

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING 7th AUGUST 2023
IN RUNWELL VILLAGE HALL AT 7.00PM**

IN ATTENDANCE: - Chairman: Cllr Clark; Messrs.: Davis, Lansdale, Redway, Rogers, Sloane and Tarplett. Mesdames: Ellis, Evans, Hutson & Payne; 12 members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the August meeting.

Minute 66 Apologies: Cllrs Crossley & Gould. Apologies accepted.

Minute 67 Declarations of Interest – None received.

Minute 68 Public Participation (Time allowed extended)

The following matters were raised: **St. Luke's** – Request made via ECC Cllr Grundy to reduce the speed limit on St. Luke's roads from 30mph to 20mph; St. Luke's Chapel has been damaged due to children playing football in the grounds; Continued issues with contractors parking on local roads; **Runwell Chase** – Recently felled tree possibly blocking ditch; brambles and overgrown vegetation blocking footway connecting St. Lukes; contractor parking still an issue (Cllr Davis to speak to Countryside); **Runwell Road** – Broken/damaged boundary fence and excessive overgrowth on the plot next to the printers (making the footway impassable) – contact to be made with owner to rectify; **Highways** – Alderney Gardens bus stop sign in Brock Hill blocked by overgrown conifer belonging to the resident behind. Resident not willing to cut back – report to ECC Highways; CHP property in Egbert Gardens has overgrown shrub and brambles on the verge which is now overgrowing the footway – report; Brock Hill traffic calming by Waverley Crescent, visibility issues reported by Cllr Redway to ECC Cabinet Member Cllr Lee Scott; Traffic regulation amendment and request for double yellow lines by Wantz corner to be chased up by Cllr Clark; **St.Mary's Church** – Request to send a letter to the new Arch Deacon to potentially obtain some of the glebe land adjacent to the North Churchyard, **Homeholly House** – setting up as a drop off point for the local Salvation Army foodbank; **Wickford Carnival Saturday 9th September** – ensure arrangements in place for the start point in Runwell Park, toilets, stewards etc. Cllr Hutson will be present. (Agenda item for September meeting); **Meadow Lane** – reports of further mobile home installations and damage to property during the process of delivery – continued Planning Enforcement Issues; **Planning objections to proposal for 4 new dwellings at 120 Church End Lane** – (Agenda item 8(iii)) Several residents objected to the proposal, comments: inappropriate in the greenbelt, unsuitable access, planning notices removed, permission will set a precedent for further applications, misuse of the land, flooding, disturbance with traffic movements.

Minute 69 Minutes of Council Meeting 3rd July 2023. Cllr Lansdale asked for the minutes to be changed to reflect his apologies rather than absence, this was duly adjusted, the minutes were then approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

Minute 70 Clerks Report

See Appendix 1:

Minute 71 Finance

(i) Payments for approval

Lloyds Bank

Pre-payments

FPO	WeGlaze	Hall Windows 3 rd Tranche payment	£6117.89
FPO	J Pharez	Salary	
FPO	JC Rogers	Salary 4 weeks plus locking etc	
FPO	Friends Wickford Memorial Park	Returnable Hall Deposit	£50.00
Subtotal			£8202.02

Payments for authorisation

FPO	L Vallis	Groundsman Runwell Park 5 weeks(less 3 days)	£1159.25
FPO	Essex Pension Fund	Staff Pensions	
FPO	JCR Garden Serv	Hall Garden - Monthly	£60.00
FPO	BF Ground Maint.	Park – July 2@ 270.00 plus VAT	£648.00
FPO	Activ8	Summer Roundabout	£425.00

FPO	Kompan	Service & Repairs Play Area Runwell Park	£689.66
FPO	Capitol Hygiene	Feminine Hygiene Service Contact – Annual Renewal	£350.86
FPO	K Barriers	Simple K Barrier – Runwell Park	£1298.40
FPO	RCCE	Annual M/Ship	£105.60
FPO	C Goodey	Returned Hall deposit	£50.00
FPO	WeGlaze	Final payment on completion	£5005.54
D/debit	Adobe	Acrobat Pro	£15.17
D/debit	Veolia	Hall Refuse July (due 30 th August)	£195.06
Total			£18954.06

A transfer of £11,000.00 (Eleven thousand pounds) was agreed from the Business Deposit Account to the Current Account to cover these payments.

Barclays Bank

Pre-payments

107674	Touch of Class	Balance to Dry-clean Hall curtains	£475.00
Debit Card	Fast Keys	Duplicate Hall Keys	£90.00

Petty Cash

Debit Card	Clean Front of Hall £85.00	Part payment for Dry-Cleaning £100.00	£185.00
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Payments

D/debit	British Gas Business	Monthly Bill July 23	£59.65
D/debit	E.on Next	Electricity used at Hall monthly	£285.96
D/debit	WAVE	Water at Runwell Park	£60.00

Total **£1155.61**

Sufficient funds held in the Barclays Current Account to cover these payments.

- (ii) **Bank Reconciliation 1st April 2023 – 30th June 2023.** The Council approved the Bank Reconciliation (copy attached to these minutes). Breakdown of Receipts and Payments for the same period deferred to the next meeting.
- (iii) **Runwell Park – Security Fence Quotations.** The Council considered 2 quotations to supply and install 190m of 868 High Security Mesh Fencing 3m high with clamp bar and anti-tamper bolts M & J Oakley £34,037 plus VAT: Farm & Country Supplies £30,819 plus VAT.

It was proposed, seconded and agreed to accept the quotation from Farm & Country Supplies in the sum of £30819 plus VAT

- (iv) **Refund/Retention of Hall Payment/Deposit.** The council agreed to refund both the deposit and hire fee (£140) for a resident who had to cancel at short notice due to family issues.

Minute 72 Correspondence

1. BASICS Essex - Request for financial assistance. Essex & Herts Air Ambulance are supported by this Council, request declined - Clerk to send standard reply.
2. Runwell Horticultural Association – Closing Newsletter. Details noted.
3. Chelmsford City Council via Rural Community Council of Essex – Rural Prosperity Fund – Grant availability. Clerk to apply for the proposed Security Fence.
4. Church End Lane Resident – Security Group presence query. The Council had not engaged the Security Group – resident to be informed.

Minute 73 Planning

Applications Received:

- (i) 23/01039/FUL Land Rear of 130 Runwell Road – Proposed construction of new dwelling with formation of access. *RPC comment:* No objection.
- (ii) 23/01173/FUL 38 Lindon Road – Raise roof to create first floor with dormers and roof lights. Proposed single storey rear extension. Demolition of existing single storey flat roof garage replaced with side extension. *RPC comment:* Supported.
- (iii) 23/01192/FUL Land Rear of 120 Church End Lane – Demolition of existing barn, workshops and stables to provide 4x single storey dwellings with associated parking and amenity. *RPC comment:* RPC strongly object to this application as inappropriate development of the greenbelt. The footprint claimed as developed land is over and above the area permitted under ref 06/01260/FUL Retention of Agricultural Barn, many of the claimed areas are only

temporary buildings/storage facilities without planning permission. Development of this land will create a precedent. This is not an assigned area for development within the adopted Local Plan. The density and design of the proposed buildings is out of character with the surrounding dwellings.

Minute 73 Runwell Park

- (i) Plantation Work Party. It was agreed to defer this until the end of September, agenda item for the next meeting. Obtain a quotation from Bradley Faulkner for weed removal within the plantation. Groundsman to be asked to clear areas of the plantation when time permits on Mondays.
- (ii) Self-watering bags for trees. Tree count required being placing an order. Defer to end of September.

Minute 74 Reports

Hall – Work party arranged for Saturday 12th August 9.30am; date tba for the alarm sensors to be fitted (possibly extra sensors required); reminder that accessible toilet lock needs attention/replacement – added to the small jobs list. Hall car park pot holes in urgent need of repair, quotations needed.

Park – Security blocks and K Barrier to be installed next week. It will be necessary to remove fly-tipping and overgrown brambles from the boundary fence prior to the new higher fence being installed. Quotations to follow. Light in Men's Shed workshop left on, check keys holders and who has access. Play in the Park Tuesday 15th August – arrange access to main field, toilets and water

Runwell Roundabout – A full Summer edition was produced. Some distribution queries, undelivered copies available to collect at the end of the meeting.

Allotments – The damaged tree/s had been made safe by a tree surgeon. A chance passer-by jumped the gate and stole change from one of the parked vehicles. The beekeeper wants to place 2 more hives on site, protective netting is needed. Clerk to review the allotment budget for available funds for the netting.

PRoW – Footpath 3 has been missing its marker sign for 3 years. (This has been reported on numerous occasions)

CCC – Report that The Home Office had seconded a Chelmsford Building converted into luxury flats for asylum seekers, there was no choice in the matter.

Schools

RCPS – The meeting to discuss the parking issues had to be cancelled due to an Ofsted inspection just before the end of term.

St.Luke's School - No report.

Minute 75 Notices of Motions and Future Business

- Planning Committee Monday 21st August 2023 7pm if business requires.
- Hall work party Saturday 12th August 2023 9.30am
- Council Meeting Monday 4th September 2023 7pm
- Wickford Carnival Saturday 9th August 2023 assembling in Runwell Park

Minute 76 Agenda items for next meeting:

Finance – Receipts & Payments April – June 2023

Wickford Carnival

Runwell Park – Quotations for weeding Plantation.

RCPS – School Parking

For Budget 24/25 Meeting – Set aside funds for External Painting of Hall, cleaning fascia's and repair guttering.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm