

RUISHTON AND THORNFALCON PARISH COUNCIL

CLERK: HEATHER BRYANT, 7 DENINGS CLOSE, CHARD. TA 20 1LS

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The minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 7th October 2026 held in the meeting room of Ruishton Village Hall

CLLRS PRESENT: Mullins, (Chairman) Angell, Boucher, Bulgin, Liz Harper, Stroner, Williams and van Bussel

ALSO PRESENT: 3 members of the public, S.C. Sarah Wakefield, Catherine Faulkner (Neighbourhood Plan) and the Clerk, Heather Bryant.

PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME (ON GENERAL PARISH MATTERS)

There were no questions from the public

SOMERSET COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

S.C. Wakefield reported on the following: -

- At a Somerset Council Executive meeting, it was agreed an increase to parking charges.
- There has been a discussion on a potential tenant for Nexus
- She hopes to establish what is taken place on the land behind the Village Hall with a meeting with a Planning Officer
- The long awaited work carried out on the railings at Lower Henlade was not of quality standard
- The Chairman reported that he still has no reply in regard to the maintenance of the Goosey Lane flap valve

26/10/1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Cllrs Fudge, Richard Harper and Tarr

26/10/2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Non declared

23/10/3 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2nd OCTOBER 2026

RESOLVED: to approve these minutes as a correct record

26/10/4 CHAIRMANS REPORT

The Chairman reported that he would like Councillors to contribute to the monthly newsletter.

26/10/5 PLANNING

Update on Persimmon Homes

There has been a leaflet drop to Ruishton households on the possible development at land between Woodlands and Bushy Cross Lane. S.C. Wakefield will be meeting Persimmon on their proposals.

Nexus 25

The Parish Council has had an email from a prospective occupier and would like to have a meeting with the Parish Council to introduce the project. Following our protocol the Neighbourhood Steering Group will meet with the agent for the prospective occupier. The NP Administrator will arrange

26/10/6 FLOODING MATTERS

Three Flashing Flood Signs

RESOLVED: to approve the sum of £12,221 for new flashing signs. These three signs will be triggered to flash amber lights by the use of radar when cars approach and the road is flooded. The existing, now redundant signs will be scrapped but the posts will be reused.

26/10/7 HIGHWAY AND FOOTPATHS

Public Right of Way from Bushy Cross Lane to Lipe Lane – The Chairman reported that he had been asked if the stile could be removed adjacent Stearts Cottages as it is difficult for navigating with a bike. This path is often used as a short cut to Lipe Lane instead of going along the A358. It was agreed to contact the Rights of Way department

26/10/8 RECREATION GROUND

Nothing to report

26/10/9 DEFIBRILLATORS

Lower Henlade

Cllr Williams reported that the electrics are now in place

RESOLVED: to approve the purchase of a defibrillator and cabinet at a cost of around £1500. The Clerk will place the order delivered to Cllr Williams address.

26/10/10 THORN FALCON PROJECTS

Cllr Angell reported that little progress has been made for an area outside the church for parking

26/10/11 WEBSITE

Email from SWS dated 16.9.26 refers - Noted

26/10/12 FINANCIAL MATTERS

FINANCIAL REPORTS AND CHEQUES FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED: that this Council approves the schedule of cheques/invoices and bank statements with the Financial Report subject to the requirements of our Risk Assessment Document

Insurance

Insurance is due 1st October 2026. Quote from Gallager (Hiscox) is £1527.92 (last year £1502.97)
This is the last year of the 3-year agreement- Noted

CONCLUSION OF AUDIT 2025/2026 (External Audit Report (attached))

Noted: Completion of the limited assurance review for the year ending 31st March 2026

Q2 Budget (Attached to the agenda)

Noted

26/10/13 LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORKS/ SOMERSET COUNCIL

Nothing to report

26/10/14 CORRESPONDENCE AND CLERKS REPORT

Heritage at Risk - email from Somerset Conservation Team dated 7.9.26 refers – Noted

RESOLVED: *Under SO 1C the press and the public are instructed to leave the room for item.*

The Clerk and the Chairman informed the Councillors on the emails received from a member of the public regarding the potential Persimmon development

26/10/15 MATTERS TO REPORT (for information only) OR FOR THE AGENDA AT THE NEXT MEETING

Newsletter - Cllr Williams agreed to write an article for the defibrillator at Lower Henlade and the Chairman will write an article on the new flood signs

Item for the next agenda - Communication

Date of the next meeting – 4th November 2026

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15 pm