Rudford and Highleadon Parish Council Minutes 23rd May 2016

516/1. **Present: Parish Councillors:** Chairman Cllr Wolfson, Cllr Salisbury, Cllr Deane, Cllr Green, Cllr Turner, Cllr Wallace, Cllr Heigham and 6 members of the public. District Cllr Horne and County Cllr Robinson.

Cllr Wolfson thanked the councillors for their support. He also clarified the position of public comments. If there was a discussion on an item that a member of the public had additional information on they could add their comments briefly; otherwise, public comments should be kept to the Public Session at the end of the meeting.

516/2. **To Receive Declarations of Interest related to items in the agenda:** Cllrs Salisbury, Wolfson, Heigham — Village Hall Committee.

516/3. **To Approve Minutes:**
Acceptance of the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 21st March was proposed by Cllr Salisbury & seconded Cllr Deane. These were approved and accepted by all, then signed by the Chairman.

516/4. **To Receive Reports from the District & County Councillors:**

1. Cllr Horne briefly mentioned the new Lengthsman initiative, also the new rubbish collection and the new pothole machine.

2. Cllr Robinson reported that there was no more news on the roads and that Mr Watkins has moved jobs and now covers the Stroud area, Rhodri Grey will be taking over from 1st June. There will be Lengthsmen available from 20th June for minor jobs such as small potholes. Cllr Wolfson asked if the verges and any vegetation hiding signs could be cut back along the B4215 through both Rudford and Highleadon and Cllr Deane asked if the footpath along Buttermilk Lane could also be sorted out. Cllr Robinson noted these requests. He also informed the meeting that the merger of Cotswold DC and West Oxfordshire had fallen through.

**Action:** To monitor the work of the Lengthsmen in the Parish (all Councillors)

516/5. **Village Agents Report:** None available.

516/6. **To note Clerk’s Report on Matters Arising:**

1. The reply from Hartpury College regarding the damage caused by large vehicles was read out; they have asked for photos of offending vehicles.

**Action:** Parish Clerk to report on this and make the contact details at Hartpury College available through the next report in The Link.

2. The reply from the church requesting a copy of their accounts was read out and it was decided that a letter be written again requesting that copies of their accounts be sent to the Parish Council for consideration.

**Action:** Chair to liaise with secretary of the Parochial Church Council prior to Clerk replying further.

3. The Dark Barn planning permission was read out.

**Action:** Cllr Heigham is to check that the work that has been done there conforms with the permissions granted.

516/7. **Matters Arising from previous minutes:**

1. Polling Costs to Parish Councils: These were referred to the constitutional committee of the FoDC for consideration, but they decided that their 25 year old policy did not need amending. Councillors noted that they therefore had no option but to maintain an ‘election reserve’ in their finances.

2. Flooding problems Highleadon: A meeting between Cllr Wallace, Mrs Butler and Mr McGurk was held at which Mr McGurk agreed to clean the top end of the ditch which will, hopefully resolve the situation.
Action: Clerk to write a letter of thanks to Mr McGurk asking him to inform the Clerk when the works are completed.

516/8. To receive report on the sale of the Telephone Kiosk from Cllr Green:

Cllr Green reported that the matter had been passed over to Cllr Turner for putting onto EBay for sale. The final sale price was £1553.00 with a deduction of £181.00 for EBay fees. Many thanks were given to Cllr's Green and Turner for all their hard work and to Cllr Salisbury for attending the removal.

516/9. To discuss B4215 problems:

Hopefully the County Council officers will join us for the July meeting, as agreed in April with Mr Watkins. An application form for the Police Commissioners Fund SPECS funding for local communities to address traffic issues. There is £270,000 available form speeding fines for community action to reduce speeding and increase safety. Projects must meet criteria. Cllr Green suggested a similar idea to Rodborough Common, a camera recording speed, registration numbers and, also, generating letters to offenders. Regular offenders are be passed onto Police for further action. Cllr Horne stated that flashing speed signs were already approved and that a bid should be put in. Contact is to be made with Mr Watkins accepting his offer of a mobile flashing sign. Other possibilities for the bid were also discussed, all of them addressing the issues raised at the October public meeting.

Action: Clerk to contact Brian Watkins regarding the mobile Vehicle Activated Sign.

Action: Councillors agreed that Councillors Turner, Green and Wolfson, together with Debbie Read, would meet to construct a bid prior to the closing date of June 17.

516/10. To discuss Church Lane bus stop access:

The footpath officer Suzanne Hopes has agreed to refurbish the steps to the field. The bus stops officer, Jonathan Roberts is making a bid for funds to put in a permissive footpath between the top of the steps opposite Church Lane to Whitehall Lane, including a new gate at the Whitehall Lane end. Liaison with the landowner continues.

516/11. To comment on Planning Applications:

1. Rudford Farm P0511/14/FUL. Our objections were received on 6th May. Cllr Wolfson spoke to Peter Williams, Head of Planning about FoDC contacting the applicants for their reaction to the objection. They are still examining the documents but if a decision is reached other than complete removal, the matter will be referred to the District Council Planning Committee in June or July.

Action: Councillor Wolfson to monitor progress of this application and, if necessary, attend the Planning Committee and speak on the matter.

2. Enforcement New Bliss Farm P1049/14/COU: Mrs Butler has contacted the Ombudsman, as conditions have never been enforced. A new planning officer is starting work in June and he will re-visit it. Cllr Horne has already pointed out to them that the conditions have never been adhered to. A letter is to be written to Mr Van der Hagen welcoming him to his new position and requesting his help in this matter.

Action: Clerk to write to the new Enforcement Officer.

3. Orchard Barn, P0094/16/FUL to P0098/16/FUL granted.

516/12. Correspondence:

A letter from re salt delivery and snow warden to be looked at in July.

Action: Clerk to include this item on the July agenda

516/13. Finance:

1. Bank Balances as of 23rd May 2016: Current A/c £478.24

Business Saver A/c £5694.24

Cheques have been signed for Clerk/admin of £548.20 & £181.00 for EBay fees to Cllr Turner. Councillors agreed that at future meetings a summary of all income and expenditure since the last meeting will be provided.
Action: Clerk to liaise with Cllr Turner to prepare such statements

2. Internet Banking: Following discussion of a paper prepared by Cllr Turner, Councillors agreed unanimously to move forward to internet banking, continuing to bank with Barclays. It was also agreed to review bank signatories at the July meeting.

Action: Cllr Turner to take forward the changes required to move to internet banking.
Action: Clerk to include bank signatories on July agenda.

516/14. Minor Items Raised by Members for Future Agenda:
1. Cllr Green asked about Superfast Broadband problems for parts of Rudford & Highleadon, Cllr Robinson mentioned the meeting that was being held in Cinderford re broadband speed in rural areas. The link is http://www.speedtest.net/ for a speed test, this is to be published in The Link report.
2. Matter for July meeting: Sharing responsibilities and priorities for the next year.

Action: Clerk to include (1) sharing responsibilities and (2) priorities for 2016-17 on the July agenda.

516/15. Public Session: The Big Lottery ‘Awards For All’ fund has accepted the Village Hall bid for acoustic panels in the ceiling and is contributing half the costs. This should be in place shortly.

Meeting closed 8.55.

Date of Next Parish Meeting: Monday 25th July 2016 in Rudford & Highleadon Village Hall, Rudford at 7.30pm.

More News and Information on the Village Website:
www.sites.google.com/site/randhpcouncil