

## **RANTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**Annual Parish Assembly: Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2011.**

### **Chairman's Statement**

This annual assembly precedes the last meeting of this Parish Council. The present council was formed four years ago and has now reached the end of its elected term. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following members of the parish council for their support and commitment during the last four years,

Cllr Rodney Thomas (vice chair)

Cllr Jeff Forrester

Cllr Mark Winnington

Cllr Nigel Bayliss – who served for 3 years, but had to resign due to personal commitments

Cllr Douglas Pye – who was co-opted onto the council to replace Nigel.

### **Driving activity centre at Seighford**

The council continues to monitor the activities at Driveme to ensure that they comply with the terms of the planning consent which they received following the public enquiry. Noise monitoring equipment has been installed by Driveme, but the measurements are not publicly available at the present time. There have been only a few instances of noise nuisance from the site in the last year. We request members of the parish to report any incidents related to the Driveme site.

### **Bullrush Cottage**

We continue to receive occasional complaints from residents in Ranton Green about anti-social behaviour by the children under care at Bullrush Cottage. We have held meetings with the manager of the facility to voice the concerns of the residents. Any instances of bad behaviour experienced by residents of Ranton should be reported to the relevant authorities. In the absence of such reports, organisations such as the County Council and Ofsted have no basis on which to approach the operators of Bullrush Cottage.

## **Parish Council Budget**

Following the heavy expenditure during the opposition to the Driveme, the Parish Council has recovered its financial position and we anticipate a reserve at the end of the 2011/2012 financial year of about one and a half times our annual precept, which is the recommended level for a council. We have therefore decided to reduce the precept for 2011/2012 financial year by 3.5%

## **Parish Plan**

The Parish Council continue to undertake the actions listed in the plan. Each action has been assigned to one of the councillors to champion the activity.

We are still looking for a location for a playing field for the children of the parish, having written to local land owners and the local infant school. However, to date we have had no positive response on this.

## **Highways**

The state of the roads in the Parish are still of a concern to the council and we are in contact with the County Council Highways department to seek repairs to the roads where required. The standing water in a number of locations in the Parish, particularly at Hextall bridge, is also being pursued.

## **Parish Council Election**

Two members of the present council, Rodney Thomas and Douglas Pye, are not standing again for the new council. As no other residents have come forward to seek election to the council, there is no need for an election this year. The new council will need to co-opt two residents of the parish to make our number up to the required five members.

## **Conclusion**

I would like to thank our two retiring members for their service to the council. In particular I would like to express the gratitude of the council to our vice-chair Rodney Thomas, for his tireless efforts in support of the community over the last eight years of his tenure on the council.

Cllr Norman MacLeod (Chair)

28th April 2011.

# **Ranton Parish Council**

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

**HELD ON THURSDAY 21 JULY 2011**

**AT RANTON VILLAGE HALL**

### **PRESENT:**

Cllr. N. MacLeod (Chairman)

Cllr. D. Batchelor

Cllr. J. Forrester

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mrs. J. Hill (clerk),

### **11/13 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr. M. Winnington.

### **11/14 Minutes of the previous meeting**

**It was resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2011 as a true record.**

### **11/15 Seighford Airfield**

A reply had been received from Stafford Borough Council planning department setting out the work that was being done on drainage and the building of bunds by Driveme.

The clerk was asked to write to the planning department again asking for a timescale on actions to build the bunds and plant trees, and to point out that these actions should already have been carried out.

## **11/16 Finance**

**a) The following accounts were approved for payment.**

929	J Hill	£159.71	Sal & exes
930	Stafford Borough Council	£78.30	Amenity van

**b) The accounts to the end of July 2011 were approved by the council.**

## **11/17 Reports**

i) Mowing – it was agreed that Streetscene was keeping the village verges and churchyard in excellent condition.

ii) Highways – a closure notice had been received regarding Hextall Lane for drainage works. It was hoped that the very bad potholes on the through road to Haughton would be dealt with at the same time.

The neighbourhood team would be in the village on 10 August for two days. The clerk was asked to request clearing of the drains up Brook Lane and strimming around the footpath stiles on the road side. The clerk was also asked to contact Highways for some replacement safety posts on Brook Lane.

iii) Footpaths – Cllr. Batchelor undertook to walk the footpaths with Mr. R. Thomas

### **11/18 Clerk's Report & Correspondence**

The clerk's report was accepted. Cllr. Batchelor wished to attend the overview training course for new councillors. Network Rail's choice of route at Norton Bridge Railway Junction was noted.

### **11/19 Parish Plan**

A letter had been received from the chair of governors at All Saints' School seeking further information from the parish council concerning the request to use the playing field for children outside school hours.

The clerk was asked to respond on access, security fencing, insurance liability, checking the playing field for damage, and rent and wear and tear issues.

### **11/20 Public Questions**

None

### **11/21 Chairman's Questions/Items for information**

The manager of Bullrush Cottage was to be invited to the September meeting.

Parish Council representatives for the Village Hall Committee to be placed on the agenda.

### **11/22 Planning**

The following planning applications had been received during the month:

11/14695/FUL Brough Hall – amended plan re access. The council felt the hedge should be moved but retained.

11/15404/FUL Barn at Holly Bank House, Woodside Road – barn conversion to residential – the council had no comments.

**11/23 Date of next meeting**

It was resolved that the next meeting of the parish council would be held on Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> September. (Cllr. Batchelor gave his apologies.)

The meeting was closed by the chairman.

Signed .....

Date .....

Ranton Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the council held on  
Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2011 at Ranton Village Hall

Present : Cllr N MacLeod  
Cllr J Forrester  
Cllr M Winnington

In Attendance : 1 member of the public (D Batchelor)

11/1 Election of chairman

Cllr N MacLeod was proposed by Cllr M Winnington and seconded by Cllr J Forrester. As there were no other nominations, Cllr MacLeod was elected as chairman.

11/2 To resolve upon other matters

i) Election of vice-chairman

Cllr J Forrester was proposed by Cllr MacLeod and seconded by Cllr Winnington. As there were no other nominations, Cllr Forrester was elected as vice-chair.

Officers to serve on the Village Hall committee

This was deferred until a full parish council could be convened.

ii) Co-opted councillor



It was agreed by the councillors that Davd Batchelor be co-opted onto the council. Mr Batchelor was present at the meeting and agreed to be co-opted. Cllr Batchelor joined the meeting. Members of the council would look for a volunteer to become the fifth councillor.

iii) Subscription to the SPCA and Community Council

It was agreed to renew subscriptions to these organisations.

11/3 Apologies

None

11/4 To accept the minutes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2011 as a true record

It was resolved to accept the minutes as a true record.

11/5 Seighford airfield – any up-date

The noise bund has not been completed on the Ranton side of the track. We understand that revised site plans are being prepared by Driveme. It was agreed that the council writes to the SBC Planning department to note that Driveme are not complying with the conditions laid down at the public enquiry. The clerk will write to John Holmes and ask for a response before the council's next meeting.

11/6 Finance matters

a) The following accounts were approved for payment

927	Community Council	£22.00
928	Staffs Parish Councils Assoc	£168.50

- b) To receive accounts to May

No accounts were available at the meeting.

#### 11/7 Reports

- a) Mowing – no issues to report
  
- b) Highways – no repairs have been undertaken recently in the parish. We understand that SCC will begin repairs to the Hextall Bridge area in late July, when All Saints School has closed for the summer.
  
- b) Footpaths – we have had a complaint from a local farmer, Philip Jones, that walkers are leaving field gates open. A notice about this will be added to the next parish newsletter. There was also concern about dogs being off-lead in the fields.

#### 11/8 Parish plan actions

A letter has been received from the chair of the school governors asking questions related to security and insurance if the school playing field were opened up for general use. The council will investigate how other parishes deal with un-supervised playing fields.

#### 11/9 Public questions

None

#### 11/10 Chairman's questions

None

#### 11/11 To resolve on planning issues

There were no planning issues to consider.

11/12 Date of next meeting

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July

The meeting was closed by the chairman.

# Ranton Parish Council

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD ON THURSDAY 19 MAY 2011

AT RANTON VILLAGE HALL

### PRESENT:

Cllr. M. Winnington

Cllr. J. Forrester

### IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs. J. Hill (clerk),

**The clerk declared the meeting inquorate and it was therefore abandoned.**

Signed .....

Date .....

# **Ranton Parish Council**

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

**HELD ON THURSDAY 28 APRIL 2011**

**AT RANTON VILLAGE HALL**

### **PRESENT:**

Cllr. R. Thomas (Chairman)

Cllr. M. Winnington

Cllr. J. Forrester

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mrs. J. Hill (clerk),

### **10/105 Apologies**

Cllr. D. Pye (work on census), Cllr. N. MacLeod (away on business)

### **10/106 Minutes of the previous meeting**

**It was resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2011 as a true record.**

### **10/107 Seighford Airfield**

Cllr. Thomas reported that planting had still not taken place on the Ranton bund but that borough council planning enforcement was aware of this.

## 10/108 Finance

a) **The following accounts were approved for payment.**

922	Stafford Borough Council	£396.00	Grass cutting
923	Ranton Village Hall Committee	£56.00	Room hire

b) **The Annual Return Accounts for the year 2010-11 and the Statement of Assurance were approved by the council** following the internal audit by Mrs. M. Johnson. The chairman and the clerk/financial officer signed the Annual Return which was to be returned to the Audit Commission for final approval.

c) **The council resolved to give Mrs. Johnson a £50 voucher towards a meal out in recompense for the last three years' internal audit.**

## 10/109 Reports

i) Mowing – two cuts had been carried out during the month. The council's mower remained garaged at Brook House Farm.

ii) Highways – there was still no action at Hextall Lane. The neighbourhood teams would return in the autumn.

iii) Footpaths – Cllr. Thomas will pass the paperwork on to the councillor who takes charge of this area.

## 10/110 Clerk's Report & Correspondence

The clerk's report was accepted. A letter had been received from the borough council regarding the application to remove a hedgerow at Brough Hall to improve sight lines. Cllr. Winnington declared an interest and left the room. The council was not quorate but felt that hedgerows should not be removed. The clerk would write a letter to the borough council to that effect.

### **10/111 Parish Assembly 2011**

No members of the public had attended.

### **10/112 Parish Plan**

No formal response has been received from All Saints School governors regarding the playing field but it was felt that they were not in favour of letting it out to the council in non-school hours.

### **10/113 Public Questions**

None

### **10/114 Chairman's Questions/Items for information**

None

### **10/115 Planning**

The following planning applications had been received during the month:

Woodside Farm, Ranton – conversion of agricultural buildings to four dwellings

11/15181/FUL Yew Tree Cottage, Stafford Road – two storey rear extension

The clerk had taken advice from available councillors on the applications and had returned no objection on both to the borough council planning department.

**10/116 Date of next meeting**

It was resolved that the next meeting of the parish council would be held on Thursday, 19 May 2011.

The meeting was closed by the chairman.

Signed .....

Date .....