

RUFFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 12 March 2018 at 5.30 pm in the Talbot Suite, Rufford Mill, Rufford

Present: Councillors:

D. Fernley (Chair)
 J. Pearce
 K. Bower
 B. Bates
 A. Drane

In attendance:

C. Millward (Clerk)
 A. Cox (Rufford Country Park) (until 5.50 pm)
 J. Pack (County councillor) (until 6.10 pm)
 N. Baker (Alkane Energy) (from 5.50 pm)
 T. Bryan (Alkane Energy) (from 5.50 pm)

	DISCUSSION AND DECISIONS	ACTION
RPC/102/18	Apologies for absence: Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Mr Franks.	
RPC/103/18	Declarations of interest: There were no declarations of interest, direct or indirect, in any item of business on the agenda.	
RPC/104/18	Dispensations: No dispensations required.	
RPC/105/18	10 minutes public speaking time: No public present.	
RPC/106/18	<p>Parkwood Leisure report (if any): Mr Cox:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reported that an application was being submitted for planning permission for a further 40 car parking spaces on Bluebell car park 2. Invited the council's input in to plans for a road traffic system for the jousting event in June 2018 and the 1940s weekend in September 2018. 3. Explained that there appeared to be a lot of interest on social media in the free children's cinema events on three Saturdays. Website hits will be monitored to gauge the likely level of visitors nearer the time with a timely decision made on traffic planning taking account of the inconvenience to residents if traffic management is instituted unnecessarily 4. Noted that councillors would like traffic management measures to be instituted where events are likely to be busy. 5. Confirmed that the number of bins within the park had been increased. <p>Councillors thanked Mr Cox for his attendance. Mr Cox left the meeting at 5.50 pm.</p> <p>Councillors agreed to move next to item 9 on the agenda (Reports from district and county councillors) for Mr Pack's convenience.</p>	
RPC/107/18	<p>a. Presentation – Alkane Energy Limited – Possible methane extraction</p> <p>b. Associated parish council decisions (if any):</p> <p>The meeting reverted to this item after item 9 on the agenda (Reports from district and county councillors) had been discussed.</p>	

	<p>Councillors welcomed Mr Baker and Mr Bryan to the meeting. Mr Baker and Mr Bryan circulated Alkane Energy's summary of its borehole and extraction proposals for land at Rufford Hills Farm, Wellow which councillors discussed with Mr Baker and Mr Bryan. These discussions focused on the following in particular:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The reasons and need for methane extraction 2. The investigations undertaken, working with the Coal Authority, and underlying reasoning leading to the selection of this site in preference to potential alternatives 3. The reason the project would be abandoned if water is found in the works 4. The involvement of English Heritage and its requirements 5. The planned timetable for the project 6. The appearance of the site 7. Environmental impact including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Any possible effect on the nightjar and woodlark population and local wildlife b. Noise – This is predicted to be lower than the existing average ambient level c. Air quality – This is predicted to be insignificant d. Ecological recommendations to be incorporated in to the project 8. Landscape, visual impact and heritage assessment considerations – Where there may be a moderate adverse impact, these will be mitigated with appropriate measures 9. Highways and transport – Any such considerations will be limited to the initial phases. Once completed the site will be generally unattended 10. The absence of any subsidence risk 11. The pre-application consultation with NCC and guidance received 12. Alkane's invitation to any interested residents to tour the Bilsthorpe site which is broadly similar to that proposed. <p>The clerk will upload a copy of the summary to the council's website for residents' information and reference. Councillors agreed that no decisions were required at this stage pending the planning application. They thanked Mr Baker and Mr Bryan for their informative presentation. Mr Baker and Mr Bryan left the meeting.</p>	Clerk
RPC/108/18	Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 30 January 2018: The minutes of the meetings held on 30 January 2018 were agreed and signed by the chair.	
RPC/109/18	Matters arising – for information only: There were no matters arising.	
RPC/110/18	<p>Reports from district and county councillors: For the reasons set out at RPC/106/18 above, this item was considered after item 5 on the agenda (Parkwood Leisure report).</p> <p>Mr Pack reported that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A 40 mph speed limit is being introduced between Ollerton and Wellow 2. He has asked NCC Highways to carry out accident reduction investigations at the junction of Rufford Lane and A616 3. There had been discussions of the possibility of dualling A614 4. Ollerton roundabout is about to be re-surfaced 5. NCC share of the council tax is to rise by 5%, made up of 2% plus a further 3% for adult social care. <p>Councillors noted that Mr Pack had not been receiving the clerk's</p>	

	<p>invitations to their meetings because of an incorrect email address.</p> <p>Mr Pack left the meeting at 6.10 pm. The meeting reverted to item 6 on the agenda (Presentation – Alkane Energy).</p>	
RPC/111/18	Reports from Councillors: No reports.	
RPC/112/18	2018 Annual parish meeting arrangements: Councillors agreed 5.00 pm on Tuesday 25 May 2018	
RPC/113/18	Council documents storage: The clerk will make an approach to Parkwood to see if any facilities would be available.	Clerk
RPC/114/18	<p>Financial Matters:</p> <p>a. Financial position as at 28 February 2018: Councillors considered and noted the clerk’s report showing the precise financial position at 28 February 2018. The chair verified the stated balances against the reserve bank statement.</p> <p>b. Accounts for payment: The council unanimously approved nine payments totalling £934.56.</p>	
RPC/115/18	<p>Planning matters:</p> <p>a. Applications: None</p> <p>b. To note planning decisions by NSDC: 17/02184/FUL Replacement of the existing Saxon Village play area and replacement and relocated cafe kiosk Rufford Abbey Old Rufford Road Rufford - Approval noted</p> <p>c. Enforcement matters including possible commercial activity on land adjoining Old Rufford Road: Councillor noted that NSDC is investigating the position. The clerk will request an update.</p>	Clerk
RPC/116/18	<p>Parish environment and appearance: The clerk will report that the fence near the post box on Rufford Lane on A616 side of forge is damaged and needs to be repaired.</p> <p>The clerk will seek support from a different website designer regarding difficulties in editing the website.</p>	Clerk Clerk
RPC/117/18	Service faults: Nothing raised	
RPC/118/18	<p>Correspondence: Councillors confirmed that, as agreed at the meeting on 30 January 2018, the surface of Maylodge Drive is a private matter and, as such, is not a matter for the council.</p> <p>All items of correspondence noted together with an item of correspondence received after circulation of the agenda raising concerns regarding low flying aircraft. Councillors agreed that the matter raised fell outside the council’s limited powers and that, to date, they had received no other approaches regarding the issue. However, they noted the concerns pending any further concerns being raised.</p>	Clerk
RPC/119/18	Agenda items for next meeting: As above	
RPC/120/18	Date of next meeting: Tuesday 15 May 2018 at 5.30 pm	

The meeting closed at 7.20 pm