

ROOKSDOWN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF ROOKSDOWN PARISH COUNCIL (RPC) HELD ONLINE on 22 February 2021 at 1930

	In Attendance	Apologies	Absent
Cllr Paul Mahoney (Chairman)	✓		
Cllr Paul Lovett (Vice-chairman)	✓		
Cllr Tim Botten	✓		
Cllr Lewis-Dalgarno	✓		
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 3 co-option candidates and 1 member of the public.

Action

- 21/19 **To receive and accept apologies for absence**
None.
- 21/20 **To receive and note any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and requests for dispensation for items to be discussed**
None.
- 21/21 **To approve the minutes of the Rooksdown Parish Council meeting of 25 January**
The motion being proposed by Cllr Mahoney, seconded Cllr Mason, **IT WAS RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the minutes, which were signed on camera by the Chairman.
- 21/22 **To discuss matters arising from the minutes**
All items complete except:
- 20/4 Bus shelter – Clerk – now installed
 - 20/12 Fencing – Clerk - no progress - lockdown
 - 20/61 Replacement of RPC with HCC salt bins
Now in the hands of HCC but may be delayed due to COVID.
 - 20/64.1, 20/116.1 Car parks – on agenda
 - 20/200 – planting between skatepark and school – Clerk – waiting for a meeting with the school and HCC - suspended due to lockdown.
- 21/23 **To invite members of the public to address the meeting (up to 15 minutes in total)**
The 3 co-option candidates present introduced themselves.
- 21/24 **To receive reports from:**
1. Chairman of Rooksdown Parish Council

- Taylor Wimpey – despite assurances none of the work reported in the January update for action in February appears to have been done. The Chairman, along with Cllr Mason & Cllr Bound will be meeting Taylor Wimpey to discuss this.
 - Rooksdown Reporter – a new edition should be issued as soon as lockdown allows, probably after Easter. The Clerk will produce revised copy by 12 March and the full draft will be prepared by the Chairman and submitted to the next meeting.
2. Clerk to the Parish Council:
- Squirrel Wood – it had been reported that they were using land outside the approved area for storage and for parking. The storage issue appeared to have been rectified, but the Clerk was asked to investigate and if necessary, pursue enforcement against the parking.
 - Annual Parish Meeting:
 - There is no provision in law for holding it remotely
 - It is currently against NALC/SLCC advice to meet face-to-face
 - We are advice is to schedule for as late as possible (before 1 June) and wait for legislation/advice
 - Co-option – 3 expressions of interest have been received.
3. County Councillor – no report
4. Borough Councillor:
- Still trying to identify the person who is cutting ivy on protected trees in the Spinney: anyone seeing them in action should report it to Cllr Bound or the Clerk
 - The NHS wishes to pay for some exercise equipment for Rooksdown Park, but needs permission from the Borough
 - Thanks to Cllr Payne for being instrumental in the design of the new skatepark in the Memorial Park
 - The hospital wishes to come to a future RPC meeting to discuss plans for a new catheter lab, especially issues related to parking.
5. Rooksdown Community Association (RCA)
- Nursery still open, but nothing else; opening of other clubs etc will be considered after the elections on 6 May.
6. Police/PCSO/CSPO
- PCSO Long sent a written report saying there were few issues in Rooksdown at the moment.

Clerk
Mahoney

Clerk

21/25 To approve payments

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

Date	Description	Supplier	Amount
27/01/2021	Phone bill	Giffgaff	6.00
01/02/2021	Web hosting	Webhosting UK COM Ltd	47.88
01/02/2021	Web hosting - card fee	Webhosting UK COM Ltd	1.66
27/02/2021	Feb salary	M Whittaker	800.00
23/02/2021	Feb pay balance	M Whittaker	16.54
13/01/2021	Currency adjust - trans. 628	Envato Pty Ltd	-0.27
22/02/2021	Office rent	RCA	15.00
22/02/2021	Handyman	RCA	750.00

Cllr Botten agreed to authorise the payments, given Cllr Harris was unable to access internet banking.

Botten

21/26 To note current bank reconciliations

The reconciliations were examined by Cllr Lovett and duly noted by the council, with the following reconciled balances as of 31 December:

- Treasurers Account £18,833.43
- Business Bank Instant Account £100,895.85

21/27 **To consider revised banking arrangements**

The Chairman declared a non-disclosable interest as an employee of Lloyds Bank, the council's current bankers.

The Clerk referred to the briefing note recommending the Redwood 35-day notice account at 0.70%. After some discussion members concluded that:

- The account would earn interest of ~£500 pa more than our current arrangements
- The council has a duty to take advantage of such benefits
- There was no apparent problem with the 35 days' notice.

However, members wished for further information on security issues.

The Clerk was asked to progress an application for an account with Redwood Bank and bring the papers to the next meeting for further consideration.

21/28 **Planning applications**

1. Applications not on the agenda

Two applications had been received on 22 February for the same property:

[21/00462/HSE](#) | Erection of a single storey rear extension | 8 Pumphouse Way Basingstoke Hampshire RG24 9GY

[21/00461/HSE](#) | Conversion of part garage to living accommodation | 8 Pumphouse Way Basingstoke Hampshire RG24 9GY

Members were of the opinion that, although the extension was unremarkable the conversion of the garage would remove a parking space, leaving only one space on site. As the dwelling was of 3 storeys and appeared to have 3 or 4 bedrooms, this would cause the number of spaces to drop below the 1.75 (2-3-bed) or 2.75 (4 bed) specified in the BDBC parking SPD.

The motion being proposed by Cllr Lovett, seconded Cllr Mahoney, **IT WAS RESOLVED** unanimously to offer no objection to the extension but to object to the garage conversion due to the loss of parking space.

21/29 **To consider accepting the transfer of the cemetery**

The Clerk had received an email from Hampshire Hospitals to see if the parish was interested in taking over the war and children's cemetery. He had visited the cemetery and found:

- The site was large, with less than a quarter of it used as a children's cemetery.
- The children's areas were reasonably maintained but needed significant effort to bring up to an acceptable standard.
- The rest of the site consisted of thick (10-30cm) moss instead of grass. There were a few scattered memorials, but the lumps and bumps imply that there were unmarked graves under the moss. The fences were in poor repair and the vegetation in poor condition.
- Bringing the site up to an acceptable standard would be very expensive...
- ...as would future maintenance.

Members made the following points:

- The cemetery was part of the history of Rooksdown, and should be kept in good repair
- It was not clear whether it was still open for burials
- Although the Canadian war graves had been moved to Worting Road, it was unclear whether any graves remained

- If the hospital were to move to a new location, it was likely that the site would suffer further neglect.

The Clerk was asked to contact the hospital to find more information, and if appropriate, arrange a site meeting. Cllrs Lewis-Dalgarno, Mahoney, How and Mason offered to attend such a meeting.

21/30 To consider traffic issues in Rooksdown, including speeding and the placement of road signs

Cllr Mason summarised the issues as:

- Speeding especially in Park Prewett Road
- General lack of attention to the 20mph zone
- Lack of 20mph repeater signs.

The Chairman and Cllr Bound then gave a brief history of speed limits in Rooksdown and the lack of ability to do anything more to improve signage.

After some discussion it was concluded that the only active step the council could take would be to resurrect the SpeedWatch group and collect some data. Cllr Mahoney offered to do this.

Mahoney

21/31 To note the requirement to review Register of Interest entries and confirm this to the Clerk

The Clerk had asked again for all members to review their Register of Interest Entries and confirm to him when they had done so. Cllrs Mahoney and Harris informed the meeting that they had reviewed their entries, and Cllr Lovett agreed to do so.

Lovett

21/32 To consider co-option arrangements

The Clerk explained that the present co-option process had been agreed on the assumption that there would be no elections in May. However, the government had now confirmed the elections would take place. BDBC Democratic Services had confirmed that co-option was still legal, but anybody co-opted at the meeting on 22 March would have to submit nomination papers more or less immediately and would only be a councillor for one meeting.

In the light of this information, the motion being proposed by Cllr Lovett, seconded Cllr Harris, **IT WAS RESOLVED** unanimously to not to co-opt for the vacancy on the council.

21/33 Exclusion of Press and Public

The motion being proposed by Cllr Mahoney, seconded Cllr Payne, **IT WAS RESOLVED** unanimously to close the meeting to press and public in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, to discuss the transfer of the car parks in Peggs Way to the council.

The members considered the confidential report circulated by the Clerk and confirmed that the council had not decided to accept the transfer of the car parks until the work had been completed.

Cllrs Mahoney and Bound were due to meet with Taylor Wimpey this week and would investigate how to resolve the outstanding issues.

21/34 Chairman's correspondence

The Chairman had been contacted by the Economist, wishing to discuss the closure of the skate park. This had been referred to Cllr Bound, who had referred it to BDBC's PR team.

He had also had an email from Homes England on the transfer of the car parks as discussed above.

21/35 Clerk's correspondence

The Clerk reported receipt of:

- Letter from a member of the public asking for the skatepark to be reopened with voluntary wardens – passed to Cllr Bound as the skate park is owned by BDBC

- Emails from BDBC explaining the lack of 5-year land supply, and that this might lead to developers rushing to put in planning applications for new developments, including for Weybrook Golf Club.
- Letter about the Hampshire “solar together” scheme
 - Group buying of solar roof panels
 - 170,000 households will be targeted with further information

The Clerk would post this on the website

- Notification of new parking restrictions - Pumphouse way and Park Prewett – also to be posted on the website.
- The Census will take place Sunday 21 March

21/36 **Chairman to close meeting**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.53.