

ROCK PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Meeting of the Rock Parish Council held in Callow Hill Methodist Hall, Bliss Gate on **Monday 27th May 2008 commencing at 7.00pm.**

Present: Councillors D Godwin (Chairman)
J C Simmonds J Turner
J Nott Miss Morris
Mrs P Pain K Perkins
Mrs Harvey Mrs Fermin
C Hadler C Price
G Watson

Apologies were accepted from: County Councillor John Campion

In attendance: Mr S Clee Clerk, County Council Chairman Alwyn Davies, Mr & Mrs A Ward, Mrs J Nott, Mrs J Simmonds, Mr & Mrs C Dalley, Mr Brian Woodhouse, Mrs I Fermin, Joan Palmer, Mr & Mrs Richard T Lyes, Mr Peter Johnson, Mrs Fran Cractchley, Mrs K Perkins, Colin Link & PC Pauline Montague.

523 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 28th April 2008 and as previously circulated were approved and signed by the Chairman.

524 Declaration of Interest for a) The Meeting and b) Any Changes to be notified to the Registers of Interests and Gifts & Hospitality;

- a) There were none.
- b) There were none.

525 Election of Chairman & Vice Chairman

The Council resolved to appoint Councillor Douglas Godwin to the position of Chairman and Councillor Chris Price Vice Chairman for the 2008-09 municipal year. Councillor Godwin thanked members of the parish for their confidence. He formally welcomed County Council Chairman Alwyn Davies to the meeting to present the Civic Awards.

526 Public Participation

The Chairman invited members of the public to speak. Mr Woodhouse raised a matter of a blocked footpath and it was agreed the issue would be reported to the County Footpaths Department.

527 Presentation of Past Chairman Medals and Parish Awards

The Chairman invited County Chairman Alwyn Davies to present Civic Awards to Mr & Mrs Richard Lyes, Mrs Fran Cratchley & Mr Peter Johnson. These awards were presented in recognition of their work over many years in the Far Forest Scouts and Associated Movements.

The County Chairman then presented Past Parish Chairman medals to the following serving Councillors;

Mr John Simmonds Chairman in - 1974, 1978, 1988 & 2000.

Mr W J W Nott – 1999

Mrs A M (Pat) Pain – 2003

Mr Keith Perkins – 2004, 2005, 2006

The County Chairman said he was very pleased to be invited to present the awards and having 10 parish councils in his own division he recognised the good work done by parish councillors.

528 Chairman's Annual Report

The Chairman presented his Annual Report, commencing with thanks to the Vice Chairman, Mr Chris Price for his support and assistance this year and he also wished to thank the Past Chairman Mr Keith Perkins for his guidance and help during this year. He also thanked the Clerk, Mr Stephen Clee for keeping himself and the Council up to date and well organised. He felt sure that all the Councillors would wish him to pass the general thanks of the Council to Mr Clee for his hard work in the past year.

The Chairman said that he had very much enjoyed his year in the Chair and had found the time to be most interesting. He had attended through the year several functions representing the Council and the saddest of those was the funeral service for the CSO James Price killed in a road accident on the way to work in Bewdley. On the happy side of life was the invitation from the Rock & Heightington PCC to open the Rock Church fete which was a very happy and sunny day and he believed quite profitable for the Church as well. He also attended the Far Forest School summer show along with the Horticultural Society Show at Callow Hill. He also attended as Chairman, the Remembrance Day service held at our War Memorial for those who gave their lives for all our freedoms that we take for granted today. He also attended the St Georges Day parade by the Scouting Association and it was pleasing to see so many young people taking part in this parade and that the Scouting movement has such a strong base in our community. He would recommend it to any of our children and he hoped that this Council can continue its support for this organisation that helps build the civic pride we need in our communities. No matter what he had attended he was impressed by the hard work and dedication of the organising team often the same few people involved in putting on a good show or event for our community and the general public.

He had the pleasing honour of presenting to our past Chairmen and Chairwoman their medals as a thank you for the service they had all given to this Council and Parish and he was very sad to know of the loss of Mr John Nott, a former member and Chairman of this Council.

In the matter of the Council itself, the training undertaken by members and himself was a useful review of our responsibilities and level of authority that we have at the moment. He will strongly urge other members to take up training opportunities when available and he will be asking the Clerk to arrange further training events for this Council on its own. He had also attended some of the regional meetings of CALC and this had given him a better understanding of our roll in relation to the other tiers of Government. This also strengthened his feeling that the first tier is able and wanting to take responsibility away from the District where it can be seen to be effective and appropriate.

The major event in the past municipal year was the flooding that affected so many people and communities throughout the County. The work carried out by the County Council is still ongoing and we, as the Parish Council, will have to keep the pressure on them to carry out the road and bridge repairs to a high standard and to continue to prepare for the greater rainfall that will come due to the global warming phenomenon. The drainage systems will need upgrading with much better routine maintenance from now on if flooding is not to become a greater problem. To that end the Emergency Plan produced by this Council and part of the District and County plans will show to the higher powers that this Council is up to the mark in its planning and readiness to help the community whatever the eventuality.

The cleaning of the highway drains and the ongoing support to the Lengthsman scheme is vital to this Council and our Parish and he will do all he can to keep this in place in spite of the increased pressure on the funding of such schemes.

The Lengthsman Scheme is a continuing success and he was grateful that we have Colin in this position and he had found the community appreciative of what he is doing and he has received many good reports of his advice and assistance to members and the community at large and he was very pleased that he and his wife could attend our annual dinner at Little Lakes so that he could express our thanks to him as a Council.

The purchase of the land at Timberdyne Close has added to the council land holding and maintenance responsibilities but is also a useful way to show that the Parish can take control of a situation that could become a cause of conflict in the village and prevent such actions that could be deemed as opportunist and against the best interests of the community at large. The purchase has also allowed the community to continue its involvement with voluntary action and help in maintaining the grounds for which he thanked those members of the public who continue to help on a voluntary basis.

The Council has had the normal work load in planning applications and such applications continue to show that our community wishes to invest in its property and to add value to their land holding. He had to say, from a personal point of view, that the type and style of applications is varied and many, but believed that the standard of application is improving and that we, as councillors, have a duty to assist in encouraging the better design and attention to detail in these applications, such as energy conservation, low carbon footprint and environmental protection which will become of greater importance in the coming years.

The Chairman said that he was pleased with the close and continuing work with the Police and thanked Sergeant Chris Aimes and WPC Montague for their regular updates on what happens in the Parish and he was surprised at the level of activity that our Police have to deal with. He believed that we as a Council will have to take on a greater role in crime prevention and surveillance for our community in the future. He recently took part in a Police survey at Clows Top, done by West Mercia Police in conjunction with the Tenbury Force, and was very impressed with the general response we received on the door. The main and obvious problem was speeding cars and motor bikes on the A456, but also environmental problems such as the burning tyres and the amount of rubbish on the road side. West Mercia Police have also contributed to the cost of the new Parish notice boards now in place. He was sorry that the public did not attend the PACT meeting arranged in the Parish but he had attended several in Bewdley and hoped to continue this contact in the future.

I know that in the past year we as a Council have laid the foundations for the future by putting the Council on a sound financial footing by increasing our reserves in line with audit recommendation. Making sound monetary planning with budgets that allow for the increased responsibilities of the Council but also keep a firm control on the expenses and costs of the council, while still modernising our systems and equipment e.g. printers, projector computer systems and paying for the necessary professional support that the Council will need such as the Clerk, Bankers, Audit and Legal advice.

He hoped that we can all continue this progress and encourage the Parish at large to join in the work of making our Parish a safe and happy place to live and bring up our children.

Finally, the Chairman wished to thank all the members of this Council for the work that they do and the time they give up for the sake of our community and for the good governance of this part of the realm.

529 County Councillor's Report

In the absence of Councillor Campion there was no report.

530 Planning Matters:

009 Application No 08/0408: MR CLAY 1 HOME FARM COTTAGES, RIBBESFORD, BEWDLEY, DY122TQ applicant's intention to carry out the following work within a Conservation Area: Fell two Sycamore trees.

RESOLVED to approve provided the Tree Officer at Wyre Forest was content.

010 Application No : 08/0425/RESE
Valid Date : 22/04/2008
Application for : Erection of two detached dwellings (submission of all reserved matters following outline planning permission of 05/1211) at LAND ADJOINING CAMELOT, (FORMER ROCK GARAGE SITE), CALLOW HILL, ROCK, KIDDERMINSTER, DY149DB

RESOLVED to approve provided Highways have no objections.

011 Application No : 08/0435/FULL
Valid Date : 28/04/2008 Application for : Single storey extension at FULLWOOD, CALLOW HILL, ROCK, KIDDERMINSTER, DY149XL.

RESLOVED to approve this application provided a condition is placed that the extension is ancillary to the current dwelling and not sold separate to the house.

012 Application No : 08/0475/FULL Valid Date : 13/05/2008
Application for : Conservatory. at BIRCHES FARM, KINLET ROAD, ROCK, KIDDERMINSTER, DY147NP.

RESOLVED to approve with no objections.

531 Correspondence Sheet

Council noted the correspondence sheet.

532 Meeting dates for 2008-09

Council approved the schedule of meeting dates for 2008-09.

533 Timberdyne Close Working Group

Councillor Perkins referred to an earlier meeting this evening of the Timberdyne Close Working Group. The group had discussed a great deal of matters and recommended the following to council:

- i) Agree to Mr Maidment cutting the grass and send a payment of £50.00 for contribution to the petrol for his lawn mower.

- ii) Give delegated powers to the Clerk to discuss the tree matters with Wyre Forest Community Housing and carry out any works necessary following professional advice of their trees officer.
- iii) Ask Wyre Forest District Council for a Dog Bin and have it installed in a sensible location.
- iv) Ask Wyre Forest District Council to provide a Litter Bin and install it in a sensible location.
- v) Ask our lengthsman to look at the edge of the land and remove the bulbs and seed accordingly.

Councillor Perkins moved the above recommendations and it was RESOLVED unanimously to support the actions.

554 Vacant Seat

The Clerk advised that the council had two applicants for the vacant seat. Following a discussion and having read the applicants' letters, a ballot was held and Mrs Iris Fermin was co-opted to the council. The Clerk would write to Mr R Whiteman and inform him of the council's decision.

555 Tree Warden

The Clerk advised the council that nobody had responded to the notice board advertisement. Councillor Simmonds said he had offered his services for the position at the last meeting but was now reconsidering. It was RESOLVED to make this an agenda item in June.

556 Clows Top Notice Board

Councillor Miss Morris advised Council that Bayton Parish Council had approached West Mercia Police for a grant towards a new Notice Board which they intended to locate adjoining the Telephone Box at Clows Top.

557 Recycling in Far Forest & Ranters Bank

Cllr Mrs Fermin referred to an item at a previous meeting concerning the lack of recycling in the Ranters Bank and Far Forest area. Councillor John Simmonds confirmed that he had contacted the district council and the area in question was scheduled for recycling at the moment but would be towards the latter end of 2008.

558 Finances

Invoices amounting to £364.00 were approved for payment. Income and Expenditure spreadsheets were noted for 2007-08. It was RESOLVED to appoint Mr Keith Bannister, Treasurer of Wyre Forest District Council, to internally Audit our Accounts for 2007-08.

559 Date of the next meeting

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 21.50 hrs. The date of the next meeting is Monday 25th June 2008.

Chairman.....

27th May 2008