

Minutes of the “Virtual” Annual Parish Meeting of Rushock Parish Council held on Thursday, 21st May 2020 via ZOOM at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs. T. Green, (TG) (Chairman), D Cutler (DC), S Davis, (SD), R Hampshire (RH), Cllr. T. Jennings (TJ) and Cllr. J Nicholls (JN).

Also Present were: The clerk Mrs. B J Drew (BD) County/District Cllr. Mr. M J Hart (MH) and District Cllr. Mrs. L Jones (LJ).

1.Apologies and Approve Reasons for Absence: Rebecca Ruston, West Mercia Police, Mr I Hardiman.

2.Declarations of Interest: None.

3.Minutes of the last Meeting on 16th May, 2019: These were duly approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

4.Chairman’s Report: The Chairman reported as follows: -

Firstly I would like to thank all councillors for their continuing help and support over the last year which has been invaluable. Their willingness to take on a range of projects is much appreciated and has allowed the parish council to continue to make improvements in the parish this year. Bev has worked very hard to keep us operating within the law and uses her extensive experience to provide me with a lot of help and support. I would also like to thank our County and District councillors who are always accessible and supportive.

Meetings

The Council has held four Council meetings and five Planning Committee meetings. We have also been well represented at CALC meetings, WFDC Parish Forums and WCC meetings.

Planning

There have been seven planning applications, two of which were recommended for refusal and were subsequently withdrawn. Two Certificate of Lawfulness applications were notified to the Parish Council but both were rejected by Wyre Forest District Council. Subsequently these were the subject of planning applications both of which were approved.

Finance

A modest increase in precept to cover increased costs was agreed unanimously by councillors. We have also received £500 from our County Councillor, Lengthsman’s scheme funding and a grant from the Parish Path’s Partnership. No councillors have claimed personal expenses. There has been further unplanned expenditure this year on legal fees to resolve issues identified with the Village Hall Trust Deed. I would like to thank Marcus Hart who has continued to provide free help and guidance on the Trust Deed even though he is no longer employed by the council.

Highways

Our Lengthsman, Bill Waldron, has continued his sterling work. Despite the extremely wet winter there have been no prolonged flooding issues on the parish roads this year. Effective gritting of the designated lanes was carried out by WCC during the winter weather. Highways patching work has been carried out on Park Lane and Clattercut Lane. Unfortunately, the verges in Park Lane were left in a dangerous condition with deep drops onto the verge due to the rise in height of the road surface. The County Council did eventually fill in the gaps but the soil used was not up to the job and deep ruts are present in some places. Worcestershire County Council would not allow us to use the surplus Lengthsmans’ grant to make improvements to the roads this year.

Footpaths

These remain in good condition generally although path clearance was needed through a bean crop that had not be adequately sprayed off initially. Paths are regularly walked particularly recently when more people are going out walking.

Community

Residents have been kept informed via the Parish Noticeboard, Four Square magazine and the parish website which is well maintained with prompt updates. A WhatsApp group was set up as a further means of communication when the Covid 19 lockdown came into effect and has proved popular for both information

and entertainment. The village hall, of which the Parish Council are custodian trustees, now has an effective and proactive management committee and the new Trust Deed was finally completed in November.

The Parish Council sponsored the Annual Crib Service at the church with a donation of £300 as it is a well-attended community event.

5.Community Policing: There was no police representative at the meeting. E Mail report had been circulated by Clerk – no issues reported.

6.Lengthsman: The clerk reported that the PC would receive the same grant for 2020 - 2021 as for 2019 - 2020, namely £1939.00. The Clerk and Chairman had completed a Risk Assessment to enable the Lengthsman to work safely on restricted items during the Coronavirus lockdown. The Council were grateful to receive the Lengthsman's grant from WCC. The Council expressed its grateful thanks to the Lengthsman for all his hard work during the last year

7.Residents Communications: None

8. Public Question Time: None

Meeting Closed at 7.35pm