

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF ROOKSDOWN PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE
ROOKSDOWN COMMUNITY CENTRE, PARK PREWETT ROAD ON MONDAY 23 DECEMBER 2013
COMMENCING AT 19:45**

Present: Cllrs Cavalier (RC), Cordner (AC), Khan (NK), Mahoney (PM), Parkinson (JP), Statham (CS) (Chairman) & Ward (AW)

In Attendance: Simon Bound (SB) & the Parish Clerk.

1. APOLOGIES

All members were present.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The Clerk declared an interest in the Item 5(b), (salary payment).

3. MINUTES

**37/14
RESOLVED** It was to receive, confirm the accuracy of, and sign, the minutes of the meeting held on 25 November 2013.

4. PLANNING

At the previous meeting there was a split vote (3:3) as to RPC's response to application No 13/02189/HSE. Since there was some indecision as to the use of the Chairman's casting it was resolved that the Clerk would refer the matter to HALC for advice, to agree the response via email with all members and to respond to BDBC accordingly and formally ratify the decision.

The advice of HALC indicated that the Chairman's vote should be cast in favour of the recommendation of the Planning Working to object to the application on the grounds that it was likely to result in more on road parking where parking is already at a premium, and add that, if the planning authority was minded to approve the application, then the hardstanding should be comprised of permeable material to reduce the amount of run off.

The Clerk was instructed to advise the planning authority accordingly.

PM commented on the fact that the information from HALC had been circulated at the last minute, along with the papers for the meeting, a practice which results in a flurry of activity in the week prior to scheduled meetings. It was agreed that in future information should be circulated to members as soon as it is received. [This procedure is covered more fully in Agenda Item 6.

5. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) Financial Reports 2013/2014

A Financial Report & Bank Reconciliation at 18 December 2013 showing balances of £59,391.30 on the 30 Day Notice account and £769.44 on the Treasurer's Account, taking account of cheques up to CQ 393 were noted.

(b) Payments for Approval

**38/14
RESOLVED** It was to approve the following payments:

CQ No	Payee	Service	Amount
		CQs Signed between meetings	
391	St John Ambulance	Medical cover at Fireworks Event	£73.92
		Sub Total	£
		New CQs for signature	
392	R. Darley	Salary December	£391.70
393	HMRC	PAYE November	£97.80
		SubTotal	£489.50

6. MOTIONS BY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Nazim Khan: Time commitment & progress reports by Councillors:

The intention of this motion was to improve the speed of dissemination of information and establish a mechanism by which members/the Clerk advise colleagues of progress and for the transfer of responsibilities for particular tasks if for any reason they are unable to perform a task allocated to them. It was suggested that fortnightly update be provided, the first to be issued 2 weeks before the January meeting ie 13 January. NK and the Clerk to work together on a template for such reports. It was also agreed to flag up and formalise responsibility for distribution of the Rooksdown Reporter. Clerk to liaise with SB.

The handling of e-mails, use of the generic .org/.gov.uk addresses is to be investigated by JP, who will report back at the January meeting.

7. DATE/VENUE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The next scheduled meeting will be held on 27 January, 24 February & 24 March 2014. All meetings to be held in Rooksdown Community Centre.

8. STANDING ORDER 1 (c)

39/14
RESOLVED

It was that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Local Government Act.

9. THE OLD BARN

The purpose of this item was to discuss the possibility of nominating The Old Barn as an Asset of Community Value under the Community Right to Bid Localism Act 2011.

CS outlined existing community assets:

- Rooksdown Centre has now been open for barely a year, but the RCA reports that it is fully/over subscribed. The size of the Centre was reduced in light of the prospect of PPH being used by WCF as a church/community space. The vision of community space was deemed to be met by these two facilities.
- Park Prewett Hall: the WCF project fell through and RPC/RCA are to take over part of PPH for community use. A planning application is currently being progressed which will provide additional community space.
- The Old Barn site was planned for housing/commercial use – the Barn itself being retained for commercial use, but the developers have been unsuccessful in identifying potential occupants for such use. There is concern however as to how forcefully the Barn has been marketed and whether the developer would prefer to demolish it and build additional houses. [The Clerk will ascertain precisely what its status as a "listed building" is]. The Clerk to write to HCA on these lines]. ***Draft to be circulated to members for comment by 6 January***)

Discussion of the potential for an RTB application:

- Do we need the Barn/for what purpose – a pub, a Youth Centre(RCA's preferred option)
- A free ranging discussion followed covering such issues as need, options, sustainability etc and it was agreed that we need to get some hard facts, but
- CS stated that HCA has an allocation of £25k to fund a feasibility study for such a project. [Clerk contact HCA ascertain procedure for utilising this allocation.] ***Draft to be circulated to members for comment by 6 January***)

In light of the discussion,

40/14
RESOLVED

It was to submit an RTB application, but to delay this for as long as possible. The Clerk will contact BDBC regarding the mechanism for such applications.

The Clerk had also circulated correspondence, received at short notice, from BDBC outlining the availability of funding under the New Homes Bonus scheme via the Local Infrastructure Fund, particularly in view of the potential for expenditure on this project, and the very short deadlines for submission of 1st round bids (31/01/2014) & 2nd round bids (31/03/2014).

41/14
RESOLVED

It was
to prepare the following 1st round of bids:
(i) £25k plus to equip Park Prewett Hall; the substance of this bid can be obtained from the PPH Business Plan and will include staff costs.
(ii) £50k for an odd job man for Rooksdown for 5 years.

42/14
RESOLVED

It was further
to prepare the following 2nd round bids
(i) £300k relating to potential acquisition of the Barn for community purposes.
(ii) £25k for street furniture and additional parking areas. NK to provide details of bins/benches in the east of the southern area and RC for the west. The Clerk is to provide costs for bins & benches. CS will provide details of the parking requirements in Sheepwash Close; the Clerk will ask BDBC for information on costs of providing off road parking, based on several schemes in other areas.

The LIF applications for the 1st round are to be completed and tabled for discussion at a meeting to be held at 8pm on Monday 13 January. SB to be invited.

Finally, it was agreed to include an item in the agenda of the RPC meeting on 27 January to discuss a feasibility study re the retention/refurbishment of specific pavilion(s), currently scheduled for demolition. PM to provide supporting facts and figures.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21:50.

Date.....

Chairman.....