

Randwick and Westrip Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held at 7.15 pm on Thursday November 15th at Randwick Village Hall

Present

Councillors

Shaun Egan (Chairman)

Debbi Smith

Alex Egan

James Holder

Matt Reed

Cheryl Byford

Robert Davies

Clerk Mr B Parsons, District Cllr Jonathan Edmunds

*1/11/18 **Apologies:** Cllrs Woods and Fontenla; County Cllr Brian Oosthuysen.*

*2/11/18 **Public Forum:** There were approximately 14 members of the public present, also District Cllr Edmunds and the National Trust Area Ranger for The Haresfield Estate, Tim Jenkins.*

Tim Jenkins outlined his role as Area Ranger, responsible for managing and maintaining the estate. He spoke about conservation, woodland management and some of the problems faced by the NT such as litter and fly tipping.

He addressed the objections raised by some parishioners about recent felling of trees in Standish Wood, which is outside the Parish of Randwick and Westrip. Felling had been planned in compliance with Forestry Commission requirements and licensed by the Forestry Commission. Larch and pine planted in the 1950s as a timber crop had been felled. Some of the more heavily thinned areas would be planted with 1000 trees, all native broadleaves including beech, holly, yew, field maple, oak, whitebeam, hazel and cherry. He anticipated that natural regeneration would be significant and predominantly ash and sycamore.

It had been considered better to complete the work in one phase rather than spreading it over three or four years. The machinery used had had low impact on the ground due to good weather during the work. Using horses would not have been feasible.

Mr Jenkins took questions from members of the public.

The information board by Randwick long barrow would be replaced.

A member of the public referred to a 1985 NT biological survey, which had recommended cautious and intermittent removal of trees to provide age variation, and stated his opinion that this wasn't the case.

Mr Jenkins explained that the total area of woodland at Haresfield was 113 hectares and that the felling was carried out in an 8 hectare compartment and was less than 10% of the overall woodland. He estimated that only 0.05% of the overall number of trees had been removed. One of the NT's concerns had

been to manage the trees before they died or became unstable and not climbable by trees surgeons carrying out safety work.

Beech trees had been removed to allow light and air into the wood to benefit the remaining trees. Leaving fallen wood, raked into 'dead hedging' provided habitat for fungi and invertebrates and prevented people straying across regenerating areas.

District Cllr Edmunds was concerned that any felling of trees would lessen the woods' effectiveness as a 'green lung' especially in the context of the new GCC incinerator near the M5.

Mr Jenkins emphasised that there would be regrowth of multi-stem trees with greater leaf area. He did not anticipate a need for more major work in the near future.

A parishioner referred to an area of Randwick Wood that had been burnt out in the 1970's, which he felt was now completely recovered, and expected to see the cleared areas recover in the same way.

Mr Jenkins offered to organise a guided walk in spring to look at the areas regenerating. The Chairman thanked him for his talk and he left at 7.55.

Later in the meeting the Council was to consider which roads in the Parish were to be listed for repair and a parishioner asked the Council not to ask for Ash Lane to be repaired as he regarded pot holes to be traffic calming.

3/11/18 *Declarations of interest in items on this agenda: None.*

4/11/18 *Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on October 18th were amended, approved and signed.*

5/11/18 *Report from the Officer of the Council: Cllrs noted the contents of the Clerk's report.*

Councillors' photographs were displayed on the Council's three notice boards and the Council website. The photographs of councillors displayed on the Council's three notice boards faded quickly and it was agreed to stop putting Councillors' photos on the boards.

6/11/18 *Correspondence: Cllrs noted the correspondence listed in the Clerk's Report.*

7/11/18 *Questions from councillors: Cllr Byford asked whether any Cllrs could join a working party planting trees at Randwick Playing Field on December 2nd.*

8/11/18 *District and County Councillors' reports:*

District Cllr Edmunds spoke about current business at SDC including the Stroud Local District Plan review, SDC housing, review of car parking charges,

transport, tourism and the number of young people leaving the area. There had been an increase in homelessness in Stroud in the preceding year.

9/11/18 **Planning, traffic and transport:**

a) S.18/2274/FUL Land At Newlands, Randwick - Full Planning Application New dwelling – no comment.

b) **The Carpenters' Arms:** Cllrs discussed a proposal to apply to list The Carpenters' Arms as a protected historic building.

Action: The Clerk to contact SDC for information about listing and Building Protection Notices.

c) **Repairs to local roads:** County Cllr Rippington had asked for suggestions for repairs carried out through his devolved budget. Cllrs suggested the road between Blenheim Rise and More Hall corner.

Action: The Clerk to contact Cllr Rippington and to ask GCC AMEY to look at Bread Street again and to request re-marking of the zigzag lines and 'keep clear' sign in The Lane, by the school..

d) **VAS report:** Cllr Reed presented the most recent statistics. Speeds of up to 50mph were being recorded at locations where GCC had recently installed new posts. The report had been copied to the Police.

e) **Parking in The Lane:** Cars were being parked at the junction of Chapel Fields and The Lane contrary to the Highway Code. Cllrs would place notices on vehicles asking drivers not to cause obstruction but to park in available spaces by the VH.

10/11/18 **Finance and Personnel:**

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

b) **Annual grants:** Cllr S Egan declared an interest as a member of the Severn Area Rescue Association in the application from SARA and took no part in consideration of the application. Cllrs discussed the applications, which had been examined by a working party, and agreed amounts for grants to applicants.

Resolved: that the Council in accordance with its powers under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants, and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure: -

- 1st Randwick Brownies £300 for subscription to Girl Guiding
- Randwick Toddlers (Sticky Fingers) £250 for storage boxes and toys.

Resolved: that the Council in accordance with its powers under section 142 of the Local Government Act 1972 should incur the following expenditure: -

- Sue Ryder Hospice Leckhampton £100 to support its work
- Severn Area Rescue Association £100 to support its work.

Resolved: that the Council in accordance with its powers under section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 should incur the following expenditure: -

- Randwick Village Hall & Playing Fields Committee £269 for film equipment.

Resolved: To make a donation of £20 to The Royal British Legion for the Remembrance Day wreath supplied at cost.

11/11/18 **Environment:**

a) **Environmental Plan:** Cllr Smith was preparing a map of the Parish showing significant environmental features.

b) **Design Statement:** SDC planning department had confirmed that revision of the Design Statement would need public consultation.

Action: The Clerk to ask SDC planning for recommendations and requirements for consultation.

b) **Management of Randwick Playing Fields:** The working party had asked the Council how any under- or over-spend by RVH&PFC would be managed and for a date for an agreement.

The Council intended to agree a sum to support management of the VH and playing fields and that the Committee would manage within its budget.

RVH&PFC would be able to apply to RWPC for support for capital projects beyond any agreed support.

The Clerk had asked the Council's solicitors for advice on drawing up an agreement to supplement or replace the 1963 lease. The solicitor's estimated fee was high and the Clerk was asked to contact other solicitors to compare costs.

12/11/18 **Items delegated to the Clerk and items for the next agenda:** as above.

13/11/18 **Orders for payment:**

R Davies	Expenses – topsoil for play area
Avon Road Mark	Car park marking
M Lammas	November monthly contract payment
B Parsons	November salary less PAYE due in 3rd quarter
B Parsons	Expenses – stamps, wreath etc
M Reed	Expenses – play area fence
Mount Pleasant Trees	Hedgerow trees

Grants

Severn Area Rescue Association

RVH&PFC

Randwick Toddler and Baby Group

1st Randwick Brownies

Sue Ryder Leckhampton Hospice

Royal British Legion

14/11/18 **Next meeting:** December 20th at Cashes Green School

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

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