

ROOKSDOWN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF ROOKSDOWN PARISH COUNCIL (RPC) HELD ONLINE on 26 October 2020 at 1930

	In Attendance	Apologies	Absent
Cllr Paul Mahoney (Chairman)	✓		
Cllr Paul Lovett (Vice-chairman)	✓		
Cllr Tim Botten	✓		
Cllr Scott Mason	✓		
Cllr Jon Payne		✓	
Cllr Doug How	✓		
Cllr Dan Harris	✓		

Clerk:

Martin Whittaker

In attendance:

Simon Bound, Borough Councillor and Manager of Rooksdown Community Association (RCA)
...plus one member of the public

Action

- 20/180 **To receive and accept apologies for absence**
Apologies were received from Cllr Payne (domestic commitments).
- 20/181 **To note the resignation of Cllr Morris**
Noted.
- 20/182 **To receive and note any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and requests for dispensation for items to be discussed**
None.
- 20/183 **To approve the minutes of the Rooksdown Parish Council meeting of 28 September**
The motion being proposed by Cllr Lovett, seconded Cllr How, **IT WAS RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the minutes. Cllr Mahoney asked for his abstention to be noted as he had not been present at the meeting.
The minutes were signed on camera by the Chairman.
- 20/184 **To note the draft minutes of the HR Committee meeting of 30 September and draft Allotments Committee meeting of 12 October**
The Clerk reported that he was waiting for information from Cllr Payne before the HR Committee meeting minutes could be completed. He also advised that the draft minutes needed to be published by 30 October to avoid a breach of the Transparency Code.
The Allotment Committee minutes were duly noted.
- 20/185 **To discuss matters arising from the minutes**
All items complete except:
- 20/4 Bus shelter – on agenda
 - 20/12 Fencing – Clerk – Gordon Wade had advised that the project was currently in the hands of BDBC procurement
 - 20/25 Rewilding of grass areas in Rooksdown – this would be reconsidered in Spring 2021

- 20/55 Rooksdown Reporter commercial delivery – Clerk to obtain revised quotes Clerk
- 20/59 Skatepark cleaning – suspended for 12 months from Sept 2020
- 20/61 Replacement of RPC with HCC salt bins – the Clerk reported that he had been in touch with Cllr Taylor who was helping to resolve this.
 - Checking salt levels – Cllr Lovett reported that there were 70 bags in stock, which should be sufficient for the winter. The Clerk was asked to arrange for the bins to be filled up & raise an agenda item in the next council meeting if further bags were required following the topping up of the existing bins. Clerk
- 20/64.1, 20/116.1 Car parks – both the Clerk and Chairman had chased Taylor Wimpey with no material response. The Chairman had also taken other steps to progress matters with Taylor Wimpey as described in 20/187 below.

20/186 **To invite members of the public to address the meeting (up to 15 minutes in total)**

None.

20/187 **To receive reports from:**

1. Chairman of Rooksdown Parish Council

The Chairman explained that he had been engaging with Taylor Wimpey over several months on the following issues:

1. The sweeping of The Avenue – Taylor Wimpey had promised in March 2020 to undertake a quarterly sweep (following no action in the previous 18 months) but there had been no sweep in either June or September as promised.
2. The re-erection of the ‘No Left Turn’ at the junction of Dinwoodie Drive/ Park Prewett Road – Taylor Wimpey had been asked to fix the sign at the beginning of the year but had not yet done so. This is responsible for sending significant volumes of traffic (illegally) turning left out of Dinwoodie Drive and travelling through Rooksdown.
3. At least 7 lights are not working in the Southern Area (for which Taylor Wimpey are still responsible) – which affects the personal safety and property security of the residents in the area.
4. Adoption of The Avenue and the outstanding parts of Park Prewett Road and the top of Pumphouse Way – still no progress appeared to have been made.

The Chairman explained how exasperated he was by the lack of any response at all from Jo Murphy (Bonds and Adoptions Manager at Taylor Wimpey) on any of the issues and had escalated the matters to the appropriate Senior Management at Homes England and the Technical Director and Managing Director at Taylor Wimpey. The Chairman advised he will provide an update in the next meeting.

The Chairman thanked Cllr How for his ongoing engagement with the Management & Site Manager at Squirrel Wood in relation to the various impacts on Rooksdown residents.

Finally, the Chairman congratulated the organisers responsible for the Rooksdown Scarecrow Trail recognising the amount of effort involved. With good weather it was a great event for the community, raising money for the school.

2. Clerk to the Parish Council - the Clerk reported that the Christmas tree was due to be installed and lit in the last week of November
3. County Councillor – no report
4. Borough Councillor

Cllr Bound first congratulated the people responsible for the Rooksdown Scarecrow Trail and hoped it would be repeated.

He mentioned that a number of issues were appearing on the new developments and offered to co-ordinate with the Chairman to present a common view to developers. **Bound/
Mahoney**

BDBC would be launching a “social media advent calendar” with each day featuring an area of Basingstoke - including Rooksdown.

He was also pursuing the enforcement of the protection of the Old Barn site.

5. Rooksdown Community Association (RCA)

Simon Bound reported that the Spinney Project, undertaken by RCA on behalf of the Lands Trust was well under way.

6. Police/PCSO/CSPO – A report had been received from the PCSO in connection with item 20/188 below.

20/188 **To review recent crime figures for Rooksdown**

The Clerk presented the graph of crime in Rooksdown, which appeared to show no real trend. PCSO Ryan Long had been copied on the minutes of the last meeting and the crime figures and had replied saying in summary:

- The figures (and graph) present an exaggerated view of crime in Rooksdown as
 - Some crimes only affect one person and not the community
 - The figures are low compared with the rest of Basingstoke
 - The figures include items that are not actual crimes but are adjustments to recognise changes in the way they are collected
 - South Ham and Buckskin are higher priority areas of Basingstoke West.

Members concluded that there was little the council could or should do, save repeating police messages about locking cars, houses and sheds, and the rise of dog theft in the area. Residents should also be encouraged to report low-level crime – including illegal drug use - as every report could provide intelligence to the police. It was also suggested that residents with privately owned CCTV & doorbell cameras should be encouraged to register the locations of their cameras with police under the police Digital Evidence Management Scheme. This would increase police investigative opportunities and chances to catch offenders. A camera could capture a key piece of evidence.

20/189 **To approve payments**

The motion being proposed by Cllr Mahoney, seconded Cllr Lovett, **IT WAS RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the following payments:

Date	Description	Supplier	Amount
27/10/2020	Main Hall survey fee	BSPM	540.00
27/09/2020	Phone	Giffgaff	6.00
27/10/2020	Mow and strim	Goslings Garden and Fencing Services	187.20
27/10/2020	Mow and strim	Goslings Garden and Fencing Services	361.20
27/10/2020	Mow and strim	Goslings Garden and Fencing Services	259.20
27/10/2020	Salary balance	M Whittaker	88.50
25/10/2020	Basic salary	M Whittaker	800.00
12/10/2020	Replacement padlock	Screwfix	13.49
27/10/2020	External Audit	PKF Littlejohn	360.00
27/10/2020	Handyman inv 1361	RCA	690.00
27/10/2020	Office rent inv 1360	RCA	15.00

Cllr Botten was asked to authorise the payments.

20/190 **To note current bank reconciliations**

The reconciliations were examined by Cllr How and duly noted by the council, with the following reconciled balances as of 30 September:

- Treasurers Account £25,404
- Business Bank Instant Account £80,737

20/191 **To receive quarterly budget report**

The Clerk reported that all was broadly on target, with some savings occurring due to the lack of need to hire meeting rooms.

20/192 **To note result of external audit**

The Clerk reported that the External Audit was now complete with no qualifications. However, the auditors had made a comment that the period for the Exercise of Public Rights had been later than intended by the regulations. The Clerk had explained to them that, along with many RFOs, he had set the date as late as possible as the council's office was closed due to the pandemic.

The audit was noted.

20/193 **To consider commenting on the BDBC Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment, with respect to:**

- **Land between Rooksdown Lane and Weybrook Golf Club**
- **Weybrook Golf Club north of Rooksdown Lane**

The Clerk explained that these sites were being considered, not because BDBC wished for them to be developed, but that developers had asked them to be considered. As both sites were against Local Plan policies they were unlikely to be developed – unless BDBC failed to show a 5-year land supply. The main reasons against development of the sites were those given in the SHELAA.

After some discussion, the motion being proposed by Cllr Lovett, seconded Cllr Mahoney, **IT WAS RESOLVED** unanimously to comment that neither site should be developed, with the detailed comments being written by the Clerk in consultation with members.

Clerk

20/194 **Planning applications**

1. [20/02515/FUL](#) | Extension to the VIE (vacuum insulated evaporator) plant compound to include extended concrete base and fencing. This compound is located on the hospital grounds. The compound houses the external oxygen storage vessels. | North Hampshire Hospital Aldermaston Road Basingstoke RG24 9NA

The motion being proposed by Cllr Mahoney, seconded Cllr Mason, **IT WAS RESOLVED** unanimously to offer no object to the application.

2. Applications not on the agenda
[20/02672/FUL](#) Construction of 2 no. portacabins adjacent to the main ambulance center, for the staff changing rooms and office space. | Ambulance Station Aldermaston Road Basingstoke RG24 9LY

The motion being proposed by Cllr Lovett, seconded Cllr How, **IT WAS RESOLVED** unanimously to offer no object to the application.

20/195 **To consider co-option to fill a potential vacancy for a councillor**

The motion being proposed by Cllr Lovett, seconded Cllr Mason, **IT WAS RESOLVED** unanimously that, if no election were called to fill the vacancy left by Councillor Morris' resignation, the council intended to co-opt to fill it.

20/196 **To receive progress report from the Main Hall Working Group and make appropriate decisions – Clerk**

The Clerk reported that:

- Still no response had been received from the developers about the Heads of Terms, despite reminders.
- The surveyor's report had identified a number of issues which the needed to be discussed with the developer.

The Clerk was asked to arrange a WG meeting to discuss these items.

Clerk

20/197 **To consider the installation of a bus shelter at Peggs Way - Lovett**

The council had previously agreed to install the shelter under minute 20/11 with a budget of £6000. The motion being proposed by Cllr Lovett, seconded Cllr Botten, **IT WAS RESOLVED** unanimously to go ahead with the installation of the bus shelter with a budget of £7000. The Clerk was asked to arrange this.

Clerk

It was also agreed not to consider any more shelters until this one had been installed and was in use.

20/198 To receive an update on skatepark issues – Payne

The Chairman reported on behalf of Cllr Payne that, of the two options discussed in July under minute 20/154:

- Remove the grindbox – this would cost £2-5K, but the risk of damage to the integrity of the structure and effect on users make it undesirable
- Move the shelter - this would cost £3K, but because of the risk of damage a higher budget would be required.

Cllr Bound stated that the shelter was part of the masterplan for the park, but the location was probably not important to the plan. He also pointed out that the shelter already faced away from the school and was there before the school extension was built.

Members were generally against the removal of the grindbox and uncertain whether moving the shelter would offer any improvement.

The clerk reported that there was no budget for this work in the current financial year.

It was agreed to consider the situation again at the next meeting and if necessary include it in the budget for next year.

20/199 To plan the next edition of the Rookdown Reporter

It was agreed in principle that an edition should be put out before Christmas. Subjects to be covered might include:

- Police and crime, including dog theft and registering CCTV & doorbell camera
- LIF fencing progress
- Allotments
- Bus shelter
- Salt usage
- Christmas message
- Report from the school (Simon Bound to organise)
- Scarecrow Trail

Bound

Copy deadline was end of first week in November.

The Clerk was asked to obtain quotes for delivery. The budget for this and for production would be considered at the November meeting.

Clerk

20/200 Chairman's correspondence

The Chairman had been asked if, in principle, the council would be prepared to lend out its speed camera. Members were uncertain; the Chairman agreed that if asked formally he would bring the matter to a council meeting.

20/201 Clerk's correspondence

The Clerk had received an email from the Manydown team saying that the master developer (Urban and Civic), supported by the Wellcome Trust, would like the opportunity to attend the next meeting to listen to members opinions and answer any questions.

Members felt that because there would be no December meeting, the November meeting was likely to be busy and the January meeting would be more suitable.

The Clerk was asked to arrange this.

Clerk

20/202 Chairman to close meeting

The meeting was closed at 2150.