

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING 2ND SEPTEMBER 2024 IN RUNWELL VILLAGE HALL AT 7.00PM

IN ATTENDANCE: - Messrs. Clark, Redway, Rogers, Sloane and Tarplett. Mesdames: Ellis, Evans, Gould, Hutson and Payne; 7 members of the public. Assistant Clerk Miss J Norinkeviciute.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to September meeting

Minute 85 Apologies: Crossley, Davis & Lansdale. Apologies accepted. Clerk Mrs J Pharez on holiday.

Minute 86 Declarations of Interest – None declared

Minute 87 Public participation

The following matters were raised: **Highways** – Runwell Road (i) near the printers – update on the damaged drain, (ii) large, deep pothole on the overpass (Rettendon Turnpike) of A130 - report to ECC Highways; Locarno Avenue – the recent re-surfacing and patching works is already breaking up; Brock Hill – large pothole opposite 132 has created dangerous driving conditions (Check reported to ECC Highways); Egbert Gardens – Continued concerns regarding the overgrown hedge (Get update from Clerk and prepare a further letter); Egbert Gardens/Swan Lane junction – report of overgrown hedge; **Runwell Roundabout** – Review of content needed; **Bus Shelter Bin** – **Browns Avenue** – ongoing issue with general waste being dumped and bin not being emptied on refuse day; **Dog bin (Downham Road/Waverley Crescent)** – dog waste bags continue to pile up after disappearance of the dog bin; **Meadow Lane** – Further reports of mobile homes being delivered and sited, frequent power cuts, sewage by Meadow Farm. All matters to be reported to CCC for investigation; **Battlesbridge Bridge Report by Roy Hart** – see Minute 95

Minute 88 The Minutes of Council Meeting held 5th August 2024, and the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held 19th August 2024 were both approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

Minute 89 Clerks Report – The Assistant Clerk read out the Clerks report covering work completed through the month.

Minute 90 Finance:

(i) Payments:

Lloyds Bank - Pre-payments

D/Debit	Adobe	Acrobat Pro – Monthly	£19.97
FPO	Go-Pak	Hall - 100 Chairs	£4262.40
Sub total			£4282.37

Lloyds Bank Payments for approval

FPO	J Pharez	Salary	
FPO	JC Rogers	Salary plus locking etc	
FPO	J Norinkeviciute	Salary	
FPO	Essex Pension Fund	Staff Pensions	
FPO	JCR Garden Serv	Hall Garden – Monthly	£60.00
FPO	L Vallis	Groundsman Runwell Park 4 Weeks Aug (old rate)	£974.80
FPO	BF Ground Maint	Grass Cutting Runwell Park - Aug	£336.00
FPO	Viking Direct	Hall Supplies	£107.95
FPO	PT Electrical	Runwell Shed - Meter in Pavilion	£228.00
FPO	Abbott Signs	Hall "Vehicles left at own risk"	£24.00
FPO	CCC	Play in the Park	£1425.00
FPO	RCPS	S137 Swimming Grant	£1750.00
D/debit	Veolia	Hall Refuse re Jul	£266.05
Total			£13395.09

A transfer of £9000 (Nine thousand pounds) was agreed from the Savings account to the current account to cover these payments.

Barclays Bank - Prepayments

D/debit	Brit Gas	Monthly Gas at Hall - July 24	£65.07
D/debit	WAVE	Hall Water/Sewerage 1/2ly Feb - Jul	£413.15
D/debit	WAVE	1/2ly Feb - Jul Water charges Park Pavilion	£248.16
D/debit	Essex & Suffolk Water	Allotments 1/2 yearly Water Bill Feb-Jul	£388.36

Barclays Bank Payments for approval

D/debit	E.on Next	Electricity used at Hall monthly	£285.96
D/debit	BT	Park/CCTV and Office Broadband Monthly	£260.17
D/Debit	BNP Paribas Strutt & Parker	Quarterly Allotments Rent (Sep)	£112.00
Debit Card	Cash - Petty Cash		
	Allotment Deposit refund £12.50	Hall - mirror £13.99	
	Hall - Repairs - Labour £90.00	Hall - Hoover Bags £11.00	£127.49
Total			£1900.32

Sufficient funds are held in the Barclays current account to cover these payments.

- (ii) The purchase of 100 replacement Hall Chairs in the sum of £4262.40 was approved (see Minute 90 section (i)). Scheduled delivery 20th September 2024
- (iii) VAT update – Agenda item for October meeting. Cllr Hutson offered help with this query.
- (iv) St. Luke's Swimming Grant – No information received from Cllr Davis - Defer to October meeting.

Minute 91 Correspondence

- 1. British Gas renewal figures – Agenda item for October meeting
- 2. Allotments – 3rd and final notice to quit (by 31st August) issued to tenant of Plot 33. The Council reserves the right to withhold the deposit as a result of breached rules of the tenancy agreement. The deposit will go towards the cost of recovering the plot.
- 3. Runwell Flood Alleviation Scheme – the email update received from Project Design Engineer. Noted
- 4. The Council were pleased with the success of this years Play in the Park, positive feedback received.
Note: Low demand for the bouncy castle, review when making next years booking.
- 5. Runwell Dance Club – The Council noted that Runwell Dance Club would be closing at the end of September after 40 years, due to a fall in membership. Tuesday evenings will become available for hire on a regular basis.

Minute 92 Planning

Applications received:

- (i) 24/01121/FUL – The Anchorage Runwell Chase – Replacement storage barn. **RPC comment:** Runwell Parish Council notes this is a revised application following the refusal of previous application ref 24/00235/FUL to which this Council had no objection. We trust that the planning officer will review any amendments and assess accordingly taking into account current greenbelt planning policies.

Minute 93 Runwell Park

The Chairman read the proposal from Wickford & Runwell FC in regard to make improvements to the changing rooms at the Park. The Council supported this proposal.

Minute 94 Runwell Village Hall

Replacement of RSVP awning or similar sun shade for children's play area. No further comment.

Minute 95 Public Rights of Way

- Motion received from Cllr Rogers: Runwell Parish Council to establish a Summer Bridge Walk upon the opening of St. Luke's Bridge linking Runwell and Rettendon also to include (once opened) the

new path linking Battlesbridge to Wickford crossing the River Crouch via the new "Roy Hart" bridge. Motion accepted.

- The Council received a report from Rettendon Cllr Roy Hart on the progress of the proposed new bridge. Further meetings and discussions to follow.

Minute 96 Reports:

Hall – Exterior paint work commenced on 19th August was completed. New 100 chairs for the hall were purchased expected delivery on 20th September. Memorial Bench for the Hall Garden was ordered expected to receive on 6th September. An ongoing issue with the hall front door lock when overheats – suggestion to use the Committee Room door as a temporary measure.

Park – No report

Schools - **St Luke's Park** – see Minute 90 (iv)

Runwell Community Primary – No report

Runwell Roundabout – No report

Allotments – See Minute 91(2)

PRoW – No further report.

CCC Officers – Cllr Clark reported that the catchment school for the residents of St Luke's is Sweyne School, Rayleigh. A number of residents have raised concerns about the lack of transport to this school and the costs involved. The matter is being escalated via MP John Whittingdale. Following a discussion it became apparent that several catchment areas have changed recently. ECC is accountable for these changes.

St Luke's Park – No report

Runwell Shed – No Report

Minute 97 Notices of Motions and Future Business

1. Planning meeting 3rd Monday 16th September 2024 if business requires.
2. Wickford Carnival 14th September – Cllr Hutson covering the keys and the toilets. She had also been asked to be the judge of the parade in the company of the Mayor.
3. Working Party for 100th Parish Councils Anniversary – Cllrs Ellis, Gould, Payne and Clerk with Asst Clerk volunteered in previous Council Meeting to help with organisation. Thank you to Cllrs Clark & Rogers for joining the Working Party.

Minute 98 Agenda items for next meeting Monday 7th October 2024

1. VAT update from EALC
2. British Gas renewal figures
3. S137 request for St Luke's Primary School

The meeting closed at 9pm.