

RUFFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 17 September 2024 at 6.00 pm at the Markham Suite, Rufford Mill, Rufford

Present: Councillors:

D. Fernley (Chair)
J. Pearce
B. Bates
D. Johnson
M. Jones (from 6.15 pm)
A. Drane
J. Ball (from 6.10 pm)

In attendance:

C. Wilson (Clerk)
S Carlton (County councillor)
C. Hanrahan (Parkwood Leisure)
I. Higginson Three Rivers Restoration Project Manager - Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust
Lena Olley Three Rivers Restoration Project Officer - Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust
Members of the public (x2)

	DISCUSSION AND DECISIONS	ACTION
RPC/71/24	Apologies for absence: Mr Ball and Mr Jones had been delayed.	
RPC/72/24	Declarations of interest: There were no declarations of interest, direct or indirect, in any items of business on the agenda.	
RPC/73/24	Dispensations: No dispensations required.	
RPC/74/24	Parkwood Leisure Report: Ms Hanrahan: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Reported that upcoming events included Halloween celebrations from 12 October to 3 November 2024, a stalls market and an event featuring White Post Farm.b. Updated councillors on works in the Park including the:<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. cleaning of then courtyardsii. Abbey restoration which is on track for completion by the end of September 2024 to be followed by work on the undercroft under English Heritage's oversight hopefully with a view to allowing access to the public at a date in the future.iii. the meadow cut planned for this monthc. Reported that the grounds maintenance contract with Glendale is coming to an end. Parkwood Leisure is recruiting an in house grounds manager instead.d. Explained that the Saville restaurant remains closed because of the ongoing issues with the roof. Ms Hanrahan left the meeting at 6.07 pm.	
RPC/75/24	Presentation - Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust - Three Rivers Restoration Project: Mr Higginson and Ms Olley were welcomed to the meeting. Their presentation referred to the following in particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Nottingham Wildlife Trust's principal aim of engaging the community with nature.2. The three rivers were Rainworth Water, a stretch of Beck Water and the River Maun3. The project is funded by Severn Trent under the water industry environmental programme. Monitoring has identified these three rivers as the worst in Nottinghamshire. They are neglected and have poor waterflow. The project involves eighteen sub-projects.	

	<p>4. These condition of these rivers is such that they have essentially become ditches funnelling water The project aims to improve them to allow water to flow more effectively so that it spills into the adjoining flood plains.</p> <p>5. The work includes replicating beaver activities and removing barriers to eel migration by the installation of fish passes to allow them ready upstream access.</p> <p>6. Areas for work include an eel pass at Maylodge and wetland restoration at two locations in Rufford Park.</p> <p>7. Work is due to start in October 2024. Disruption from construction machinery will be kept to a minimum. Affected residents will be informed.</p> <p>Mr Ball and Mr Jones arrived during the presentation.</p> <p>Councillors thanked Mr Higginson and Ms Olley for their informative and interesting presentation.</p>	
RPC/76/24	<p>10 minutes public speaking time: Members of the public representing flooded Mickledale Close residents updated councillors on developments since they last attended the meeting on 16 January 2024 as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. They were working with flood management at NCC, NSDC, Severn Trent, the Environment Agency and the new MP to address flooding risks 2. Robins Dam had been identified as a cause of backed up water and has now been cleared by NCC 3. Housing development on 140 acres had elevated flow to Rainworth Water 4. The steel sheet piling at Mickledale Close was ineffective and needs to be replaced 5. They are exploring sources of funding for owners to make improvements 6. Residents are also undertaking clearance works and working with landowners to complete these 7. NSDC had just launched a flood funding scheme but applications were restricted to parish councils. The parish council was asked to support residents by submitting an application. <p>Mr Pearce reported that he had twice inspected the gate at Mickledale Close about which concerns had been raised. Residents confirmed that the anti-social behaviour had ceased.</p> <p>No other matters raised.</p>	Clerk
RPC/77/24	<p>Minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 16 July 2024: The minutes of the meeting on 16 July 2024 were approved.</p>	
RPC/78/24	<p>Matters arising – for information only: There were no matters arising.</p>	
RPC/79/24	<p>Reports from district and county councillors: Mr Carlton reported the following in particular:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ms Hanrahan and Mr Higginson had covered some updates to which he otherwise would have referred b. The implications of the change of government for the A614 improvement works were not yet clear c. A614 resurfacing work is underway as planned to coincide with the improvements. <p>He noted a suggestion by a councillor that the footpath in Ollerton would make a good cycle path.</p>	

RPC/80/24	Reports from Councillors: No reports.	
RPC/81/24	<p>Parish environment and appearance including Rufford Ford, Rufford – Prohibition of driving – Developments and update: There had been no developments since the last meeting. The reason was unclear. They asked the clerk to contact the NCC portfolio holder for an update.</p> <p>Councillors considered the request by the members of the public made at RPC/76/24 (10 minutes public speaking) and agreed to support residents by submitting an application to NSDC for funding for flood resources to support Mickledale Close residents.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
RPC/82/24	<p>a. Financial position as at 31 August 2024: Councillors considered and noted the clerk’s report showing the precise financial position at 31 August 2024 (incorporating the 2024-25 budget figures). The chair checked and verified the bank statement balances.</p> <p>b. Accounts for payment: Councillors unanimously approved four payments totalling £432.18.</p> <p>c. Insurance matters - Authority for clerk to settle claim: Discussion confidential. Minuted separately.</p>	Clerk/JP
RPC/83/24	<p>Planning:</p> <p>a. Applications: None</p> <p>b. To note planning decisions by NSDC: 24/01300/LDCP. Lawful Development Certificate for the use of an existing room in the house for business purposes. The Kennels Bungalow May Lodge Drive Rufford NG22 9DE: Approval noted.</p> <p>c. Great North Road Solar Park – Developments: Councillors noted that the proposal had moved to stage 2. Mr Carlton reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Eakring Parish Council and residents had met with Elements Green where questions had been asked about the adequacy of roads and the works which would be required ii. A £1million pot has been set aside to be shared with parishes iii. Business rates will be payable iv. Concerns had also been raised about the impact on wildlife. <p>Councillors discussed the proposal noting that Rufford parish had not been specifically consulted.</p> <p>d. Enforcement matters: Paddock, Cremorne Cottage, Maylodge Drive: The clerk reported that NSDC had visited on 10 September 2024 and she was waiting for an update.</p>	
RPC/84/24	Service faults: The clerk will chase Mrs Tift regarding the build up of debris at Amen Corner.	Clerk
RPC/85/24	Correspondence: Both items of correspondence noted.	
RPC/86/24	Agenda items for next meeting: As above	
RPC/87/24	Date of next meeting: 6.00 pm on Tuesday 19 November 2024	

The meeting closed at 7.05 pm