

## RUFFORD PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 19 October 2021 at 6.00 pm at the Talbot Suite, Rufford Mill, Rufford

**Present:** Councillors:

D. Fernley (Chair)  
B. Bates  
J. Pearce  
A Drane  
J Ball (from 6.20pm)

**In attendance:**

C. Millward (Clerk)  
S. Carlton (County councillor)  
M. Hughes (Parkwood Leisure)  
M Colley (Parkwood Leisure)

	<b>DISCUSSION AND DECISIONS</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
<b>RPC/63/21</b>	<b>Apologies for absence:</b> Mr Ball was absent at the start of the meeting. Councillors consented to the absence.	
<b>RPC/64/21</b>	<b>Declarations of interest:</b> There were no declarations of interest, direct or indirect, in any items of business on the agenda.	
<b>RPC/65/21</b>	<b>Dispensations:</b> No dispensations required.	
<b>RPC/66/21</b>	<p><b>Parkwood Leisure Report:</b> Councillors welcomed Ms Colley (food and beverage manager) and Mr Hughes (new estate manager) to the meeting. Ms Colley outlined the forthcoming events schedule as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Spectacle of light</li><li>2. A number of weddings, many re-scheduled from lockdown</li><li>3. Various trails, including Christmas – these would largely involve daytime visitors.</li></ol> <p>She confirmed that residents would be kept informed as they had been before lockdown.</p> <p>Councillors raised the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. The increasing number of visitors to the viewing platform and associated increase in drivers. In addition, as observed by Mr Carlton, the imminent works at Ollerton roundabout will put Rufford Lane under more pressure with traffic seeking to avoid the roundabout. Ms Colley and Mr Hughes noted the position.</li><li>b. Two children had managed to climb over the park perimeter fence and access the ford. Ms Colley and Mr Hughes will investigate these concerns.</li><li>c. Overgrowing brambles. Mr Hughes will refer this to the landscape team.</li><li>d. The need for a no public access sign at the entrance to Bowers Farm, like that provided to Maylodge Drive. This would help prevent drivers turning in in error and having to exit again at a dangerous point. Ms Colley and Mr Hughes will investigate.</li></ol> <p>Councillors appreciated that both Ms Colley and Mr Hughes were new to their meetings and Mr Hughes had only recently joined Parkwood Leisure.</p> <p>Mr Ball arrived at 6.20 pm.</p> <p>Ms Colley will forward contact details for Parkwood officers to then clerk to be forwarded to councillors, particularly for use in relation to</p>	<b>Clerk</b>

	issues arising out of events and visitor traffic.	
<b>RPC/67/21</b>	<b>10 minutes public speaking time:</b> No public present.	
<b>RPC/68/21</b>	<b>Minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 20 July 2021:</b> The minutes of the meeting on 20 July 2021 were approved.	
<b>RPC/69/21</b>	<b>Matters arising – for information only:</b> No matters arising.	
<b>RPC/70/21</b>	<p><b>Reports from district and county councillors:</b> Councillors had met with Mr S Carlton and the Highways representative, Jo Horton, to discuss the ford and traffic speeding through the water. Following a lack of progress, the clerk had written to NCC, the Police and Crime Commissioner and Head of the Fire Service but no progress had resulted.</p> <p>Councillors had then met separately with Mr Carlton to express their frustration at the lack of action to address the increasing problem which was dangerous and adversely affecting Rufford Lane residents and also parish concerns more generally. The meeting had identified a petition as a constructive way forward.</p> <p>Councillors considered again and at length the issues affecting Rufford Lane. They <b>decided</b> that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A petition of Rufford Lane residents and others should be undertaken</li> <li>2. The petition should seek action by NCC to reduce the: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Use of Rufford Lane as a rat run</li> <li>b. Incidence of display driving through the ford</li> <li>c. Number of vehicles attempting to traverse and getting stuck in the ford when water levels are high.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p>The clerk will draft the petition to which Mr Ball will seek signatures with Mr Carlton’s support. Mr Drane will seek signatures at Rufford Golf Club. Mr Carlton confirmed that, provided he was in possession of the signed petition by 18 November 2021, he would be able to present it at the next full meeting of NCC councillors on 24 November 2021. This would then allow him to take the issue further at council level.</p> <p>Mr Carlton reported that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. He had encountered a degree of disfunction between the policy and operational levels at NCC which affected traffic and road management</li> <li>b. He will feedback to NCC that Gallows dyke, an NCC responsibility, is silted up</li> <li>c. The police have been asked to undertake speed camera work on Rufford Lane</li> <li>d. He had submitted a job request for general highways, footpaths and signage maintenance</li> <li>e. He will follow up the dragon’s teeth idea for Rufford Park car parks with Parkwood Leisure</li> <li>f. He had spoken with Sergeant Hurley regarding anti-social behaviour on the car parks once the park was closed. The police will increase their activity in the area where they are able.</li> <li>g. His portfolio is adult social care which is under significant pressure, partly because of staffing issues.</li> <li>h. NCC is looking at closing the large testing sites.</li> <li>i. With council backing, the leader of NCC is pursuing East Midlands devolution, like that for Manchester, with government. This will involve a move to a cabinet system which Mr Carlton believes will speed up council decision making.</li> </ol> <p>Councillors thanked Mr Carlton for his attendance. Mr Carlton left the meeting at 6.35 pm.</p>	<b>Clerk JB/AD</b>

RPC/71/21	<b>Reports from Councillors:</b> None	
RPC/72/20	<p><b>a. Financial position as at 31 August 2021:</b> Councillors considered and noted the clerk's report showing the precise financial position at 31 August 2021 (incorporating the 2021-22 budget figures).</p> <p><b>b. Accounts for payment:</b> The council unanimously <b>approved</b> seven payments totalling £544.75.</p> <p><b>c. Approve community benefit agreement with BP Lightsource:</b> Councillors considered the contents of the agreement, noting the terms for payment, calculation and expenditure of the benefit and that no monies would be payable unless and until the site was operational. They <b>agreed</b> that the agreement was in the interests of the parish and <b>authorised</b> the chair to sign the agreement on the council's behalf.</p> <p><b>d. Use of reserves:</b> Councillors <b>agreed</b> that the condition of the Rufford Lane noticeboard was poor and beyond repair. The clerk will explore and circulate replacement options.</p>	<b>Clerk</b>
RPC/73/21	<p><b>Planning matters:</b></p> <p><b>a. Applications:</b></p> <p><b>i. 21/01628/FUL   New exit lane including Highways connection to B6034, associated landscaping works and infrastructure.   Sherwood Forest Holiday Village, Center Parcs Old Rufford Road Rufford NG22 9DN – Noted</b></p> <p><b>ii. 21/02032/HOUSE - Erection of a timber orangery - Abbey Hideaway May Lodge Drive Rufford NG22 9DE - -</b> Councillors considered the application. They unanimously <b>decided</b> that they had no objection to the proposal.</p> <p><b>b. To note planning decisions by NSDC:</b></p> <p><b>i. 21/01145/S73M   Application to vary conditions 2, 3, 11, 12 and 13 attached to planning permission 19/01165/FULM to retain an amended 132kV electrical substation on a permanent basis; Installation and operation of a solar farm and associated infrastructure –</b> Approval noted</p> <p><b>ii. 21/01152/LDC – Certificate of lawful use - Cremorne Cottage May Lodge Drive Rufford NG22 9EZ -</b> Approval noted</p> <p><b>iii. 21/01621/HOUSE - The Gatehouse May Lodge Drive Rufford NG22 9DE -</b> Approval noted</p> <p><b>iv. 21/01664/HPRIOR - Householder prior approval for combined single-storey side and rear extension - Cremorne Cottage May Lodge Drive Rufford NG22 9EZ –</b> No need for prior approval noted</p> <p><b>c. Planning appeal - APP/B3030/D/21/3277892 – Inkersall Cottage, Inkersall Lane, Bilsthorpe, NG22 8TL -</b> Noted</p> <p><b>d. Enforcement matters:</b> Councillors noted reports that the outbuilding at Hinger Hills was being used for residential purposes in breach of planning decision 20/00444/AGR. The clerk will report the use to NSDC.</p>	<b>Clerk</b>
RPC/74/21	<p><b>Parish environment and appearance including Rufford Ford and action to reduce speeds and vehicles traversing when impassable:</b> Councillors recognized that Ms Horton, Via officer, had taken action to reduce the speed limit on Rufford Lane to 40 mph and close the road to high sided vehicles. Councillors will await the petition (see RPC/70/21 above – Reports from District and County Councillors)</p>	
RPC/75/21	<b>Service faults:</b> None	
RPC/76/21	<b>Correspondence:</b> All items of correspondence were noted.	

<b>RPC/61/21</b>	<b>Agenda items for next meeting:</b> As above	
<b>RPC/62/21</b>	<b>Date of next meeting:</b> Tuesday 16 November 2021	

The meeting closed at 7.05 pm