

## Randwick and Westrip Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held at 7.15 pm on Thursday  
September 21st at Randwick Village Hall.

### Present

#### **Councillors:**

Shaun Egan

James Holder

Debbi Smith

Marina Fontenla

Chris Smith

Cheryl Byford

Robert Davies

Matt Reed

Clerk - B Parsons

District Cllr Edmunds, County Cllr Rippington

1/9/17 **Apologies:** Cllr Mike Woods: County Cllr Oosthuysen.

2/9/17 **Public Forum:** There were five parishioners present and the District and County Cllrs.

The Council was asked whether the Heras panels protecting the field while it recovers from work to create a repaired and stabilised surface could be moved to allow parking on the grass for a wedding in October. After discussion the Council decided that this was not practical, but suggested that RVH&PFC should use cones to reserve some of the spaces. The Chairman reminded the meeting that some of the spaces were constructed for users of the Village Hall.

Mr Stewart raised some queries about the work to the field.

**Action:** The Clerk to clarify these with the contractor.

He also asked whether the planting which was supposed to obscure the shipping container used by the Cricket Club could be improved as the apple trees planted there hadn't covered up the container.

The Chairman suggested that he should contact the Cricket Club and RVH&PFC.

Mr Tyler reported that cars were parking on the grass at the top of the village green, just below the concrete base of the former water tank, and asked whether this could be prevented. The Council decided to wait and see whether this problem resolved itself when the overspill parking on the field was available again

3/9/17 **Declarations of interest in items on this agenda:** None.

4/9/17 **Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held on August 17th were approved and signed.

5/9/17 **Report from the Officer of the Council:** Cllrs noted the contents of the Clerk's report.  
Cllrs decided that the period for applying for grants should be the same as last year; applications to be received and decided at the November meeting.

6/9/17 **Correspondence:** Cllrs noted the correspondence listed in the Clerk's Report.

7/9/17 **Questions from Councillors:**

Cllr Robert Davies noted that there appeared to be surplus Bodpave left from the work to the parking area and asked whether the Council would be credited for it.

**Action:** The Clerk to ask the contractor.

He reported that a parishioner had asked whether the Council would pay for a skip for residents' use. Cllrs were not in favour of providing a skip and anticipated difficulties in siting it in an appropriate place and supervising its use.

Cllr Chris Smith suggested that the wooden edging to the Bodpave laid on the playing field might prove to be slippery. Cllrs considered that as it was laid according to the specification that it would bed in to the grass.

Cllr Byford referred to an offer from a company that could site vending machines in rural areas to supply items such as bread or cereal or wine. Cllrs thought that the size and layout of the Parish would make choosing an appropriate site difficult.

Cllr Debbi Smith asked about the lines that needed painting on the resurfaced tarmac areas of the Village Hall car park. The contractor knew this needed doing.

Cllr Fontenla asked about RVH&PFC's discussions about a protocol for hiring the field for marquees for weddings etc. Cllrs understood that RVH&PFC would send their protocol to the Council when it was ready.

Cllr Egan reported that the Football Club had not been co-operating in keeping cars off the field during the work to the parking area. On the previous Saturday cars had driven over the kerb on to an area of the field not previously used for parking. Cllr Edmunds said he would speak to the Club.

Cllr Holder asked whether the PC would pay for replacement Beech trees from the Chairman's allowance.

**Action:** The Clerk to confirm the decision and costs from previous minutes.

Cllr Holder also commented on difficulties caused by vehicles badly parked in The Lane which had prevented other vehicles from passing along it, sometimes requiring drivers to reverse and exit the village and enter via Bread Street. Cllrs decided to wait and see whether this problem resolved itself when the overspill parking on the field was available again.

**8/9/17 District and County Cllrs reports:** Cllr Rippington reported on several GCC matters:-

The Cabinet was reconsidering its procurement process for Highways services when the current contract with AMEY expires in 2019.

The number of Freedom of Information Act requests to GCC had increased in recent months.

The OFSTED report into Gloucestershire's Children's Services was being considered. A long-term plan was needed and the issues were management of care and a shortage of social workers.

GCC and the PCC had been considering suggestions for changes to control of the Fire and Rescue Service but Fire and Rescue would stay under GCC control.

All parish councils were being encouraged to consider their preparedness for floods.

Most parishes appeared to have good broadband connection now.

The recent Highways customer satisfaction survey had shown that a target for the ratio of complaints to compliments of 1:6 had been exceeded - a ratio of 10 compliments was recorded to each complaint received.

Cllr Edmunds had sent a written report and offered to answer any questions for clarification of any matters.

Cllr Fontenla left the meeting

9/9/17 **Planning, Traffic and Transport:**

a) **Applications received to date:**

S.17/1897/HHOLD Hill View, Westrip, Householder Application Extension of existing garage - Cllrs discussed the application and decide to make no comment.

**Noted:**

Permission - S.17/1415/DISCON - Newlands - Discharge of conditions 3 (materials), 5 (landscaping/sections) and 7 (access improvements) from permission S.16/2897/FUL.

Permission - S.17/1556/FUL 1 Humphreys End, Ruscombe Road, Randwick, Stroud. Full Planning Permission - Demolition of existing single storey extension and construction of new single storey extension and associated work

Permission - S.17/1651/HHOLD - Denvio - Lightwood Lane - Attached garden room

b) **VAS report:** Cllr Reed gave a report using statistics provided by the sign's software. The sign had been in use nearly every day since installation at five sites in the parish. (The Council was waiting for GCC Highways to provide poles for other sites.)

Speeds recorded showed that the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speeds recorded were just over 24mph at four sites and 29mph uphill in Lower Randwick. (The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile is used by Road Safety organisations as the higher limit of the "normal" range of drivers, acknowledging that there will be a percentage of irresponsible drivers.) Maximum speeds recorded were 40 and 50 mph.

Cllr Chris Smith suggested that the sign should be sited at times by More Hall.

**Actions:** Cllr Reed to write an article for The Randwick Runner and submit it to The Stroud News and Journal.

The Clerk to ask GCC about the extra poles and about a site by More Hall.

c) **Tennis court:** Cllrs discussed GCC's views about using part of the flatter area of the playing field leased from GCC. An officer from GCC's Asset Management Department had said that constructing a tennis court there would be acceptable in principle but that GCC would need to authorise the work and alter its lease accordingly. Cllrs considered possible costs, said to be in the region of £30,000 to £40,000, maintenance costs, a contingency for remediation work and other related issues.

**Action:** The Clerk to write to the group of parishioners who had requested consideration of a tennis court in the Parish.

d) **Road closures** Cllrs discussed recent closures of roads in and around the Parish for filming. The film production company had received authorisation to close the roads, however, it appeared they had not complied with the conditions set, including notification of all residents/businesses and adequate signage of the closures. Entry to some parishioners' properties was blocked and routes in and out of the village closed.

GCC's normal procedure is to notify councils of closures in parishes, but not closures in adjacent parishes such as Whiteshill and Ruscombe and Cainscross, which affect routes into, out of and through Randwick and Westrip.

**Action:** The Clerk to contact the clerks of Whiteshill and Ruscombe and Cainscross parishes and ask that closure notices are shared.

10/9/17 **Finance and Personnel:**

a) **Bank reconciliation:** Cllrs considered the bank reconciliation for August.

b) **External Auditor's Report and Certificate:** The external audit had been completed. The auditor's responsibility was to review the Annual Return in accordance with guidance issued by the National Audit Office on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General.

The report stated that, "on the basis of our review of the annual return, in our opinion the information in the annual return is in accordance with proper practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislative and regulatory requirements have not been met."

11/9/17 **Environment:**

a) **Draft constitution for RVH&PFC:** This had not been received.

b) **Byelaw:** The Council considered information received from the Open Spaces Society about making byelaws relating to playing golf on the playing field and decided that making a byelaw was not appropriate.

**Action:** Cllr Egan to inform RVH&PFC.

c) **Trees at Finn's Way:** Parishioners living adjacent to Finn's Way had contacted the Council about the trees planted along the fence line of their houses when the houses were built, as part of the building company's landscaping plans. Since then the trees had matured and grown to such a size they were shading the gardens and blocking out the afternoon and early evening sunshine. After discussing the parishioners' concerns and requests the Council decided to ask the SDC arboriculturalist's advice about removing some of the trees and cutting some back.

**Action:** The Clerk to contact SDC and get costs for any work recommended.

12/9/17 **Items delegated to the Clerk and items for the next agenda:** As minuted and also to discuss issues about finishing off the overspill parking area with the contractor.

13/9/17 **Orders for payment:**

Datacenta Hosting	annual charge for email addresses
B Parsons	September salary less PAYE due in 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter
HMRC	PAYE due in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter
M Lammas	September monthly contract payment
Grant Thornton	external audit
S Sutton	groundworks for overspill parking area
O2	mobile phone 12 Sept - 11 Oct

14/9/17 **Next meeting:** Thursday October 19th at Cashes Green School.

The meeting closed at 9.12 pm.