

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RUSHWICK PARISH COUNCIL HELD
ON WEDNESDAY 11th APRIL 2012 AT 7.30 PM
IN RUSHWICK VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT: Mr. A. Deakin (Chair), Mrs. V. Bennett, Mrs. M. Rowley, Mrs. V. Wigglesworth and Mrs. P. Haywood

IN ATTENDANCE: District Cllrs. P. Swinburn (after item 3) and R. Bass, Mr. Alan Forrest (Local bus service) and seven residents from Holly Tree Lane, including Mr. John Sudworth, Mr. & Mrs. John Hussell and four others.

1. Apologies for absence: Cllr. D. Bufton, Cllr. I. Parker, Cllr. Lewis, County Cllr. Davis and the Clerk Mrs. S. Baxter

Recognising the significant attendance of the public, the chairman opened the meeting for public participation and he set out his current understanding of the proposed new development of 31 houses at a site off Claphill Lane, for which he believed there had not yet been a formal planning application to MHDC, although several parishioners had received flyers from CALA homes inviting them to a presentation in the Village Hall the next day and to comment on possible plans to be on display. He then invited the delegation from Holly Tree Lane to speak; Mr Sudworth circulated copies of his written submission to the Parish Council on the subject of the proposed new development, and then read the submission. He was supported by local residents, who were concerned that the developers had nominated Holly Tree Lane, an unadopted and unlit private road as a footpath to connect the development with the centre of the Village. The Chairman agreed to keep every one fully informed when news is received.

After the delegation from Holly Tree Lane left Mr. Forrest was asked to address the Parish Council regarding his attempt to encourage the county to provide an extended bus service into the evening and particularly at the weekends to assist both the young and the elderly. He presented a paper for the Councils consideration and told them that he was acting in the interest of several rural Parishes to the West of Worcester. The County were prepared to find some additional funds to subsidise a level of service, provided that the parishes (Rushwick, Lower Broadheath, Martley, Wichenford, Grimley, Sinton Green and Hallow) would each ensure a sum of money would be made available to adequately advertise the service to get the best from it. The Chairman responded that whilst they could not vote on the issue this evening they would certainly look kindly on the enterprise and identified several methods of cheap advertising that could be made available through the Parish Magazine, Newsletter, Notice boards and Website. A new timetable could be distributed by leaflet drop with other circulars and indeed the young would no doubt contribute through twitter and face book. The matter of funding was to be voted on at the next meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest: Mr. Deakin and Mrs. Rowley on the Village Hall.

3. Minutes: To consider the minutes of The Parish Council Meeting on Wednesday 14th March 2012. Having been previously circulated, these were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

4. Progress Report: Matters arising and review of action plan. There still remained a vacancy for a replacement councillor and as there had been no call for an election the possibility of co-opting would be pursued. With regard to the Action Plan the Chairman made notes on the actions necessary against each item, to be reissued.

5. Parish Lengthsman Scheme: Mr Moore was acceptable that unfortunately the Parish Council could not offer a pay increase to his salary as he requested.. Clerk would prepare a new agreement for 2012/13. He had edged footways and inspected drainage as necessary.

6. Reports from representatives: -

6.1 County Councillor's report: Mr Davies sent his apologies.

6.2 District Councillors' report: had been circulated .Cllr Swinburn wanted to draw particular attention to the Localism Act Special circular that had gone to Parish Clerks the week before, offering training to be given to Parish Councillors in Malvern on 1st May. The Act strengthens the role of Parish & District Councillors. He explained that Developers could have a free for all to apply for any planning approval if a 5 year housing supply had not been identified. The NPPF came in to force on 26th March 2012 and permitted a 12 month space for the SWDP to be approved. The current SWDP Preferred Options plan, after revisions following the recent consultation, would be considered at meetings of all three Councils on 3rd July before going out to consultation once more, the timetable was for it to be ready to submit to the Government in April 2013.

6.3 Report from Village Hall Committee: that there was a need to insulate the front wall of the small committee room at a cost of £500. Funding sources were to be sought.

6.4 Footpath Officer's Report: There was one footpath overgrown towards Broadmore Green, and an offer from Reg Haslam to undertake path strimming as required (at cost). A sign on Claphill Lane, between Green Hedges and Oxo Cottage, was on the floor and needed to be re-erected, Mrs. Haywood offered to report this to the Hub. Mrs Webber was still to report to the Chair to identify the footpaths needing attention following the March minute on the County Councillor's offer.

6.5 Report from Playscape:

A) There had been an email from Mark Chappell, could he propose replacements for his wife, who currently raised the bollards on the village green car park? He suggested Lisa Chung for Monday to Friday, during School terms (£350 pa), and Mathew Griffin for the weekends (£150 pa).

B) In addition the surface had been discussed and was in need of some repair work – Mark to contact Roger Thomas to establish if formal drains for surface water and possibly more concrete were required.

C) Roger Thomas was to be asked to undertake the grass cutting at the same price as last year. It was proposed by the Chair and seconded by Mrs. Rowley that an order be issued, this was unanimously approved.

D) The Whitehall pub's adult football team are disbanding and have been replaced on a Sunday morning with another Oldbury Park junior team. There is an unresolved issue with the Whitehall Inn in respect of payments and football sponsorships.

E) Mark Chappell indicated that he wished to stand down and the Chairman was encouraged to thank him for all his hard work and to start looking for a dynamic replacement.

6.6 School representatives Report: Mrs Haywood had been unable to attend the last school meeting but was happy to report that the Headmaster had now returned to work following his broken leg. School numbers were undersubscribed, they had weathered an informal Ofsted Inspection and the next was due in 2013.

7. Finance:

7.1 To authorize payments of accounts as per schedule together with three late additions as agreed: proposed by the Chair, seconded by Mrs. Haywood and approved unanimously.

7.2 A comparison was produced between the budgets for 2012/13 and the actual performance with variances from budget for 2011/12, which were discussed. The 2011/12 net overspend of £700 was thought to be reasonable at 3%. Mrs. Bennett thought that the playing field entry for 2012/13 had been agreed at £530.

8. Planning: None

9. Correspondence for Information: CPRE /NALC Booklets on Neighbourhood Planning had been circulated to all.

10. Jubilee Celebrations: Mrs. Bennett had contacted all supporting acts and has to advise all interested parties regarding road closure. Road Warning and Diversion signs would be required for the Tuesday. Bunting was available from the Tourist Information Office; a Bouncy Castle had been booked with no charges (to the users or the parish) and the insurance cover required was to be confirmed. The face painter had pulled out so the committee were looking for another. The next Jubilee committee meeting is to be at Mrs. Bennett's on Monday 16th April at 7.30 pm. It was noted that Mark Chappell needed an entry on the village website for the May Fayre and Mrs. Rowley agreed to enable this.

11. Items for the Future Agendas: The Hub had been contacted regarding fly tipping of a sofa on the roundabout, this was thought to be escalating and other rubbish had joined it. The Hub was contacted a second and third time and no action was apparent. Cllr Swinburn observed that you should always ask for a reference for any report made to the Hub, and that, if a reasonable time had been allowed, a third follow up should not be necessary.

12. Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 9th May at 7 pm, for 1 hour only, to be followed by the Annual Parish Meeting in the main Hall starting at 8 pm and featuring as guest speaker, Mick Donovan, The Head of Sport at the University of Worcester, to talk about their New Arena, which we understand will be a first class venue, particularly specialising in disabled sports.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.40pm

Mr R Bass
Deputy Clerk
23rd April 2012