

Rudston Parish Council

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Minutes of a Special Meeting held in the Village Hall

on Wednesday, 4th February, 2015

1. Present: Mr. N. Watson (Chairman)
Mr. S. Rhodes
Mr. P. Wood
Mr. R. Overfield
Mr. T. Smallwood
Mr. R. Van der Heijden
Mr. A.S. Ezard
Mr. B. Warcup
Mr. J. Moorfoot
Mrs. A. Starkey
Mr. C. Shanks
Mr. P. Crossland (Clerk)
+ 10 people observing.

The Chairman expressed his delight at the large number of people in attendance, but warned that this was not a general meeting and that normal parish council procedures would apply. Three of those observing had earlier requested chance to speak, and any others may only do so by consent of the Chairman.

He also stressed that the only subject matter to be discussed would be the one on the agenda, whereupon one of those observing, Mrs. Cowton, withdrew her “booked” speech. The Chairman also asked members about his course of action in the event of a similar disturbance as in the previous meeting. He explained that correctly he should temporarily suspend proceedings in such cases, and members agreed to that.

Mrs. Owen was then invited to speak on the Tree Preservation Order issue. She emphasised once again the importance in which she and others view the matter, and the fear of what may happen if the Order were not put in place. It was thought that the parish council had hurried their earlier decision having not taken all relevant factors into account, and Mrs. Owen urged them to reconsider its earlier letter.

Mr. Burgess gave a short representation, and assured the meeting that there was no intention to cut any more trees down on the site.

2. Tree Preservation Order (item 6 i, last meeting refers)

The Chairman read out the letter referred to above, and a thorough discussion commenced, in which all members joined. There were arguments both for letting the original decision stand, and for issuing another letter with a changed decision to support the Order. A vote by show of hands resulted in four members in favour of that, and three for letting it stand, with others abstaining. There was further argument as to whether this would set a precedent with almost any type or number of trees having a T.P.O. put upon them. The trees which had earlier been felled on the site were also discussed, and the Chairman confirmed that the Forestry Commission had undertaken that. By invitation, observer Mr. Burgess gave the timing involved between that and the T.P.O. appearing.

The Chairman would prepare another letter to East Riding of Yorkshire Council explaining the parish council's altered decision. Members with e-mail facility would see, and have chance to comment on the wording, before despatch.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8 p.m.