

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF  
RUSHWICK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 10 MAY 2023 AT 7.00 PM  
AT RUSHWICK VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr Jenkins, Cllr Wise, Cllr Rowe, Cllr Williams and Cllr Haywood

In Attendance: Sharon Baxter (Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer)  
District Councillors Whatley and Rouse - Newly elected.

1. Cllr Jenkins was re-elected as Chairperson. His Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed to this effect.
2. Three vacancies are available for co-option.
3. Cllr Hemsworth was elected to the position of Vice - Chairman. Subject to his acceptance his Declaration of Acceptance of Office will be signed in due course.
4. Apologies: Cllr Hemsworth (Personal) - Accepted.
5. Declarations of Interest
  1. Register of Interests: Councilors were reminded to complete their Register of Interests form and submit to MHDC together with their Election Expenses even if nil.
  2. To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature - None.
  3. To declare any Other Disclosable Interests n items on the agenda and their nature - None
6. 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 – No report available.  
District Councillor Report/s appendix to these minutes.

7. To elect / appoint the following Officers/representatives: -
  - Village Hall Committee representative - Cllr Jenkins was appointed.
  - Footpath Officer - Cllr Williams was re- appointed.
  - Play area representative - Cllr Hemsworth was re-appointed.
  - Social Media/Communication representative - Rob Hughes / Clerk
  - School Representative – Position Vacant
  - Neighbourhood Development Plan - Cllr Lowe was appointed.
  - Traffic/Road Safety - Cllr Wise was appointed.
8. To appoint members to the following: -
  - a) Staffing Committee - Chair and Vice-Chair
  - b) Planning Committee - All Councillors
    - (i) **RESOLVED:** To grant delegated powers to the Planning Committee for planning comment submissions.
9. Having been previously circulated the adoption of the minutes of The Parish Council meeting of 12.04.2023 were signed as a true and correct record.

10. Progress Reports: Matters arising from previous minutes - None  
The Action Plan was reviewed and updated. Thanks were expressed for the successful installation of four new gates and bridge along the footpath from Upper Wick towards Old Powick Bridge.
11. Parish Lengthsman Scheme: An update was presented as per timesheet which included cleaning and clearing rubbish from the underpass and cutting back verges along the Bransford Road, Claphill Lane and Upperwick.  
Parishioner Request to refer to Lengthsman - Would it be possible for the verge(s) down Upper Wick Lane, from near the school down to the cricket ground, to be cut back please. Quite a number of pedestrians, dog walkers and cricketers, kids and adults, walk/cycle down the narrow lane and the verges are now thick with tall hogweed, nettles and grass, which makes it difficult for pedestrians to get out of the road when cars approach.
12. Finance
  1. **RESOLVED:** To renew insurance from 01.06.2023-31.05.2024 at a cost of £1,160.75 with Hiscox Insurance Company Ltd.
  2. Payment of accounts as per schedule were authorised.
  3. **RESOLVED:** To close dormant HSBC Bank Account as it is costly to maintain.
  4. **RESOLVED:** To continue with existing bank signatories and to update letter to HSBC allowing the Clerk to receive full information and transfer funds between all HSBC Accounts held under the name of Rushwick Parish Council.
13. **RESOLVED:** To adopt the General Power of Competence, as the Parish Council meets the criteria.
14. Proposal to consider reviewing NALC Standing Orders and Financial Regulations. - To be reviewed when amendments are required.
15. Reports from representatives: To receive an update
  1. Report from Village Hall Committee: It was previously reported that the lawnmower had knocked the storage container from its plinth and it needed repositioning. **RESOLVED:** to make a payment of £240 to Stourport Crane Hire to do this.
  2. Footpath Officers report: Cllr Williams - To report at Annual Parish meeting  
Cllr Williams reported from Claphill Lane to A4440 (by Bloor Homes) there is a red frame head height over a stile (red hoop) which could be a health and safety hazard. He will refer to the site office. He commented that a large hole had been dug in the ground on the footpath at Summer Hollow resulting in the fence posts leaning. He will report to the footpath officer and Cllr Jenkins will refer to planning enforcement.
  3. Report of Play Area: Cllr Hemsworth - Update at the Annual Parish meeting.
  4. Social Media Update: No report available
  5. School Representative report: TBC - No report available.
16. Highways Issues Update - Cllr Jenkins responded to WCC Highways. Awaiting their response.  
District Cllr Whatley to offer some assistance by writing directly to County Cllr Scott Richardson-Brown.
17. Update on the Parish Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr Lowe  
Cllr Lowe to take over this project from Cllr Jenkins.
18. **RESOLVED:** To accept dates of Parish Council meetings for 2023/2024  
Please note Parish Council meetings take place on the second Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm at Rushwick Village Hall except for August and December
19. Proposal to renew football pitch hire agreement for Oldbury Park Tigers 2023/2024 - Cllr Hemsworth  
**ITEM DEFERRED**

- 20. Planning:  
For Information Only  
Planning Reference: M/23/00220/HP  
Proposal: Retrospective planning permission for garden fence  
Location: 15 Harrison Gardens, Rushwick, WR2 5UA  
Application Approved
- 21. Correspondence for Information: Circulated by the Clerk
- 22. Councillors' reports and items for future agendas – Cllr Williams mentioned Roots Farm which had held an Open Day walkabout, with an informative talk on the history of the farm, effects of flooding, flora and fauna, birds, and wildlife. This was a wonderful success and perhaps could be considered as a guest speaker at a future Annual Parish meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.59 PM.

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

# PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Concerns were raised concerning a possible enforcement issue where an owner is operating a car repair business from his house in Snowdrop Way, using the driveway and rear of premises. Part of the embankment supporting the A4440 has been removed to expand available space. This is to be reported.

## District Councillor Sarah Rouse

Cllr Jenkins raised the question about the SWDPR consultation responses .

Cllr Rouse confirmed the following:-

The CEO stated the following response :-

'We haven't yet finished analysing the Reg 19 consultation responses, but all the representations will be uploaded to the website when we submit the plan. An update on the timetable will be provided soon.

At this present time the Democratic Independent group on MHDC and the Green Party are negotiating who will hold portfolios and so be responsible for the delivery of Council strategy and function . Peter and I will know on May 23rd which 6 people will be those responsible and accountable for decision making going forward. When we know we will be able to direct your questions to them . It is important to note that whilst there will be a planning portfolio holder, they do not have delegated decision-making powers and so the six people together are responsible for decisions that will be made about the SWDPr and what reports are brought forward and when.'

## District Councillor Peter Whatley

Offered his introduction to County Cllr Scott Richardson - Brown highlighting several Highways issues, actual and proposed, which he believed would benefit from his intervention, since they lie within his responsibility:-

1. Inadequate provision for pedestrians crossing the Bransford Road (B4485) at the exit of the Fairfax Way estate. The main road here is signed for 40mph, historically reasonable, but now too fast for pedestrians to cross safely, not least with no formal crossing provision other than a median island. I ask that you push for both a better crossing at the site and a 30mph speed limit commencing at the exit from the A4440 roundabout.
2. Removal of trees and embankment soil at the rear of 1 Snowdrop Way, Rushwick. I think it would be prudent for a Highways engineer to review the state of the embankment to ensure safety.
3. Construction traffic routing for the new Claphill Lane estate. I am not aware that WCC have issued a formal preferred route, as is usually the case. Can you kindly reassure residents that one will be forthcoming quickly and direct necessary traffic via the access near Roots, rather than through the core of Rushwick village off the A4440 roundabout?
4. Claphill Lane northern access. You will be aware that continued access from Claphill Lane to the A44 is vital to avoid traffic being pushed onto the route through Rushwick's central area.

I'd be interested to understand why Highways have not looked at solutions other than a simple roundabout to the multiple junctions proposed in the vicinity of the A44/Claphill Lane.

A "dumbbell" roundabout is one obvious possibility, but doubtless there are others. Whatever the eventual arrangement, I hope you will agree that it is vital that Claphill Lane is retained as a through route and be prepared to go on the record with me to that effect.

I look forward to hearing from you.