

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF
RUSHWICK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 13 OCTOBER 2021 AT 7.30 PM
AT RUSHWICK VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr Jenkins (Chairman), Cllr Bryan, Cllr Hemsworth, Cllr Hughes, Cllr Williams , Cllr Wigglesworth & Cllr Haywood

In Attendance: Sharon Baxter (Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer)
County Councillor Scott Richardson - Brown and District Councillor Daniel Walton

1. Apologies: District Cllr Chambers (Personal) - Received
2. Declarations of Interest
 1. Register of Interests: Councillors were reminded of the need to update their register of interests.
 2. To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature - None
 3. To declare any Other Disclosable Interests on items on the agenda and their nature - None
3. To Consider written requests from Councillors for the Council to Grant a Dispensation (S33 of The Localism Act 2011) written requests to be with the clerk prior to the meeting - None

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME - No Questions

County Councillor Report was presented.

District Councillor Report was received and circulated

4. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 08.09.2021 having been previously circulated were agreed as a true and correct record.
5. Progress Reports: No Matters arising from previous minutes
The action plan was reviewed.
The additional car park land at the Village Hall has now been registered with HM Land Registry.
Pursuing Lloyds Bank to request Playscape funds to be returned to Rushwick Parish Council following its dissolution.
The dog waste bins have now arrived and are ready to be installed.
The school is happy to help with the scarecrow project to help combat speeding if the Parish Council decides to proceed.
Footpath Officer Cllr Williams has succeeded in getting old broken stiles replaced with more access friendly gates supplied by WCC Countryside Access Services.
6. Parish Lengthsman Scheme: An update was presented as per worksheet. Tim was commended for the excellent work carried out. District Cllr Walton to help to address the graffiti issue at the underpass.
7. Finance
 1. Payment of accounts were authorised as per schedule.
 2. Bank Reconciliation Statement – For Information Only
 3. Conclusion of Audit year ended 31 March 2021 – For Information Only
 4. Quarterly Budget Monitoring to 30.09.21 – For Information Only
 5. HSBC Safeguard Review – **RESOLVED:** To issue a letter to HSBC Bank to confirm that Ex Cllr Margaret Rowley is no longer part of this organisation to finalise the Safeguard Review.
8. Reports from representatives: The following updates/reports were received.
 1. Report from Village Hall Committee: Cllr Bryan
'I attended the Rushwick Village Hall Management Committee meeting held on Wednesday 22nd September 2021 at 7pm. The main points of business raised at this meeting and progressed since are as follows:

1. The monthly treasurers report was presented to the meeting as enclosed.
 2. The HSBC currently account currently has a cheque facility which is free to use to charities. HSBC are ending this free service which means that future payments will be paid by BACS payment from HSBC's internet banking facility. Unlike payments by cheque, it is not possible to have a dual authorisation facility for BACS payments via the internet banking facility. It was agreed that BACS payments would be made by the treasurer alone and month end bank statements made available for inspection.
 3. Debbie Rogers asked for support in managing the Supporters Club Money and it was agreed that David Finch would provide help and oversight.
 4. There is currently a fault with the Village Hall fire alarms system. Quotes are being sought to enable a comparison of the cost to rectify the current system vs the installation of a new radio system with the proposed building extension in mind.
 5. The external defibrillator housing lid is cracked and has been temporarily secured by means of insulation tape. I have found that a replacement lid can be purchased for £95.00 + VAT and would ask that RPC consider funding the replacement as the defibrillator is of the use of the whole village and not specifically for the Village Hall and its users. **RESOLVED:** For RPC to replace the cracked housing lid for the external defibrillator machine at a cost of £95.00 plus VAT.
 6. Moving the car park barrier was discussed and it was agreed that before a decision could be made regarding relocation of the barrier from its existing location to the car park entrance, lighting needs to be installed within the new section of car park currently controlled by the barrier. Once the lighting has been installed, the subject of moving the barrier can be revisited.
 7. Although the subject of funding available for extension or replacement of the Village Hall is the responsibility of the Rushwick Village Hall Development Committee, I have been asked by Kay Pool (chairperson of the Rushwick Village Hall Management Committee) to ascertain the value of funds currently available. Having made enquiries I understand from the email received from MHDC on 23.06.2021 that "The Gardens S106 is restricted to use on the village hall – the relevant amount is £89,408.25 with the remainder being affordable housing". However, David Finch confirm that the notes he received from his predecessor as treasurer confirms " We kicked off this project with £260,000 in S106 money allocated with MHDC . specifically for the extension" the notes go on to say, " We have high hopes that other funds will be made available through the Community Levy Infrastructure". I would be grateful if we could discuss the funding available at October's RPC meeting and clarify which of the S106 funding listed within the email received from MHDC on 23.06.2021 is earmarked for the village hall development. It was established that all monies held by MHDC potentially could be available to develop the Village Hall.
 8. Kay Poole has kindly provided all information she has on file regarding the Rushwick Village Hall Management Committee constitution. Some time needs to be spent on a full review of the documents and information held by the charity commission but initially there are a few issues to note: a. Details of the Land Registry title deed number and title register entry for the Village Hall Building are not contained within the document pack. **RESOLVED:** To pursue an enquiry with HM Land Registry at a cost of £30.00.
 - b. The Trustee name registered with the Charity Commission is "Rushwick Parish Council Andrew Deakin" - <https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-search/-/charity-details/506257/trustees>
 - c. There appears to have been an historical issue with annual returns to the Charity Commission as the returns for years ending 31st March 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 were all submitted between 14th May 2020 and 16th June 2020. <https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-search/-/charity-details/506257/accounts-and-annual-returns>
- District Cllr Walton offered to seek some advice from MHDC solicitors if the documents could be sent to him. Cllr Bryan to arrange.
9. The next meeting date is 24th November 2021'

2. Footpath Officers report: Cllr Williams

'A quieter month compared to last, but I have paid a somewhat overdue visit to the northern end of the Parish. I have de-brambled and litter-picked 1. from St Thomas's Church , up the lane, turning right onto the Bridle Path 506(b) then through Oldbury Wood (Paths 596(c) and 597(c) emerging onto Crown East Lane again and 2. from that point down the fields to Aymestry, 502(c) and 501(c) then along the A44 back to the church.

I found that the field gate between paths 502 c and 501c has been fitted with a combination padlock necessitating a climb over the gate (challenging for the less agile !) and I will begin steps to get this removed.’ County Cllr Richardson Brown to progress access to the locked field gate.

3. Report of Play Area: Cllr Hemsworth

‘ Brief report for Rushwick Park:

- Forte Trailscapes have completed work on the ‘Pump Track’ at Rushwick Park. We are just awaiting the signage, I have however put temporary safety signage up.

This does seem to be a great success & fantastic value considering the range of audience that it caters for - kids of all ages from 18mths to 60+ yrs. of all abilities.

Word seems to have got out & we have had visitors from all over the surrounding villages & Worcestershire.

So far there are no incidents to report that I know of & the dynamic down there is very friendly & people do seem diligent in taking their litter home etc.

- I have chased for the final invoice but yet to receive anything - will update once received.
- Litter seems to be under control at the moment.
- Oldbury Tigers U13s have started their season using Rushwick Park as their home ground - no issues to report & running smoothly although they are keen for us to get a storage container ASAP to help store flags & posts etc. Clerk to invoice for payment subject to confirmation of usage from Cllr Hemsworth.
- Quotes have been obtained to purchase a storage container to erect within the park.
- Following the solicitor’s letter re car park deeds I will make initial enquiries regarding whether the land owned by WCC where Rushwick Park is situated is for sale.’

RESOLVED: To purchase and plant a quantity of bulbs at a cost not to exceed £60 to plant in the top left corner of the park that is vacant since the completion of the ‘Pump Track’ to create a nature area.

RESOLVED: To purchase and install a temporary portacabin for storage purposes on land at Upper Wick Lane at a cost of £2210 from Portable Space UK.

RESOLVED: To purchase four foundation pads to use as a base to support the portacabin, supplier to be determined but not to exceed a cost of £500

4. School Representative report: Cllr Wigglesworth

Cllr Wigglesworth was thanked for her dedication and commitment in serving this role, onfirming she was resigning from this position.

The Chairman confirmed it is no longer compulsory for a member of the Parish Council to serve on the Board of Governors but would still like to maintain a connection with the school by observing these meetings.

5. Village Hall Development Committee: Position Vacant – Nothing to update.

6. Social Media Update: Cllr Hughes

‘Parish Website- Updated as per usual with documents related to Parish Council meetings.

Facebook No. of followers is now 247 (was 230 in September)

Popular pages since the last report include the news about the Pump Track; this news was also published on the Rushwick Village News page where it attracted 91 likes/39 comments.

There have been no negative incidents to report.’

9. Update on the Parish Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr Jenkins

A consultation document is being prepared to submit to the parish for their consideration and comments.

A call to seek help for volunteers to assist with the this is to be made on social media.

In respect of the Lioncourt Appeal a message is also to be placed on social media asking if people have been using Claphill Lane for Recreation purposes since the year 2000.

10. Planning: The Planning Applications listed below were considered: -

Planning Application No: 21/01596/FUL

Location: Branksome. Bransford Road, Rushwick, WR2 5TD

Proposal: New Dwelling

Comments: Rushwick Parish Council objects to this application due to over development of the site and concerns with parking allocation in relation to the size of the house.

Planning Application No: 21/01787/S106

Location: Land at (Os 8202 5595 West of Worcester), Martley Road, Lower Broadheath

Proposal: Application under S106A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to modify the requirements relating to legal agreement dated 14th April 2020 associated with planning permission 16/01168/OUT

Comments: Cllr Jenkins to finalise comments for Parish Council agreement prior to submission to MHDC.

Planning Application No: 21/01737/LB

Location: The Coach House, Upper Wick Lane, Rushwick, WR2 5SY

Proposal: Installation of an external flue to run heating system.

Comments: No Objections

The consensus was to proceed with a face-to-face meeting with Ridge Partners LLP who control the majority of the draft strategic allocation at Rushwick to view the latest version of their masterplan and work to be undertaken moving forward.

The Clerk to relay this message and offer the Chairman's contact details for a date and time to be arranged.

11. Correspondence for Information: Circulated by the Clerk
Councillor Resignation Cllr Alamgir Khan
School Representative Resignation Cllr Wigglesworth
District Cllr Walton referenced the Ward Boundaries Consultation where District Councillors are to be reduced from 38 to 31 in number.
The Chairman is to respond to some correspondence received from a parishioner regarding his disappointment in the lack of progress with the Neighbourhood Plan.
12. Councillors' reports and items for future agendas
Cllr Williams made reference to an interesting article: Cycling Walk Talks which took place on 18th September 2021.

Meeting closed at 9.34 PM

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

County Councillor Report : Scott Richardson Brown

Stated that Claphill Lane may be closed permanently where it joins the A44.

The new development at Temple Laugherne (of over 2000 houses) will be accessed by a new roundabout on the A44, close to Claphill Lane.

WCC Highways consider that Claphill Lane is too close to this new roundabout and are therefore proposing to close Claphill Lane. A consultation is expected in the next few weeks. Rushwick Parish Council has repeatedly objected to the new roundabout precisely because it was too close to Claphill Lane.

The recent appeal decision to allow 120 houses to be built on land off Claphill Lane (behind the Whitehall Inn) will add extra traffic driving through the village. This planning application featured the Claphill Lane/A44 junction prominently in its transport survey.

District Council Report : Daniel Walton

Please find attached a report for the Parish Council that we've asked the Chief Exec, Vic, to put together every month for Parish Councils. It includes a lot of the general goings on in terms of this month at the District Council and you can see we've been stimulating the economy with lots of good events and have launched our Town Centre Transformation Consultation.

We've also launched our Connected Communities strategy - this basis of which is to change the council to one that works based on what is needed by communities. There is a link on the update to a presentation that we'd love your feedback on. I think this new ABCD strategy of working with residents is very positive and something Parish Councils can really benefit from.

On town centres, our 5 Town Centre's play an important role in the economy of our district but we know that Town Centres were changing prior to Covid and since are going to change even quicker. We are blessed that all five attract visitors and have a strong local community – and we're very fortunate that great businesses continue to evolve these towns. This can be seen in Great Malvern with lots of great new restaurants and bars, as in Tenbury.

To look at what we need to do as a District Council and what we require from partners we've launched a Town Transformation Consultation, using external Consultation company and new survey software.

You can find out more at : <https://letstalk.malvernhills.gov.uk/towncentres>

We're already getting a great response, but I'd love the Parish Council to encourage residents to get involved and tell us their thoughts and experiences of any or all of the centres.

There are lots of ways to do it – all via this page.

As well as our support for high street business, through this and our High Street funds we are looking to launch further support for rural businesses and to support joint working hubs later in the year, as well as more.

Our Apprenticeship funding is working well and I know from my experience with businesses over this side of the district that there are plenty of available apprenticeships.

This last month has seen the final report from the Covid Recovery Group. This was a cross party group designed to review the practises of the council in terms of our recovery, dare I say it, post Covid. This is to support the ongoing Council's 5-year plan and work that has been specifically done with communities and local business.

The full report can be found at (Pages 5-12)

<http://moderngov.malvern hills.gov.uk/documents/g2989/Public%20reports%20pack%2021st-Sep-2021%2017.00%20Executive%20Committee.pdf?T=10&J=4>

The other major news is around the appeal at Rushwick, which didn't go in our favour, meaning that 120 homes will now be built behind the Whitehall in Rushwick. As it stand we're waiting on the outcome of a legal case from the NHS but other than that there is now nothing in the way of these houses being built.

The Rushwick application, which went to appeal was

<https://plan.malvern hills.gov.uk/Planning/Display/19/01378/OUT>

The appeal decision is listed as the 9th September. There are a lot of docs on the page so hopefully you can find it. It does say in the decision that the decision made was not related to the 5 year housing land supply saying that a supply of 5.76 had been presented although the appeal did state that adding this 120 houses would help the supply. That was done with no regards for impact on local schools, roads or lack of infrastructure in a category 3 village.

The Council have recently published the yearly housing land supply report:

South Worcestershire Five Year Housing Land Supply Report 2021, which you can find at:

<http://moderngov.malvern hills.gov.uk/documents/s33274/EC1583%20-%20South%20Worcs%205%20Year%20Housing%20Land%20Supply%202021.pdf?J=5>

South Worcestershire Five Year Housing Land Supply Report

<http://moderngov.malvern hills.gov.uk/documents/s33275/EC1583%20APP1%20-%20South%20Worcs%20Five%20Year%20Housing%20Land%20Supply%20Report%202021.pdf?J=5>

Which backs this up.

I have asked for the appeal to be challenged legally but that's been turned down.

Overall, this is very disappointing. The current 5YHLS is yet to be tested but we do expect that it will be at some point but are confident that the new report shows a robust HLS across the 3 joint districts of the South Worcestershire Plan.

As it stands, we are at threat of this being tested.

I have met with the Parish Council and the officers looking after Rushwick as a potential urban development for an update which we can discuss.

Away from this I want to say a big thank you to Steve and everyone else involved in delivery of the Pump Track. I've had lots of incredible feedback about it. I've been down and visited it a couple of times and it's been busy.