

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF
RUSHWICK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 11 JANUARY 2023 AT 7.30 PM
AT RUSHWICK VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr Jenkins (Chair), Cllr Bryan, Cllr Hemsworth, Cllr Williams, Cllr Wise, Cllr Lowe and Cllr Haywood

In Attendance: Sharon Baxter (Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer)
District Cllr Daniel Walton plus two parishioners.

1. One Councillor vacancy is available
2. Apologies: To receive apologies and approve reason for absence
Cllr Hughes (work commitments) - accepted.
3. 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 in items on the agenda and their nature - None
4. 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

Notes from Public Question Time are appended to these minutes
County Councillor Report - Cllr Scott Richardson Brown – The report was noted.
District Councillor Report - Cllr Daniel Walton – The report was noted.

5. Minutes: Having been previously circulated the minutes of The Parish Council meeting of 09.11.2022 were signed as a true and correct record.
6. Progress Reports: Matters arising from previous minutes and review of Action Plan
No matters arising.
The action plan was reviewed. Cllr Williams is to liaise with Mr. White from WCC Countryside Access Services to progress improvements to gates and stiles.
Contractual arrangements have now been finalised and implemented for the Clerk following legal advice.
A call for volunteers to progress Community Speedwatch is to be made on social media.
7. Correspondence for Information/Action: Circulated by the Clerk.
The submission of an objection response to SWDPR Public Consultation (Regulation 19) was made in good time. Thanks were expressed to Cllr Hemsworth for his assistance. It was suggested to keep writing as a reminder with regularly updates.
West Mercia Police Community Charter – Parish Contact Contract – The top three community issues chosen included- 1.Observation of the underpass 2. Anti-Social Behaviour at the play park. and
3. Speeding from the A4103 to Rushwick Village Hall
8. Parish Lengthsman Scheme: An update was presented as per worksheet.
Work this month included: - Charged/checked the VAS sign, cleaned and cleared rubbish from the underpass, sided out and cleared footpaths and gully grates in Upper Wick, along Bransford Road and Crown East.

9. Finance
 1. **RESOLVED:** Payment of accounts as per schedule were authorised.
 2. Monthly Bank Reconciliation Statement – For Information Only
 3. Quarterly Budget Monitoring – Quarter 3 – For information Only
 4. **RESOLVED:** After discussion a budget of £ 35,390 for 2023/2024 was agreed.
 5. **RESOLVED:** To request a precept from MHDC for 2023/2024 of £32,5060.

10. Reports from representatives: The following updates were received: -
 1. Report from Village Hall Committee: Cllr Bryan
 - The Committee is looking into development of the Village Hall
 - To progress land registration in the absence of the deeds.
 - Dog Bins – seeking new location to install the spare bins.

 2. Footpath Officers report: Cllr Williams
 - Path from the Golf Course, over the bridge to the Cricket Club gate, then over the field to Christine Avenue and the Ash Path : inspected - no issues.
 - Path from the rear of The White Hall along the field to the far side of the pedestrian underpass inspected - no issues , but DANGEROUSLY muddy !
 - Path from Brookfield’s down to the brook, then up and along the field to return to the road opposite Broadmore Green : inspected - no issues except two loose boards on the footbridge - now secured.
 - a. Progress update on replacing stiles and gates (Cllr Jenkins)
Cllr Williams to progress with the Officer on his return to work on 17 January 2023.

 3. Report of Play Area: Cllr Hemsworth
To seek funding to purchase a tower unit piece of play equipment.
To issue an invoice to OPT for 3 matches recently played.

 4. Social Media Update: Cllr Hughes – No report available

 4. School Representative report: Cllr Hemsworth (Temporary) – Mr. Clements has been appointed as the new Headteacher.

 5. Speeding Issues & Crime Prevention Update: Cllr Wise
Neighbourhood Watch has now been set up and signage is to be installed to the entrances of the village indicating this is a Neighbourhood Watch area. Cllr Wise will try to progress 20’s Plenty campaign.
 - a. To progress with Community Speed Watch. – A call for volunteers to progress Community Speed Watch is to be made.

11. Update on the Parish Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr Jenkins
Changes to policies and the SWDPR have impacted on the delay of the Parish Neighbourhood plan. The next step is to try and organize a public consultation. To help disperse the workload Cllr Lowe agreed to become involved.

12. Planning: *Cllrs are reminded to view MHDC website for full details*
To consider the Planning Applications listed below plus any others received before this meeting: -

Planning Application No: M/22/00776/RM
Proposal: Reserved Matters application for 120 dwellings following outline
Approval 19/01378/OUT (allowed on Appeal Ref APP/J1860/W/21/3267054) to include
details of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale.
Location: Land at (Os 8205 5395), Claphill Lane, Rushwick
Comments required on additional information/amendments only by 13th January 2023
Comments:

External Lighting: The village currently has no street lighting and we wish that is maintained on this development so that it is inclusive with the rest of the village.

Children’s Local Area of Play (LAP): Whilst we have no objection to providing a green open space within the site for children to play we wish that any play equipment planned for this area is located within the existing village play area in Upper Wick Lane, adjacent to the school and very close to the development site. Our reason for this is it will help the new development integrate and become an inclusive part of the village.

Layout and House Type Design: We note the applicants’ statement that the scheme now apparently has three clear areas with subtle differences in form. However, in order to reflect the current architectural appearance of the village we believe the differences are too subtle and believe more variety in architectural styles are needed to fit in with the important character of our village.

Landscaping: The development means there is a loss of rural green space that is well-used by the parishioners. The only significant remaining green space is the northern part of the site and we believe there is insufficient planting in that area to make an interesting green area that can be used by the village and separated from the development. We also note there are no details for the proposed hedgerow along the northern boundary.

Construction Management Plan – Traffic Management: Whilst we are aware this is not part of this submission we wish to highlight the potential issues that may arise during construction, and potentially afterwards, due to the likely closure of the Claphill Lane/A44 junction because of the construction of the access roundabout for the new development north of the A44. This could result in a significant traffic safety hazard through the village if access is allowed via the A4103 or Rushwick roundabout. We also note that the traffic assessment carried out in 2019 did not take into account the impact on the surrounding developments except for a ‘throw-away’ comment that was not based on any analysis or evidence.

Planning Application No: M/22/01789/HP
Proposal: Single storey side extension and detached garage
Location: Morar, Broadmore Green, Rushwick, Worcester, WR2 5TE
Comments: No Objections

Planning Application No: M/22/01475/RM -Additional Information
Proposal: Application for the approval of reserved matters relating to layout, scale, external appearance and landscaping (pursuant to outline planning permission reference 16/01168/OUT) for 46 dwellings along with associated infrastructure (Part Phase 5)
Location: Land At (Os 8202 5595 West of Worcester), Martley Road, Lower Broadheath
Comments: No objections

13. Councillors’ reports and items for future agendas
Cllr Williams suggested to invite a representative from Worcester Wildlife Trust to present an informative talk on the wildlife in the area. It was suggested to invite along to the Annual Parish meeting.

Meeting closed at 9.23 PM

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

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

County Councillor Report: Scott Richardson- Brown

Awaiting further details regarding the Claphill Lane Junction/Roundabout due to major concerns this work is likely to be carried out at the same time as the Lioncourt housing development on Claphill Lane as the junction is the planned route for the construction traffic for that development.

The Chairman requested a meeting with WCC Highways to address a number of issues around the village.

A parishioner raised a complaint concerning the responsibility for the overgrowth of the pavements on the A44 Crown East where the hedge has become so wide that the pavement is not a safe width to walk along. He raised concerns from a safety perspective. The Chairman confirmed these issues would be addressed when the County Cllr could arrange an in person meeting with WCC Highways. The parishioner exchanged some contact details to the Chairman to help progress.

District Councillor Report : Daniel Walton

Happy New Year!

This year we see elections for the District Council. This has a few interesting points.

The first is that the ward of Broadheath, currently served by myself and David Chambers is being split into three wards as I've previously reported. Broadwas & Cotheridge will join Martley ward. Rushwick will join Leigh & Bransford. Lower Broadheath will become its own ward and become a single member ward, so will have one Councillor.

As it stands Leigh & Bransford, which covers a large rural area, has two independent councillors who I believe will both be standing again. I didn't think and don't think that Rushwick should have been paired with this area but we did all we could to change that. This leaves me with a difficult decision in terms of where I stand in my broken down ward.

I have loved working within Rushwick. As well as my partners family living here, I have many, many friends here and have made many more. I will never forget the County Council elections which I ultimately lost when the Rushwick box was emptied and almost everyone had a tick by my name. It was very humbling and I'll always be grateful.

When I delivered my Christmas leaflet to most houses in Rushwick I was really overwhelmed with the discussions with residents I had over the things we've done together to stop over development in Rushwick over the last four years.

Under the Independent and Green administrations, we've done a lot at District Council. Financially the District Council is more than stable (against the climate of many of other Councils), we've introduced a lot of support and grant schemes as well as managing the district through Covid and have delivered on so many projects. We've

done a lot a political administration would not have done and we've been led by our communities. We have to ensure that this administration remains in place. Even with Rushwick facing future development under the last administration Lower Broadheath and Rushwick saw 2,500 passed under the original SWDP and many more developments built – such as the Kier estate which still isn't really finished. We've not this whilst maintaining a 5-year housing supply.

I was gutted when we lost, at appeal, the development behind the Whitehall but it is the only one we've lost in this time and we've done all we can to oppose Rushwick being part of the SWDP.

With that my heart is very much in Rushwick but head says that it's important that we have two Independent Councillors in Rushwick and I can hope to be elected elsewhere and continue to support. With this I've made the decision to stand in Lower Broadheath where I have also really enjoyed the last four years working. It is also full of friends and people I've worked with over a number of issues, and like Rushwick has a great Parish Council.

A lot of the next few years will be difficult in Lower Broadheath with the development of the site on Martley Road and the issues that is already causing the village. Again, this has spill over to Rushwick and I'd hope to still be working with your future councillors for the best with that – as well as where I can and needed with SWDP.

We still have a few more months together – but I wanted to let the Parish Council know first and to thank everyone. Beyond that I won't really be going anywhere and always happy to help alongside your future team – as best I can.

The election will also see the number of Councillors at Malvern Hills fall from 38 to 31.

The second point of the up-and-coming election is that it will be first where residents are required to present ID with them as they vote. There will be a lot of information coming forward from the government on this and I've shared the full requirements and details on my Facebook page but residents of Lower Broadheath will firstly have to now vote for just a single councillor, due to boundary changes, and do so with ID! – so it's quite a change in May for residents when it comes to voting in Lower Broadheath.

Obviously, a lot of correspondence I've received as been about the continued roadworks in Lower Broadheath which appear to be badly planned, poorly signed and badly communicated to residents. I have written to officers at Worcestershire County Council with residents' concerns and I hope these are dealt with correctly.

(I've also had a lot of emails in reference to the SWDP consultation.)

Is this a forebearer of issues to come for Rushwick. Unfortunately, I fear so. I know that there's been a great response to the SWDP from residents in Rushwick and those responses are now being read and looked at. We can expect a first response around May, but I know that the responses leaned heavily on the soundness of the plan.

Infrastructure – or lack of it – is key and we're seeing the effects of poor infrastructure as Lower Broadheath is being built out. One piece of news that came out this week was that traffic lights will be installed at Martley turn in 2025 to ensure we have extensive tail backs of traffic on Henwick Road and Martley Road! It all adds to the further difficulties of building more houses where there isn't the infrastructure to cope. With Rushwick there should never be houses built before a Railway station and even then, I don't believe we've seen evidence of its potential future effectiveness.

Because of Christmas there isn't too much more to report on this occasion other than to say that we had a very successful light switch on in Great Malvern and a great market over Christmas in Tenbury. Tourism figures continue to increase both online for 'Visit the Malverns' and across our high streets.

Finally, we're now in receipt of Shared Prosperity Funding.

We are keen to utilise some of the funds in Rushwick. It can be applied to anything related to business, communities or improving the local place. The intention is to utilise funds based on what communities want so applications and discussions on how we spend it is key.

Cllr Walton reminded councillors of Voter ID Requirement

From 4 May 2023, voters in England will need to show photo ID to vote at polling stations in some elections

This will apply to

- **Local Elections**
- **Police and Crime Commissioner Elections**
- **UK Parliamentary Elections**
- **Recall petitions**

This information is to be posted on the website as a reminder