

**RUSHWICK'S ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 25th MAY 2022 AT 7.30PM IN RUSHWICK VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT: Mr. R Jenkins (Chairman)

IN ATTENDANCE: 7 parishioners were present at this meeting.

1. Welcome: Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all parishioners.

2. Apologies for Absence: Cllr Kit Williams

3. Guest Speakers

a. Talk on Smartwater Initiative presented by Francis Bridgwater

The main aim of the project is to protect residential properties in the West Mercia force area with Smartwater, a unique forensics property marking system that deters criminals from committing offences in protected areas. Data shows that residential burglary in West Mercia is down by 23%.

Each Smartwater kit is unique to the property it is registered to, so any property can be traced to a specific address. This makes property less desirable to criminals and more difficult to sell on.

The PCC is offering 25% of the total cost of the Smartwater kits for your chosen area and will pay 100% of the cost of the signage to promote your protected area. The object of this project being to try and reduce crime.

The Parish Council will further look into the total costs of rolling out this project before progressing further. Mr. Bridgwater was thanked for his very informative presentation and demonstration.

b. Update on the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

The Cricket Club are delighted to be hosting Rushwick's big Jubilee Party, on Thursday 2nd June, to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's remarkable 70 years on the throne. The event will be the perfect opportunity for the whole Parish to come together, following the last two years of heartache, uncertainty and isolation caused by Covid, welcoming families from all around the area to come and have fun . There is a full programme of events and activities lined up for everyone to enjoy from 1pm to 8pm

All of the necessary licences have been acquired, lots of outdoor loos have been hired, a full risk assessment has been carried out, a host of volunteers are eager to help.

Thanks were expressed to the Parish Council, and Ward Councillors – Daniel Walton and David Chambers – for generously donating funds towards this event. It would not be taking place without the funding they have provided.

Malvern Hills District Council also gave a grant and have been thanked.

Finally, thanks were expressed to the Committee and members of Rushwick Cricket Club, who have put in many hours to date – and will also be working on the day – to ensure that everyone has a memorably fun, rewarding and safe day.

4. The minutes of the virtual meeting held on Wednesday 5 May 2021 were approved
No matters arising from these approved minutes

5. Annual Report of the Parish Council
The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance extending his thanks to Ginny Wigglesworth who recently retired from the Parish Council. He welcomed Robert Wise. He highlighted the achievements of all Councillor representatives over the past year and thanked them their hard work and efforts. These included upgrade to the play area to include the pump track, litter bins and storage container. Repairs following the ROSPA inspection, clearance of footpaths, installation of kissing gates and signage and Village Hall improvements.

6. Police Report – No report available

7. County Councillor Report - No report provided as relatively new to attending Annual Parish meetings. Here to observe and to try to answer any questions. Scott Richardson Brown was thanked for his support

8. District Councillor Report - The report is appendix to these minutes.
Thanks were expressed to District Councillors Walton and Chambers for all their help, guidance, and support throughout the year.

9. Statement of Accounts 2021/22
The Clerk confirmed the Annual Accounts for 2021/2022 were currently being inspected by the Internal Auditor. The next stage is to prepare them ready for the External Audit.
As of 31.03.2022 there is a balance of £55194.25 which includes unspent CIL of £34104 awarded on 31.10.2020

The Chairman thanked parishioners for their time and attending this meeting.

He then closed the meeting at 8.28pm where parishioners were invited to have refreshments.

Sharon Baxter – Parish Clerk
Tel: 07815468928

Signed Date

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

Over the last year - from 2021 to 2022 Covid has continued to loom large and has continued to affect us all.

It's only in 2022 that I finally had it myself and it seemed more people had it this year than previous in my immediate circle of friends and colleagues. Although we've all been safe and sensible. (No parties).

At a local level what we've seen is the council working with communities, learning from communities and supporting communities. We have launched our ABCD strategy - connected communities - No longer doing to residents but having residents and villages determine what needs to be done and then we support that. I'll share an excellent presentation we did for Parish and Town Councils the other evening to you all separately which gives some further opportunities to get involved and shows what other Parishes have been able to do through some of the support available.

We've seen in Covid that communities knew best and came together and through the covid recovery CPG that I ran this was one of the great takeaways that is continues to be the way that communities know what they need and we should be here to support that.

I came into local politics not for myself - not the easy way or all paid for but as an Independent- before we even introduced this connected communities policy I've been here to listen and act on everyone's behalf regardless of whether they are a socialist or a Tory, a Lib Dem or a Green. It doesn't matter.

When I sort out reports of dog dirt, defend our communities against over development or work with local community groups to support them politics doesn't come into it and it shouldn't. It's about being a voice for local people and ensuring we get what - where we can - what the community wants.

We've seen this approach of a non-political community support in the work that's taken up a lot of the last year in the development of town plans for each of our 5 High streets.

We now have 5 sets of plans - having just passed our Executive Committee, which have been developed by the stakeholders and residents of those High streets including visitors and residents. Our high streets, like our communities, will be developed by the people who use them and visit them.

We've had a concerted effort to support businesses working with Apprentices and taking on more apprenticeships, working with schools to promote opportunities and increasing the level of information available to parents and others. This has really paid off with our initial targets of 20 more apprentices into positions passed very quickly and extra funding secured as meant we've been able to continue to support local businesses.

The recent appeal for people to support Ukrainian families has shown just how good a district we are with Malvern Hills supporting more families than any other district in Worcestershire per head of the population and only Wychavon have supported more overall. It's great to see communities, again, coming together to do this and the District Council have worked hard and quickly to validate donor families.

On Planning we've had our ups and downs. The biggest down was clearly the appeal decision against us from Lioncourt and we know that an estate that is not needed, wanted or suitable will be built in Rushwick. In other parts of the village, we've stopped development and we've all worked together to continue to have the conversation about the now delayed SWDPr. Protecting our views is vital. Ensuring we only get housing the village wants is vital and getting the infrastructure is a must. No houses without a train holt. We can't have anything built until that Train Holt is in place and our infrastructure supported.

All villages around Worcestershire are seeing development and by far we are at further danger due to our proximity to the city but retaining the character and individual nature of Rushwick is vital. We've seen through Covid how this village comes together. We've seen with the addition of the Pump Track and our brilliant play area - the work done by Steven - just how the village comes together. We've seen it with what Kit does every week and Tim also - clearing paths and roads for people to move around the great countryside we have. And the excellent work done by all Parish Councillors including the hardest work I've ever witnessed on Dog Poo bins from Carl.

And finally, we'll see the village come together next week for the Silver Jubilee Celebrations. It's going to be good.

I just hope that following the Boundary Commission's final comments when released in July work for Rushwick and we get to continue this good work.