

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF
RUSHWICK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 9th DECEMBER 2015 AT 7.30 PM
IN RUSHWICK VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr Deakin (Chairman), Cllr Parker, Cllr Elcock, Cllr Haywood, Cllr Rowley, Cllr Wigglesworth and Cllr Bennett

In Attendance: County Councillor Grove, District Councillor Chambers and Mr Scott.

1. Apologies for absence: None
2. Declaration of Interests
 1. Members were reminded to update their register of interests.
 2. Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary: None
 3. Other Disclosable Interests: None
3. To consider written requests from Councillors for the Council to Grant a Dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011): None requested.

The meeting was adjourned for Public Question Time, notes of which are appended to these minutes

4. Minutes: Having been previously circulated the minutes of The Parish Council meeting of 11th November 2015 were signed as a true and correct record.
5. Progress Reports: No matters arising from previous minutes. The Action Plan was reviewed.
6. Parish Lengthsman Scheme: An update was received as per worksheet
7. Reports from representatives: To receive an update
 - 7.1 County Councillor – Cllr Grove
 1. Carrington Bridge – Awaiting further details regarding financial spending.
 2. Syrian Refugees – Government will find first year. Beyond that more details are required before Any bid is placed.
 3. Financial challenges in 2016/17 £22M savings identified from £25M resulting in a £3M shortfall. As a result there will be an increase in Council Tax.
 4. Robust discussions are under review between District and County concerning Social Care, Adult Social Services and Children Services, due to financial challenges. As a result there will be an Increase in Council Tax to look care to the elderly and vulnerable.
 5. Devolution – Funding is under discussions
 - 7.2 District Councillor – Cllr Chambers
 1. Commented following a meeting held at County Hall on planning application 15/01419/OUT the ambition to complete the northern link road, although this is not within the long term objectives of the SWDP up to 2030.
 2. District Council is also facing challenging financial times especially in years 3& 4.
 3. The portfolio holders presented the strategic plan, which was agreed despite some difficulties. This is to be presented at full council on 2nd February 2016.
 4. Following feedback at the Parish Conference in October 2015 2 x Neighbourhood Planning Workshops have been arranged: - Monday 25 January 2016, 2-4pm and Thursday 28th January 2016, 6-8pm
 5. Good Working relationship between MHDC and Wychavon as a result of shared services. Legal Services are the next area to be considered.

- 7.3 Report from Village Hall Committee – Cllr Rowley
- The bell cord in the disabled toilet, purchase of new chairs and purchase of a defibrillator - all ongoing.
 - Idea to set up a village forum to discuss Section 106 monies - To discuss in the New Year.
 - The register of key holders has been completed
 - Supporters Club information has been distributed.
- 7.4 Footpath Officers Report - Cllr Elcock and Cllr Williams to liaise with Amanda Hill from WCC concerning this role.
- 7.5 Report from Playscape – Cllr Parker
- The football net has been removed from the portable goals as had become dangerous, as a result of vandalism.
 - Cllr Deakin & Parker to chase Playdale in respect of play equipment repairs.
 - To look at replacing wood chippings under the zip wire.
- 7.6 School Representative report – Cllr Wigglesworth
A feasibility assessment has taken place to expand the school. Now in the consultation phase from 2 November – 11 December 2015, Formal proposal to be submitted by 23 December 2015
Cabinet decision February 2016.

Three Proposals:-

- (i) Remove the temporary building
- (ii) Expand to the rear
- (iii) Build into the playground.

Cllr Deakin is to respond to the School Public Consultation on behalf of the Parish Council with the following comments:-

‘The Parish Council believes the school expansion is required to meet demand for places that currently cannot be met.

Furthermore, that the demand for places will be greater because of the expansion of the Village due to new homes building programme within the village i.e.

(All these schemes have planning permission)

2 houses on land adjacent to Whitehall Inn, Bransford Road

14 houses on land off Upper Wick lane

18 houses on land off Old Bransford Road

28 houses at Callows Orchard, off Claphill Lane

41 houses on land off Bransford Road, between Village Hall and Broadmore Green

Or within the Parish Boundary (This scheme is applying for planning permission)

965 houses off Bromyard Road, below Crown East lane, 50% to 60% of these new homes will be within Rushwick Parish and children eligible for school places.

Several Building Plots along the Ash Path, off Upper Wick Lane, that are now eligible for housing development applications.

Parking is an issue for any development.’

8. Finance

- 8.1 Payment of accounts as per schedule were authorized.
- 8.2 Agreed Budget and precept request for financial year 2016/17 – For Information Only
Clerk to request precept from MHDC.

9. Planning: To following planning applications were discussed:--

1. Application No: 15/01419/OUT

Proposal: Outline application with all matters reserved (except points of access) for an urban extension to Worcester of up to 965 dwellings.....

Location: Land west of Worcester and north of Bromyard Road (A44) Lower Broadheath

Comments: Rushwick Parish Council (RPC) objects to this planning application as it has several serious concerns relating to:-

- Built Environment
- Housing Mix
- School Provision
- Infrastructure
- Employment Land
- Commercial Area
- Historic Sites

Rushwick Parish Council believes that as 50% to 60% of all housing from this development will be within Rushwick Parish Boundary, it has a voice and that our objections and comments ought to receive serious consideration.

Built Environment

RPC objects to use of shared surface areas within the scheme.

Their use reduces 'neighbourhood space', in that homes seem to be packed in and built on top of adjacent and opposite homes. Further it blurs plot boundaries, does not provide appropriate space for pedestrians to walk, children to play or visitors to park. With such space as is available housing density could be reduced and scheme reordered to offer better spatial appearance to families eventually living in the housing.

Development must not just meet minimum needs for home owner's car parking but also for visitors.

RPC is concerned that with the use of shared surfaces and permeable surfaces within those areas, so as to manage surface water, that home owners will not know the requirements to maintain those areas appropriately and be left with the financial responsibility to maintain that surface.

Housing Mix

RPC would like to see a better mix of housing on the scheme with the provision of more bungalows available for sale on the open market. There is plenty of evidence to show that many older persons are still living in large family homes and that the housing market would benefit from release of these larger homes into the market place but to kick start that move there is a need for appropriate new homes.

There is also the requirement to meet the needs of an aging society and people with disability/mobility issues, who can't use stairs and have greater needs for space to aid their mobility and care provision.

School Provision

RPC objects to the provision of a school on the development. There are existing schools locally that could be enhanced and developed to meet needs of children from this site. Education Levy monies would be better used developing existing schools and ensuring their futures in the area.

Infrastructure

RPC objects to the need and positioning of a new island to serve the development, it will cause motorists wishing to use Claphill Lane safety issues and create traffic congestion.

Provision needs to be made for a northern relief road to access A4440 at this point

Provision needs to be made for spine road of this development to connect appropriately with spine road of Bloor Homes development, planned for adjacent area.

RPC objects to this application receiving planning permission until improvements are completed to A4440 from Powick to M5 Junction 7, including improvements to Carrington Bridge river crossing and Worcester Royal Hospital. This development will bring further traffic congestion, to our already congested road network, and further pressure to our already failing hospital care provision, which is identified as inadequate.

Employment Land

Provision of employment land is questionable given the plethora of brown field sites already available in Worcester City, Malvern area and that in the pipeline adjacent to M5 corridor. There is employment land opposite this site off A4440.

Commercial Area

The commercial area is not required on the site. The effort/money would be better placed revitalizing Dines Green shops, the St John’s area, Malvern and Malvern Link.

Historic Sites

There are some significant historic sites within and adjacent to the development area. These must be identified and protected, with schemes put in place to ensure their safety and suitable management and protection going forward.

Planning Appeal Ref: APP/J1860/W/15/3138350

Proposal: New single storey residential dwelling on land adjacent to 11 Grange Lane

Location: Land adj 11 Grange lane, Rushwick, WR2 5TG

Rushwick Parish Council to reiterate comments previously submitted. To be received by 31/12/15

These were:-

Comments: Rushwick Parish Council has concerns this breaches the building line in Coronation Avenue.

There is insufficient parking and safety concerns. The property is not in character with the area.

We have concerns over soak away drainage. We therefore recommend refusal.

- 10. Progress update on applications for Expenditure of Section 106 monies – On going
- 11. Correspondence for Information
A request has been made by the Beavers to help assist with the next Village Tidy Up. The Parish Council is happy for them to participate however a date is yet to be arranged.
- 12. Councillors’ reports and items for future agendas:-
To co-ordinate the Village tidy up with Clean for The Queen 2016 – For discussion as an agenda item in January 2016.

Meeting closed at 9.22 pm
Sharon Baxter
Clerk

Signed Chairman..... Date.....

Public Question Time

Mr J Scott – Broadmore Green

Would like to express his concerns in respect of planning application No: 15/01419/OUT surrounding road infrastructure i.e. new roundabout and spine road.