

# ROCKHAMPTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting held in Rockhampton Village Hall on  
Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April commencing at 7 pm

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## **Present**

Parish Councillors: Tom Cullimore, Tina Mitchell Skinner, Mike Goode, Tony England & Henry Price, Ward Cllr Matthew Riddle, Clerk Mr J Carpenter and one member of the public

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Severn Vale Ward Councillor Keith Burchell

### **2. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022**

It was proposed by Cllr Goode, seconded by Cllr Price, and **RESOLVED** unanimously that the minutes of the meeting held on 23 May 2022 be signed as a correct record.

### **3. MATTERS ARISING**

None.

### **4. REPORT FROM CLLR TOM CULLIMORE, CHAIRMAN OF ROCKHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL**

During the last Council year, the Parish Council have held four meetings at which no members of the public were in attendance which is considered to be a reflection of the fact that they are happy with the running of the Parish Council.

We have been kept up to date by our Ward Councillors whose attendance at meetings are appreciated – thank you Matthew Riddle and Keith Burchill.

The Clerk has attended a number of Forums on behalf of the Council and keeps Councillors up to date. Other Forums attended by Councillors include the Severn Vale Flood Defence Group and the Severn Edge Fusion Plant.

There were very few consultations that the Council took part in but previously the Council had commented on the planned pedestrianisation of Thornbury High Street, and it seemed that our views were not listened to at all, indeed even following another vote by Thornbury residents which resulted in a majority against these changes South Gloucestershire Council have decided to carry on against the wishes of the residents and businesses of Thornbury. I feel that the residents of the new housing estates in Thornbury don't really know about the centre of Thornbury and all the history that goes with it which is a real shame.

During the year we have had several events take place. The Rockhampton Folk Festival was re-established post COVID-19 which was a sell-out. This will be taking place again this year and will be followed by an event organised by the Thornbury Ats Group on the following day.

For the Queens Platinum Jubilee the Village joined the rest of the country by holding a picnic on the common. Also, to celebrate this event the Parish Council installed a commemorative bench on the common and we must thank Cllr Goode not only for sourcing the bench but for digging out the site and concreting the bench in place.

THESE MINUTES WILL BE NOTED FOR ACCURACY AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL BUT WILL NOT BE FORMALLY ADOPTED UNTIL THE NEXT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING IN 2024

This year to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III a similar event of a picnic/party on the common will take place along with competitions for children who attend. Both sports clubs in the village, the Cricket and Rugby Clubs continue to thrive in particular at youth level.

Moving on to highways the ongoing speeding through the village continues, this is confirmed by the temporary speed cameras set up from time to time. Hopefully the installation of further signage and the installation of 'village gates' will encourage drivers to reduce their speed but there is more work to do on this by the Council in the future.

StreetCare have undertaken investigative work in respect to the Hill Road. From an initial report major work will be required to solve this and therefore it may be a while before we see any work completed. The Autumn litter pick resulted in less litter than normal being collected which hopefully indicates that less litter is being thrown from vehicles passing through the Village and Villagers are being more attentive in keeping their village tidy.

In regard to the issue of regular fly tipping encountered in previous years this has drastically reduced in fact I don't believe that there have been any commercial scale tips this year, hopefully it will stay this way.

On the planning front we had several planning applications to be considered but there were no concerns raised. The outstanding application on the Hill Road was refused by the planners with the Parish Council also objecting on several grounds.

I would like to thank all the Councillors for their input through the year, we all seem to bring something different to our meetings in particular I would like to thank Mike Goode, who will not be standing for re-election, for all his work during his time on the Council.

Finally, I know that all Councillors would like to express our gratitude to the Clerk who keeps us fully informed at all times, he brings a wealth of knowledge of local government and makes our duties as Councillors all very straight forward, unfortunately we all need a nudge from him from time to time.

#### **5. FINANCIAL REPORT FROM JAMES CARPENTER, PARISH CLERK AND RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER.**

The internal audit for the fiscal year ending 31st March 2023 will take place on Wednesday 26th April which is conducted under the Avon Local Councils Audit Scheme. Results of the Audit along with the Annual Governance and Accountability return will be presented at the Annual Parish Council meeting for approval.

As the Parish Council's annual income for 2022/23 did not exceed £25,000 the Council can continue to certify itself as exempt from a limited assurance review under section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015 as has occurred in previous fiscal years. However, the accounts will be subject to inspection under the exercise of public rights for a period of thirty working days between 5th June and 11th August.

The total income for the year ending 31st March 2023 was £5,213.38 this was made of £3,315.00 from the precept (an increase of £135.00 over the previous fiscal year), £1,000.00 grant received from the Members Award fund, £843.45 from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). A £48.91 from a reclaim of VAT for the previous fiscal year and £5.12 in interest. The Council's expenditure for the fiscal year was £3,6883.36 (incl. VAT). This was £1,166.00 up on the previous fiscal year but can be attributed in part to an increase in staff costs the purchase of a commemorative bench and commemorate mugs to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee.

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The Parish Council started the fiscal year with a balance of £4,755.82 and ended the year with a closing balance of £6,280.84. Within the closing balance the following funds have been earmarked, £1,400.00 to cover election costs, £2,150.00 for the maintenance of the amenity land alongside the Village Hall, £1,000.00 Members Award Grant towards the installation of Village Gates and £44.70 being the remaining balance from the CIL income received during the year leaving £1,686.14 in the general reserves.

As required under the Transparency Code following approval by the Council at their Annual Parish Council Meeting the Annual Governance and Accountability return for 2022/23 will be published on the Councils website which will provide full details of all the Council's financial activities during the fiscal year.

**6. ITEMS RAISE BY ELECTORS OF THE PARISH**

None

The meeting closed at 7.20 pm.