

RUFFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 15 November 2022 at 6.00 pm at the Markham Suite, Rufford Mill, Rufford

Present: Councillors:

D. Fernley (Chair)

B. Bates

J. Ball

A. Drane

J. Pearce

In attendance:

C. Wilson (Clerk)

S. Carlton (County councillor)

C Hanrahan (Parkwood Leisure)

Members of the public (x3)

	DISCUSSION AND DECISIONS	ACTION
RPC/90/22	Apologies for absence: All present.	
RPC/91/22	Declarations of interest: Mr Drane reported that he no longer had any contractual relationship with Centerparcs. There were no declarations of interest, direct or indirect, in any items of business on the agenda.	
RPC/93/22	Dispensations: No dispensations required.	
RPC/94/22	Parkwood Leisure Report: The following were raised and discussed: a. The Spectacle of Light finishes shortly. b. There will be a Christmas market later in November and Christmas lunches resume in December 2022. Ms Hanrahan noted that two dog bins need to be cleaned and the 4x4 wagon continues to churn up Broad Drive. She will raise both issues again. Ms Hanrahan was thanked for her attendance and left the meeting.	CH
RPC/95/22	10 minutes public speaking time: The public present played a recording of microlights flying over their property. Councillors understood the anti-social nature of these activities and sympathised with the residents. However, NSDC and Bilsthorpe Parish Council having been contacted, there was little additional recourse they could take. They discussed the scope for a referral to BMAA and CAA with the residents and the evidence required. After further discussion of the options, Mr Carlton offered to liaise directly with the residents to take their concerns forward. Two members of the public left the meeting.	SC
RPC/96/22	Minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 4 October 2022: The minutes of the meeting on 12 July 2022 were approved.	
RPC/97/22	Matters arising – for information only: No matters arising.	
RPC/98/22	Reports from district and county councillors: Mr Carlton reported as follows: 1. A steel fence is to be erected at the location of the gap in the fence at the railway bridge 2. He is pressing NCC as the landlord to erect a suitably secure fence around the perimeter of Rufford Park.	

	<p>3. A recycling consultation is to take place shortly with NCC looking to make a decision in February/March 2023.</p> <p>4. A meeting has taken place between Via, the police, NCC, the chair and vice chair in relation the Ford and footage of a bad accident involving a motorcyclist shared. Via is a major stakeholder in the situation and the action to be taken to manage the growing road safety issue and impact on the Park will become clear over the next few weeks. NCC is also undertaking a separate planning process in conjunction with the Environment Agency to stop vehicles driving up and down the Ford. Mr Carlton has also shared footage of the river being dammed with the Environment Agency. NSDC had been unable to attend the meeting but Mr Carlton has met with them and will share the notes of the meeting with them. NSDC is planning to undertake signal tests to establish whether the installation of temporary CCTV cameras is feasible. Mr Carlton feels that there remains more which could be done with rubber humps appearing to be a real possibility to slow vehicles down. Via is also looking at additional signage and Parkwood Leisure is to cut some trees back to ensure that the existing signage is visible. The political will is now such that action over and above road markings and signage will be required. The possibility of diverting the ford underground was discussed although the issue is drivers not the ford itself.</p> <p>Councillors raised the issue of removing the viewing platform to remove the audience factor. The introduction of double yellow lines was also discussed but effective enforcement posed challenges.</p> <p>Mr Carlton will share the contact details for the officer managing the issues with the ford.</p> <p>Increasing and significant interference with the weir and course of the water was also noted together with the impact on the surrounding land.</p> <p>The large potholes in the ford were also discussed with councillors noting that these still did not discourage drivers from driving recklessly through the water.</p> <p>There were reports of parking on Rufford Lane by members of the public viewing the driving which is blocking the footpath and forcing pedestrians with prams into the road.</p> <p>Councillors were frustrated that NSDC parking officers had attended three weeks ago to enforce the single yellow line restrictions but had been unable to issue any tickets because the line was obscured by fallen leaves or washed away by water. They were also disappointed that a police vehicle had been recorded and uploaded to You Tube driving at speed though the ford.</p> <p>A further meeting is to take place in December 2022. Mr Carlton will pass on the concerns raised in relation to the interference with the flow of the water. He also offered to liaise directly with residents who would like to contact him with their concerns.</p>	
RPC/99/22	Reports from Councillors: Nothing additional to the matters raised above.	
RPC/100/22	2023 meeting dates: The 2023 meeting dates were noted and approved . The clerk will share the dates with Parkwood Leisure.	Clerk
RPC/101/22	a. Financial position as at 31 October 2022: Councillors considered and noted the clerk's report showing the precise financial position at 30 September 2022 (incorporating the 2022-	

	<p>23 budget figures), the bank statements for October 2022 not having arrived. The chair verified the stated balances against bank statements.</p> <p>b. Accounts for payment: The council unanimously approved six payments totalling £1337.05, including the NJC salary increases and back pay due.</p> <p>c. Appointment of internal auditor: Councillors agreed that Halam parish clerk should be asked whether she would be prepared to undertake the role for a further year.</p> <p>d. Review system of internal control: Councillors discussed the operation of the system of internal control and agreed that it was adequate for the size and needs of the council and continued to operate effectively, subject to the appointment of an internal auditor which was in hand.</p> <p>e. Consider need for interim internal audit: The clerk advised councillors as to the on-going nature of the internal audit process. Councillors considered their financial affairs for the financial year to date. They decided that, given the annual internal audit carried out by Halam parish clerk, an interim internal audit would be disproportionate and was not justified.</p> <p>f. Insurance matters: a confidential matter was discussed.</p>	Clerk
RPC/102/22	<p>Planning matters:</p> <p>a. Applications:</p> <p>i. 22/01573/FULM Erection of a new packing building Featherstone House Farm Mickledale Lane Bilsthorpe - Councillors considered the application and had no objections to the proposal.</p> <p>ii. 22/01836/LBC Listed Building Consent application for internal works to create a changing room Rufford Mill Rufford Lane Rufford Newark On Trent NG22 9DF - Councillors considered the application and had no objections to the proposal.</p> <p>iii. 22/02083/FUL - Replacement of Santa's Grotto and Photo Collection with new Grotto and Retail Store/Ranger Hut and associated external works Santas Grotto And Retail Shop Sherwood Forest Holiday Village Old Rufford Road Rufford - Councillors considered the application and decided to object to the proposal on the grounds of the ecological and cumulative impact of the increased use and traffic attendant on the extension of the commercial activity on the site. They agreed that they would like the application called in should their decision be contrary to the officer recommendation.</p> <p>b. To note planning decisions by NSDC: Councillors noted planning approval by NCC in relation to 3/22/01794/CMA – Silage clamp extension at Stud Farm Biogas Plant, Rufford, Newark, NG22 9HB and by NSDC that prior approval was not required in relation to 22/01949/DEM Kennels Farm May Lodge Drive Rufford, both notifications having been received after the agenda had been circulated.</p> <p>c. Enforcement matters - 22/00205/ENFB - Alleged change of use from B1 industrial to B8 storage & distribution - Rufford Hills Farm, Rufford Lane, Rufford, NG22 9DQ – Councillors noted that the enforcement officer is actively investigating the matter and will contact the business owner.</p>	Clerk
RPC/103/22	<p>Parish environment and appearance including:</p> <p>a. Rufford Ford – See RPC/98/22 (Reports from district and county councillors) above</p> <p>b. New noticeboard – update: The siting of the noticeboard is with Via/NCC for approval.</p>	Clerk

	c. Use of microlights in parish - See RPC/95/22 (10 minutes public speaking time) above.	
RPC/104/22	Service faults: None reported.	
RPC/105/22	Correspondence: None	
RPC/106/22	Agenda items for next meeting: As above	
RPC/107/22	Date of next meeting: Tuesday 17 January 2023	

The meeting closed at 7.10 pm