

RUFFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 16 September 2025 at 6.00 pm at the Markham Suite, Rufford Mill, Rufford

Present: Councillors:

D. Fernley (Chair)
A. Drane
D. Johnson
J. Ball
J. Pearce

In attendance:

C. Wilson (Clerk)
J. Gamble (County councillor)
M. Cumberpatch (Parkwood Leisure)
Members of the public x 2

	DISCUSSION AND DECISIONS	ACTION
RPC/77/25	Apologies for absence: Mr Jones was absent. Mrs Tift was again absent. There were no other absences.	
RPC/78/25	Review of Registers of Interest - Update: The clerk had still to hear from Mr Drane or Mr Ball in relation to their respective reviews.	AD, JB,
RPC/79/25	Declarations of interest: There were no declarations of interest, direct or indirect, in any items of business on the agenda.	
RPC/80/25	Dispensations: No dispensations required.	
RPC/81/25	Parkwood Leisure Report: Mr Cumberpatch, the general manager, reported: a. Attendance figures continued to be good b. Some minor deadwood work on Lime Avenue has been approved and will be completed. He noted a suggestion that a notice is displayed to that effect. c. Although the annual tree survey had taken place in July 2025, the zone 1 audit is being repeated because a number of trees have suffered because of the prolonged dry weather. In particular, a significant number of sycamores had fallen in Broad Ride and birches were suffering from fungus and needed to be removed. Park staff are liaising with NCC officers and the conservation team with a full walk planned for October 2025. d. The meadow is being walked weekly with the conservation team. e. He was still waiting to hear from Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust in relation to the Himalayan balsam f. In terms of upcoming events these included the vintage fair at the weekend, Halloween throughout October 2025 and the final stalls market to be replaced by a farmers' market on the second Sunday of the month. g. As regards the anti-social use of bikes, he encouraged residents to report incidents to the police who will not take action in the absence of reports. He has a QR code which can be used to report incidents easily which he will share with Mr Fernley and Mr Ball to display on the noticeboards. h. The Abbey is re-opening on 17 September 2025 with a formal opening event to follow. Councillors thanked Mr Cumberpatch. Councillors agreed to move next to item 9 on the agenda (Reports from district and county councillors) and item 13 (Parish environment	

	and appearance including Rufford Ford, Rufford – Prohibition of driving – Developments and update). Mr Gamble reported that the Head of Highways and Transport, Mr Gary Wood, was presenting his report officially to the leader of NCC and that, once Mr Gamble received the report, he would share it with the parish council. Mr Gamble went on to report as follows: - Challenges are being made by Wellow residents to NSDC's claim to own an area of land - He is working on flooding matters and had joined the water catchment group - He has Divisional Fund money to use from which he offered to donate £300 towards bulb planting on the verges in the parish - The Local Communities Fund is not yet open. Councillors raised concerns regarding the surface of A614 south of Ollerton and stated that they were looking for action regarding matters affecting Rufford. As regards the ford, they expressed concern at the delays and referred Mr Gamble to promises made to share the ford presentation with them and residents. Mr Gamble stated that he would arrange for officers to attend a parish council meeting and give a presentation once the report had been presented and a decision made. Councillors asked to be advised when a decision had been made.	
RPC/82/25	10 minutes public speaking time: The Bilsthorpe residents who had experienced flooding updated councillors as follows: - They had recently met with the Minister for Flooding and parliamentary secretary - A cross boundary network is being formed on which they will represent Bilsthorpe and Rufford - A report is expected in due course.	
RPC/83/25	Minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 18 June and 15 July 2025: The minutes of the meetings on 18 June and 15 July 2025 were approved.	
RPC/84/25	Matters arising – for information only: There were no matters arising.	
RPC/85/25	Reports from district and county councillors: No district councillor was in attendance. See RPC/81/25 (Parkwood Leisure report) above.	
RPC/86/25	Reports from Councillors: Nothing raised.	
RPC/87/25	Parish councillor vacancy – Co-option and publicity and selection process: Councillors noted that no candidates had been put forward for election and that the next stage was to fill the vacancy by co-option. They recognised the importance of a fair and transparent co-option process and discussed how this might be achieved. Councillors agreed that, as previously, the vacancy should be advertised on the parish council page on NSDC's website and in the noticeboards with applications being considered at the November 2025 meeting. Applications should include information about the candidates' skills and experience and reasons for applying for the role. The clerk will also contact a resident who had contacted her prior to Mrs Bates's retirement from office. Councillors also asked the clerk to share the information with the residents from Bilsthorpe who had been so active in relation to flooding in case they would like to be considered for a wider formal role in the parish.	Clerk Agenda Nov
RPC/88/25	2025-26 changes to Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) including requirements for: IT policy	

RPC/91/25	Planning: a. Applications: 25/01125/FUL Ground Services 2No. steel frame storage buildings and conversion of the existing Medical Centre to a Grounds Staff Facility. Center Parcs Ltd Sherwood Forest Holiday Village Old Rufford Road Rufford NG22 9DN – Consultation period expired: Councillors had noted the application when circulated but had had no comments. Councillors noted that application 25/01422/FUL - Refurbishment and Alterations to the External Fabric and Associated Works to the Housekeeping Technical Services (HKTS) - Center Parcs Ltd Sherwood Forest Holiday Village Old Rufford Road Rufford had been notified on 12 November 2025. They had no comments. b. To note planning decisions by NSDC: Councillors noted that application 25/01024/ADV - Proposed Sign 1, 2 and 3 - banner placement on galvanised steel frames. Replacement entrance signs 4 and 5 (Post and panel sign) - Rufford Abbey Country Park Old Rufford Road Rufford had been approved and notified subsequent to the circulation of the agenda. c. Great North Road Solar Park – Planning Inspectorate registration and council representations – Deadline 2 October 2025: Councillors discussed the proposal and unanimously agreed that they objected to the plans on the grounds of its scale and consequent visual impact. d. Enforcement matters: None	
RPC/92/25	Service faults: A telephone and broadband issue was noted	
RPC/93/25	Correspondence: Item d NSDC - Flood Resilience Aqua Sac Offer for Town and Parish Councils September 2025 was discussed. The flood representatives expressed their gratitude but advised that sufficient aquasacs were now held. All other items of correspondence noted.	
RPC/94/25	Agenda items for next meeting: As above	
RPC/95/25	Date of next meeting: Tuesday 11 November 2025 at the new time of 5.30 pm.	

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm

