cllr. Thomas gave an update on the situation. Over the period under review there had been 70 events a year but they were not related to the Driveme activities. The old bookings were not consistent and had not required a fixed building and the applicant could not derive more out of the legal use than had gone into it. It was noticed that illegal alterations had been made to the site including the establishment of earth bundings and a portable building. The clerk was requested to send a letter to the enforcement and environmental health officers regarding the constant use and noise in recent weeks. Another letter should be sent after the next meeting. The chairman had attended the Seighford Parish Council meeting on 19 November and reported that Mr. Brown had been upset by the Ranton meeting. The chairman gave a report on Ranton's position on the airfield and this was followed by a discussion before which the Eld brothers had left the room. Seighford Parish Council had then resolved to support Ranton Parish Council on the certificate of legal use.

5 Parish Plan

It was resolved to apply for funding for a Parish Plan and the council went through some of the details required to complete the application. The means and timing of the preparation of the plan were timetabled with a starting point of public consultation in the spring and completion by September 2008. Doxey, Seighford and Ellenhall had promised advice. The clerk undertook to complete the application and present it to the panel acting on behalf of Defra.

6 Clerk's Report

The council went through the correspondence received as listed in the report.

The council wished to register for consultation on the Local Development Framework that was being re worked.

7 Public Questions

None.

8 Items for Information/next Agenda

Cllr. Winnington informed the meeting that he had had reports of children climbing onto the heating oil tank at the Village Hall. He felt it should be fenced off and had offered funds of £500 from the Local Member's Initiative **but the Village Hall Committee had not been in a position to accept the funds.**

9 Planning

None

- 10 It was resolved that a meeting be held on Thursday, 13 December 2007 at 8.00pm if it was considered necessary to have one before Christmas.**

The meeting was closed by the chairman.

Signed

Date

Ranton Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD ON THURSDAY 25 OCTOBER 2007

AT RANTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllr. N. MacLeod (Chairman)
Cllr. R. Thomas (Vice Chairman)
Cllr. M. Winnington
Cllr. J. Forrester
Cllr. N. Bayliss

IN ATTENDANCE: Members of the public
Cllr. M. Rathbone (Vice Chairman of Seighford, Great
Bridford & Derrington Parish Council)
Borough Cllr. R. Sutherland
Borough Cllr. B. Stamp
Mrs. J. Hill (clerk)

Open Meeting

The Chairman made introductions and explained that purpose of the meeting was to consult with the public on the evidence for the application for a Certificate of Legal Use regarding Seighford Airfield. Response to the consultation was due to Stafford Borough Council planning Department by 31 October. Any other planning issues to do with the airfield were not relevant at this time. The Chairman then invited Cllr. Thomas to explain the situation.

Cllr. Thomas: An application for a Certificate of Lawful Use has to demonstrate a ten year record of similar use has taken place without planning permission. Any member of the public who has information has until 31 October to contact the SBC and he requested them to come forward. The Planning Department will then send all evidence to the Legal Department to make the final decision with the onus being on the applicant to prove its case. Fisher German, as agents for the landowner, had kept a record of bookings from 1993 for the Clanford Lane area which showed that all bookings were for vehicle driving – although there was now evidence that some of the use from 1990 – 1999 had been for police dog training. From local knowledge the only use of the ‘Entrance Area’ on Clanford Road was as a storage area for materials or for agricultural machinery auctions. Altogether the evidence showed gaps and relied partially on Mr. Wm. Brown’s recollection of bookings taken by Major Eld.

Cllr. Rathbone: had some evidence to give. The first booking by Driveme was in October 2004 and was for an activity that was entirely different from any before thus efforts of J10 Planning (agents for Seighford Settled Estates) to maintain that current use had been established over ten years would be quite hard to prove. There had been no go-karts on the runway since 1978 and then only on an area outside the

application. Most of the use of the airfield had been by one vehicle at a time and then only occasionally. Should Driveme reach the stage of applying for planning Seighford Parish Council would call a public meeting to include everyone in the area. In the meantime anyone with evidence as to use of the airfield was requested to submit it.

Cllr. Thomas: as a rider to what had been said felt that if permission for a certificate was given, Driveme would have a concrete base on which to apply for extension of use.

Chairman: gave some background information on Driveme and referred to the recent open day it had held in Seighford regarding its hopes for the airfield. The company wants to create 60+ jobs on the site and to move its HQ to Stafford and create a hub there. This would be pleasure and leisure activity with jobs and economic benefits that SBC will have to consider.

Cllr. Forrester: questioned whether or not memories over the last few years could class as facts if not supported by written evidence?

Cllr. Winnington: the evidence of Wm. Brown was memory only therefore anyone else's memories would have to be considered. Cllr. Sutherland reinforced this.

A MOP (member of the public), a recent newcomer to the village, had written to the CEO of SBC to say that use of the airfield had changed in the last five years and encouraged other residents to write in.

Mrs. Towner suggested anyone else writing in should send a sworn statement or statutory declaration as Wm. Brown and C J Leather had done.

Mr. Jeffries asked if there was a right of appeal against the granting of a Legal Use. Cllr. Sutherland agreed to find out on this.

A MOP asked if Driveme could go on using the airfield if a Certificate was refused. The Chairman said it could use it 14 times a year without planning permission.

Cllr. Winnington: reiterated that use would have to come down to 14 times unless the company could find another way around it. Earth bunds have been created and portable buildings installed – activities which are being examined by the enforcement officers.

Mr. Jeffries: pilots at the gliding club have to keep logbooks – maybe some of them would be able to give evidence on activities on the other sites.

A MOP: as a recent incomer to the village had noticed much more activity on the airfield site over the last few months.

Mr. Arnott of Great Bridgford: felt that too many people in the surrounding villages were unaware of what was going on and thought Ranton Parish Council should try and spread information to them. He had found out that Driveme had made 1100 hotel bookings in Stafford for the recent Peugeot event.

Chairman: would write to all chairmen of surrounding councils on the subject.

Mr. Tranter, a recent newcomer, had noticed a marked rise in noise levels in the last month especially on Saturdays, and wanted to make a complaint about it. It was explained to him that he should write to SBC Environmental Health Department . Mr. Tranter also wanted to know if people having an interest in a development could affect a council's decision if they were also councillors.

Chairman: No. They would have to declare an interest and take no part. All the councillors present at the meeting had no interest in Driveme or the properties involved.

Cllr. Sutherland: undertook to find out the timescale of the decision.

A MOP: it was very important that Ranton PC responded to the consultation as many Seighford residents were too scared to complain as many were tenants of the property owners.

Cllr. Sutherland encouraged everyone affected to write in about noise levels. It was confirmed that members of the public could be present at noise monitoring sessions.

Councillors undertook to do more research.

The Chairman gave thanks to Cllr. Thomas for all his work on the case and the public also showed its appreciation.

The formal council meeting now began.

1 Apologies

None.

2 Minutes of the previous meeting

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2007 as a true record and they were signed by the chairman.

3 Finance

a) The following accounts for payment were approved by the council:

768	Stafford Borough	£66.00	Civic amenity vehicle
769	Mr. P. Jeffries	£275.21	Mowing contract

b) The financial statements to the end of September 2007 were deferred to the next meeting as no bank statements had been received.

c) Review of governance – the clerk agreed to do a report on the current internal audit procedures.

- a) Mowing and maintenance – the final mow was still to be done. The problem of the disposal of grass cuttings required looking at for the next season.
- b) Highways – it was reported that water was standing in Butt Lane between the two farms. The clerk would report to CLARENCE and chase the Hextall Lane situation.
- c) Footpaths – Cllr. Thomas reported that willow trees on the footpath near Chinglea had been pollarded.

5 Clerk's Report

The council went through the correspondence received as listed in the report. The clerk agreed to check with SCC regarding the Christmas Tree that would be erected on the grass verge opposite the Village Hall. With regard to the proposed wheelie bin changes in the new year the clerk would check on the position for the bungalows in Johnson Close which would have no room for three bins.

The clerk agreed to check the position of the council for Data Protection purposes and register it if necessary.

6 Public Questions

Mrs. Towner asked for news on the elm tree opposite The Cottage which had Dutch Elm disease. The clerk would contact Mr. Hutsby about taking down the tree. Mrs. Towner also referred to the falling numbers at All Saints School and asked the council to bear this in mind when taking decisions.

7 Items for Information/next Agenda

None at this time

8 Planning

The council resolved to send the statement prepared by Cllr. Thomas on the Certificate of Legal Use for Seighford airfield to SBC Planning Department.

The council had no objections to the following planning applications:

07/08861/FUL Jasmine Cottage, Long Compton Lane – bedroom & en-suite over existing study & kitchen.

07/09214/FUL 6 Bourne Avenue – conservatory to rear & entrance porch to front

The council had no objections to the erection of a stable block at 07/09066/FUL The Old Stables, Brook Lane – but had concerns regarding the new access proposed.

9 It was resolved that the next full meeting be held on Thursday, 22 November 2007 at 8.00pm

The meeting was closed by the chairman.

Signed

Date

Ranton Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD ON THURSDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2007

AT RANTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllr. N. MacLeod (Chairman)
Cllr. R. Thomas (Vice Chairman)
Cllr. M. Winnington
Cllr. J. Forrester

IN ATTENDANCE: Members of the public
Charlotte Green of Staffs Community Council
Mrs. J. Hill (clerk)

At the start of the meeting Charlotte Green gave a short talk on producing a Parish Plan. It was important that the project was community led and that as much information as possible was collected about what the people wanted for their village. The best starting point was the formation of a steering committee of no more than 15 people and preferably community run rather than parish council run. Data could be collected through a questionnaire to every household and/or an open day with exhibits. The parish should liaise with local authorities including the Borough Council, the Police and any other body that has an influence on events. The Plan should try to be positive about issues and local people should try to deal with problems themselves. Once produced the Parish Plan should be lodged with the Borough Council. It can be used as a back-up to applications for funding and should be reviewed every five years. A grant of up to £1,000 or 75% of the cost is available from defra depending on circumstances as long as the parish can cover the rest of the cost in either cash or in-kind contributions. Ms. Green recommended applying for a grant as soon as possible as there was only a limited fund available.

The Chairman thanked Ms. Green for attending the meeting.

1 Apologies

None.

2 Minutes of the previous meeting

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 26 July 2007 as a true record and they were signed by the chairman.

3 Finance

a) The following accounts for payment were approved by the council:

766	Stafford Borough	£66.00	Civic amenity vehicle
767	Mr. P. Jeffries	£275.21	Mowing contract

b) **The financial statements to the end of June 2007 were accepted.**

c) **The council accepted the Statement of Accounts and the Statement of governance in the Annual Return 2006/07.** The Chairman and the clerk signed the Annual Return which was to be sent off to the Audit Commission.

The clerk informed councillors that the bank mandate had now been processed by NatWest. The clerk was requested to put the review of governance on the next agenda.

4 Reports

a) Mowing and maintenance – the Chairman agreed to ask Mr. P. Jones to take the grass cuttings onto his muck heaps.

b) Highways – John Sly had written to say that an officer would be looking at the problems reported at the last meeting. A new pool of standing water had appeared in Hextall Lane. The clerk undertook to report this to CLARENCE.

c) Footpaths – Cllr. Thomas reported that Footpath No. 23 had been re-aligned near The Villa.

d) Seighford Airfield – Cllr. Thomas has personally researched the evidence of usage submitted by DriveMe to the Borough Council planning department for a Certificate of Lawful Use. The certificate requires proof that related activities have been carried on at the site for at least 10 years. The documents have not been put out to public consultation as the relevant officer can make a decision based on the evidence. Cllr. Thomas has now written to the Chief Executive of Stafford Borough Council to point out that it cannot be right for there to be no local consultation. So far he has only received an acknowledgement.

It was suggested that a small questionnaire be sent out with the parish newsletter to residents to gauge village opinion on the matter and the Chairman undertook to do this.

5 New Model Code of Conduct

The council resolved to adopt the 2007 Code of Conduct including paragraph 12(2). The clerk distributed new Declaration of Interests forms to councillors for completion and return to the monitoring officer by 18 October 2007.

6 School Governor

Cllrs. Winnington and Thomas nominated Cllr. Forrester as community school governor and the clerk was asked to obtain an application form.

7 Clerk's Report

The council went through the correspondence received as listed in the report. In view of the County Council's letter regarding 'Flying the Flag' the council agreed to buy a new flag for the pole outside the village hall. The council had no complaints regarding the village hall as polling office for Ranton.

8 Public Questions

Mrs. Towner referred to the new water lying in Hextall Lane. Mrs. Towner also queried the progress on the school footpath. Cllr. Winnington agreed to speak to J. Sly, the Highways Manager, as this had been promised for the summer.

News of the planning application at White House, Butt Lane for a dog and cat sanctuary was requested. Cllr. Winnington reported that permission had been refused on the grounds of noise.

9 Items for Information/next Agenda

None at this time

10 Planning

Planning permission for Ranton House Farm was noted.

Planning refusals for the gateway in Dog Lane and for Broad Oaks, Butt Lane were noted.

The council had no comments to make on the single storey extension for 13 Church Close.

11 It was resolved that the next full meeting be held on Thursday, 25 October 2007 at 8.00pm

The meeting was closed by the chairman.

Signed

Date

Ranton Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD ON THURSDAY 26 JULY 2007

AT RANTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllr. N. MacLeod (Chairman)
Cllr. R. Thomas (Vice Chairman)
Cllr. M. Winnington
Cllr. J. Forrester

IN ATTENDANCE: Members of the public: Mr. & Mrs. R. Edwards, Mrs. J. Foden,
Mr. & Mrs. D. Batchelor, Mrs. P. Towner
Mrs. J. Hill (clerk)

1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr. Bayliss who was on holiday.

2 Minutes of the previous meeting

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 28 June 2007 as a true record and they were signed by the chairman.

3 Finance

a) The following accounts for payment were approved by the council:

Mr. P. Jeffries	£174.53	Mowing contract
SPCA	£30.00	Training

4 Reports

a) Mowing and maintenance – there had been complaints about the grass cuttings left on the ground after mowing. Cllr. Thomas agreed to speak to the contractors.

b) Highways – it was felt that the gullies needed to be cleared out again as there was considerable silting. The main culvert was also blocked with branches. The clerk was asked to write to the County Council requesting that the gullies, although already emptied this year, be treated again as a special case because of the flooding.

c) Footpaths – the clerk had distributed a précis of the County Council draft consultation document on the maintenance of footpaths. Any comments should be made by the end of August.

5 Parish Newsletter

The Chairman undertook to produce the next edition of the newsletter. Content would include thanks to members of the previous council, the appointment of the new clerk, the flooding in the village, Seighford Airfield plans and the amenity vehicle visits. It was hoped to send it out towards the end of August if possible.

6 Parish Plan

Cllr. Winnington proposed a Parish Plan with the appointment of a community committee and the holding of a public meeting. The Community Council of Staffordshire would be invited to the next meeting.

7 School Community Governor

It was decided that details of the vacancy should be published in the newsletter as the Parish Council would like to see a local governor.

8 Clerk's Report

The correspondence received was discussed. The clerk agreed to send a copy of the Municipal Waste Plan questionnaire to councillors so that a consensus response could be made. The new Code of Conduct would need to be adopted at the next meeting. Mr. S. Jeffries had written to the council regarding quad bike racing taking place at Brough Hall Farm. (Cllr. Winnington declared a personal interest at this point). The clerk was asked to contact the planning department regarding noise issues.

9 Public Questions

Various points were made on highway issues. Hedge cuttings were being left in the ditches. The County Council had been contacted and had agreed to clear them although they were not strictly its responsibility. Nothing, however, had been done. Also the dead elm trees on Hextall Lane needed attention. It was also reported that, following drainage work near the bridges on Hextall and Coton Lanes, metal poles had not been straightened out and thus gaps were left down to the brooks. The side of the road on Brook Lane close to Brook House Farm had been washed away and was now very dangerous. The clerk was to contact the County Council regarding all these problems. Mrs. Towner queried whether or not the parish was still in favour of keeping the Rural Development Boundary. Cllr. Winnington felt this should be looked into once the Local Development Framework was back on the agenda. The Chairman thought the Parish Plan questionnaire could be used to find out what the village feelings were.

10 Items for Information/next Agenda

Seighford Driving Centre (Driveme) had sent round invitations to its pre-consultation exercise for its plans for the airfield. Cllr. Forrester had attended the meeting and described the proposals that had been outlined by the planning consultant for the company which comprised mainly tracks for 'events' with fast cars.

Cllr. Winnington proposed that the council develop a plan for dealing with this as it might lead to seven day a week use and environmental issues such as noise, but also had the potential for job creation and regeneration. Working with Seighford Parish Council on the issues might be the best way forward so that the two councils could be represented as one voice.

The council agreed to find out as much information as possible and the clerk agreed to contact the clerk for Seighford.

11 Planning

There was nothing new to hand.

- 12 It was resolved that the next full meeting be held on Thursday, 20 September 2007 at 8.00pm. It was also resolved to delegate powers to the clerk after taking advice for the period to the next meeting.**

The meeting was closed by the chairman.

Signed

Date

Ranton Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD ON THURSDAY 28 JUNE 2007

AT RANTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllr. N. MacLeod (Chairman)
Cllr. R. Thomas (Vice Chairman)
Cllr. M. Winnington
Cllr. N. Bayliss
Cllr. J. Forrester

IN ATTENDANCE: Members of the public: Mr. R. Edwards
Mrs. J. Hill (clerk)

1 Apologies

None.

Co-opted members of the council were welcomed and acceptance of office and declarations of interest were signed.

2 Minutes of the previous meeting

The spelling of the chairman's surname and Mr. Edwards's initial were corrected. **It was resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 17 May 2007 as a true record** and they were signed by the chairman.

3 Clerk's report

A list of correspondence was received by councillors.

The Borough Council was to be asked for e-mail copies of the open spaces/leisure questionnaire so that these could be passed on.

An introductory course for new councillors was being given by the SPCA and **the council agreed that the two new members should attend the course at a total cost of £30.**

The clerk would distribute copies of the new Code of Conduct to members before the next meeting.

5 Finance

a) **The following accounts for payment were approved by the council:**

Mr. P. Jeffries	£199.43	Mowing contract
Mrs. J. Hill	£101.36	Apr – Jun salary

b) It was noted that the clerk had requested a deferment for sending in the Annual Return and the Audit Commission had agreed to early August.

c) Financial Statements were also deferred until bank statements were available.

6 Reports

a) Mowing and maintenance – Cllr. Thomas reported that the mowing was proceeding satisfactorily and the operators were now wearing their safety equipment.

b) Highways – the flooding over the last weekend was the main concern. Cllr. Thomas reported that the culvert near Brook House Farm had been under water. The grids had been cleared by the County Council who were supposed to jet these once a year. In the end the main problem had been sheer quantity of water. Mr. Jones of Ranton House Farm had reported debris dumped in a drain across his land which had probably contributed to problems. The clerk was asked to write to Mr. Jones requesting him to ensure that there was free drainage of water out of the village across his land.

c) Footpaths – the clerk would obtain the latest consultation on improvements to the network and to produce a précis of this.

7 Public Questions

There was none.

8 Items for Information/Next Agenda

Cllr. Thomas had received information regarding dog training at Ranton Green Farm. The clerk agreed to write to John Holmes, the SBC planning manager, for any information.

Tree rubbish in bags and a tyre had been found dumped in a hedge.

Mr. S. Jeffries was retiring as a school governor in September and there would be a vacancy for a community governor rather than a parish council governor. The clerk was requested to put the vacancy on the next agenda for discussion.

Other items for the next agenda were:

- Parish newsletter
- Parish plan

9 Planning

The planning permissions for 8 Abbesside and Brook House Farm were noted.

Applications:

There were no objections to the application to retain the new gate on Dog Lane. (The Chairman declared a personal interest).

There were no objections to the smoking shelter at the Hand & Cleaver Inn.

The Cottage, Brook Lane – new bungalow. Concerns were expressed regarding rear windows overlooking the neighbouring property and about space about the dwelling in general. These concerns would be passed on to the Borough by the clerk.

Brough Hall Farm, Gnosall - conversion of farm building to four dwellings. (Cllr. Winnington left the meeting at this point as he had a personal interest). There were no objections.

- 10 It was resolved that the next full meeting be held on Thursday, 26 July 2007 at 8.00pm.** Cllr. Bayliss offered his apologies for that meeting as he would be on holiday.

The meeting was closed by the chairman.

Signed

Date

Ranton Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD ON THURSDAY 17 MAY 2007

AT RANTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllr. S. Jeffries (retiring chairman)
Cllr. R. Thomas (Vice Chairman)
Cllr. M. Winnington
Cllr. N. MacLeod (Chairman)

IN ATTENDANCE: Members of the public: Mrs. P. Towner, Mr. R. Edwards
Mrs. J. Hill (clerk)

1 Apologies

None.

2. Chairman's Statement

The retiring Chairman gave his report on the council year just finished. A copy of the report is attached.

3. Election of officers

The Chairman retired and proposers for a new chairman were requested.

It was resolved that Cllr. N. MacLeod be elected chairman and he duly signed the acceptance of office and took the chair.

It was resolved that Cllr. R. Thomas be elected Vice Chairman.

School governor – the requirement was now for a community governor rather than a parish council governor. As Mr. S. Jeffries currently held this position he would continue until the post came up for election in September 2007.

Village Hall Committee – Cllrs. MacLeod and Thomas agreed to continue as members representing the council.

The Annual general meeting now closed.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

1 Apologies

None.

2 Minutes of the previous meeting

Item 4c was amended to record that Cllr. Thomas had reported the problems with electric fences. **It was resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 25 April 2007 as a true record** and they were signed by the chairman.

3 Co-option of new members

The council was now required to co-opt two members to have a full council and had six weeks from the date of election to fill the vacancies.

It was resolved that Mr. Nigel Bayliss be invited to join the council as he had intended to put himself up for election. The clerk was requested to write to Mr. Bayliss to invite him to join the council.

The clerk was asked to advertise the remaining vacancy with a deadline for responses of 30 May 2007. It was decided to hold a special meeting on 5 June 2007 to interview any candidates.

4 Clerk's responses

The statement of Concurrent Expenditure had been returned to the Borough Council.

Cllr. Winnington advised the clerk to send the letter to the County Council regarding composting schemes as soon as possible, and to send it again when the sites for composting consultation document was published.

5 Matters Arising

a) Accounts – **it was resolved that National Westminster Bank Plc would be requested to continue to act as the bankers of the Council. A new mandate was to be signed by all councillors in office on 28 June 2007 and the old mandate cancelled. Bank statements, cheque books and all correspondence was to be sent to the clerk.**

b) Mowing – Cllr. Thomas reported that the mowing has now started. Health & Safety forms had been issued to the operators and their return was awaited. The assistant operator has safety boots but the operator has not. Cllr. Thomas will ask the latter to buy a pair of boots and the council will reimburse him.

c) Highways – Cllr. Winnington reported that a burst pipe in Brook Lane had now been repaired. A pipe near the gun club was also faulty and in the progress of being repaired. John Sly of the Highways Department had informed him that there was enough in his budget to lay the car park at the school and to move the signs – this had not been received in writing, however.

The school signs need to be moved but the County Council does not agree. The footpath needs to be continued to the car park and the pull-in needs re-kerbing and resurfacing.

6 Accounts for payment

The following accounts were approved for payment:

760	Allianz Cornhill	£224.96	Motor
Insurance renewal			
761	P. Jeffries	£107.40	Mowing – May

7 Correspondence

Ranton Village Hall – request for representatives to committee
SCC – Strategic Plan 2007-2010
SBC – Green Awards 2007
SCC – Withdrawal of Saturday Service on Gnosall Ruralink

Allianz Insurance – mower insurance
SBC – Walking for Health notices
Audit Commission – Annual Return, etc
SBC Planning – Application re 8 Abbeyside – UPVC conservatory
SBC Planning – application re Brook House Farm – inc in height of roof re bedroom 3
SBC Planning – Application re land adj. Broad Oaks, Butt Lane – detached dwelling – 4 bedroom house
SBC Planning – permission re 8 Church Close – ground & first floor extension
SBC – Members' Digest 101

8 Public Questions

Mrs. P. Towner asked if the County Council was moving towards windrows rather than in-vessel composting. The clerk referred to the Minerals & Waste Development Core Strategy Issues & Options document which was not very specific and, as with the Local Development Framework documents, gave several options for each issue. There was a downloadable version which was 44 pages long. Cllr. Winnington suggested that the clerk ask for paper copies from the County Council.

9 Chairman's Questions

Cllr. Thomas asked the clerk to contact the editor of the Parish Magazine with the new councillors' telephone numbers.

10 Planning

The planning permission for 8 Church Close was noted.

There were no objections to the application for 8 Abbeyside.

Cllr. Thomas declared an interest in the application for Brook House Farm and took no part in the decision. The council was not quorate on this matter but had no objection.

Cllr. Winnington declared an interest in the application for the land adjacent to Broad Oak. The clerk would seek a postponement until 5 June when the application could be discussed at the special meeting.

- 11 It was resolved that the next full meeting be held on Thursday, 28 June 2007 at 8.00pm. The special meeting on 5 June would be a closed meeting from 8.00 pm for recruitment and an open meeting from 8.30 pm. to discuss the Broad Oak planning application.**

The meeting was closed at 9.45 pm.

Signed

Date

Ranton Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD ON THURSDAY 25 APRIL 2007

AT RANTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT:

Cllr. R. S. Jeffries (Chairman)
Cllr. R. Thomas
Cllr. M. Winnington
Cllr. P. Towner
Cllr. N. MacLoed

IN ATTENDANCE: Members of the public: None
Mrs. J. Hill

1 Apologies

None.

2 Minutes of the previous meeting

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 29 March 2007 as a true record and they were signed by the chairman.

3 Clerk's responses

A letter had been sent to NatWest bank authorising all correspondence to be sent to the new clerk.

Cllr. Thomas reported that an inspection had been actioned regarding Footpaths No. 6 and 8.

4 Matters Arising

a) Accounts – the clerk would produce the year end financial statements together.

b) Mowing – safety boots were required for the mower operator and any assistant used. The new Health & Safety orders should be signed by the operator and lodged with the clerk.

c) Highways – it was reported that electric fences to enclose stock had been placed where they shouldn't on footpaths across a farmer's land. They had now been removed. Cllr. Towner said this should be a matter of record for the moment but more information was needed from parishioners.

The school signs need to be moved but the County Council does not agree. The footpath needs to be continued to the car park and the pull-in needs rekerbing and resurfacing.

5. Christmas Lights

The lights were presently in storage with Cllr. Jeffries and it was agreed that they should be moved to Cllr. Thomas.

6 Accounts for payment

The following accounts were approved for payment:

756	Ranton Village Hall Committee	£72.00	Room hire
757	P. Jeffries	£196.90	Mowing – April
758	SPCA	£168.00	Subscription
759	Allianz Cornhill	£306.28	Insurance

renewal

The bank mandate must be changed after the election.

7 Correspondence

Stafford Borough Council – notice of elections

- “ “ “ - members' allowances
- “ “ “ - Members' Digest
- “ “ “ - payment of precept and concurrent allowances (certificate returned by the clerk)
- “ “ “ - civic amenity visit advice 2007/08

Department of Constitutional Affairs – memorial safety

Community Council of Staffordshire – village of the year competition

- “ “ “ - learning workshop invitation (the clerk is attending)

NALC – resource pack launch advice

NALC – S137 expenditure limit advice

West Mids Regional Assembly – 'Speaking Out' publication

Sustainable Staffordshire – Spring 2007

Audit Commission – appointment of external auditor

Stafford Borough Council – Mayor making and Civic Services

Staffordshire County Council – minerals & waste development plan consultation

SPCA – chief executive's circular

SPCA – annual subscription

Allianz Cornhill – insurance renewal

Community Council of Staffordshire – membership

Stafford Borough Council – planning refusal re White House, Butt Lane

Standards Board – new code of conduct

Staffordshire County Council – seasonal attachments to street lights

Stafford Borough Council – register of elector changes

Stafford Borough Council – returning officer re elections
Stafford Borough Council - Forms for Register of Financial Interests
Stafford Borough Council – enforcement officer re White House, Butt Lane
Annual SCIO Conference
Community Council of Staffordshire – newsletter
Stafford Borough Council – Music Festival 2007
County Air Ambulance Appeal
CPRE – Annual Report
Sundial – newsletter

Cllr. Winnington proposed a letter to Staffordshire County Council regarding the waste core strategy pointing out that, following the consultation that took place when an application was made to install a composting scheme in the parish, the parishioners of Ranton are opposed to any composting scheme in the parish or close by in another parish. **This was agreed by the council.**

8 Public Questions

There were none.

9 Chairman's Questions

There were none.

10 Planning

The refusal of planning permission for White House, Butt Lane was noted.

- 11 It was resolved that the next meeting be held on Thursday, 17 May 2007 at 8.00pm.**

Cllr. Winnington proposed the council express its thanks to all five councillors for the work

done over the last four years and for the friendly discussions held. Special thanks were due to

Cllr. Jeffries for the years he had put in as chairman, without ever missing a meeting, and for

his work on the newsletter, and also to Cllr. Towner.

The council resolved to and did express its thanks.