

**MINUTES OF THE REMOTE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF
RUSHWICK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2021 AT 7.30 PM**

Present: Cllr Jenkins (Chairman), Cllr Williams, Cllr Bryan, Cllr Khan, Cllr Rowley, Cllr Wigglesworth & Cllr Haywood

In Attendance: Sharon Baxter (Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer)
District Councillors Walton and Chambers plus 1 member of the public

1. Two Councillor Vacancies – Cllr Robert Hughes and Cllr Steven Hemsworth were successfully co-opted onto the two parish councillor vacancies and their Declaration of Acceptance of Office duly completed.
2. Apologies: District Cllr Grove (Personal) – received.
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 on 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

No Questions for Public Question Time

Reports were received from County & District Councillors – Available to view on the Parish Council website. District Cllr Walton advised at the Northern Area Planning Committee planning application 19/01378/OUT, Lioncourt Strategic Land for Land at (OS 8205 5395), Claphill Lane, Rushwick was not supported resulting in an appeal being lodged against non – determination and the council having to provide Putative Reasons for Refusal.

5. Minutes: Having been previously circulated the minutes of The Parish Council meeting of 13.01.2021 were agreed as a true and correct record.
6. Progress Reports: No Matters arising from previous minutes. The Action Plan was reviewed and updated. Cllr Jenkins reported that the mobile vehicle activated speed sign (VAS sign) needs returning to the supplier for a software fault to be assessed and the cost of repairs established. The Clerk reported the anti-social activity of youths congregating and leaving litter/glass underneath the underpass to the Police who are conducting occasional drive by patrols to disrupt and deter this activity. If youths are encountered, they will be dispersed and given words of advice. Members of the Public are advised to ring 101 at the time if youths are encountered at the location and are congregating in groups in suspected breach of current COVID restrictions. Registration has been made with the ICO for data protection. A response had been submitted to the recent parishioner FOI request.
7. Parish Lengthsman Scheme: An update as per timesheet was reported. The Lengthsman had attended and successfully passed his Traffic Management Training Course.
8. Finance
 1. **RESOLVED:** To authorise payments of accounts as per schedule. In addition, it was also agreed to return the faulty VAS sign to the supplier at a delivery cost of £30,

each way.

An invoice from Produlic Ltd has been withheld until a £250 discrepancy being queried is clarified.

2. Monthly Bank Reconciliation Statement– For Information Only
3. Agreed budget and precept 2021/22 – For Information Only
4. **RESOLVED:** To reallocate £3K unspent monies in 2020/21 budget (£2K from newsletter and £1K from Playscape to facilitate zip wire repairs, as the timber support for the cableway is rotting away and needs replacement). Councillors commented as this piece of play equipment was very popular repairs should go ahead.
9. **RESOLVED:** Following review, to adopt the NALC Model Standing Orders 2018 (England) July 2018.
10. **RESOLVED:** The NALC Model Financial Regulations were reviewed and adopted.
11. Update on expenditure of Community Infrastructure Levy – Neighbourhood Fund following receipt of £34,104.00 awarded for Development at The Gardens, Bransford Road, Rushwick, Worcester, WR2 5TA.
Cllr Jenkins is finalising a flyer to conduct a public consultation. To date two applications had come forward for consideration, one from Rushwick Cricket Club and the other to develop a bike track facility.
12. Planning: ***Cllrs are reminded to view MHDC website for full details***
No planning applications to consider for comment.
13. Reports from representatives: To receive an update
 1. Report from Village Hall Committee: Cllr Rowley
'1: Park That Bike Scheme
The Committee discussed this, and it was decided to decline to take part in this scheme. To date, no one knew of any regular users coming on a bike to the Hall, and the committee were opposed to the idea of cyclists outside the Village using the Park That Bike scheme, as it was thought this could create problems, and also there is the cost involved with this scheme and ongoing maintenance.
 - 2: Rushwick Pre School (Use of Village Hall during build of Pre School)
Investigations are still ongoing. Regular users are being contacted to see if there are any objections to sharing the Hall with Pre-school.
The general thought of the Committee is that, although they would like to help in their need, it is not a feasible possibility, too many obstacles to consider, such as toilet facilities, play equipment and tables/chairs storage, noise, how long this will go on for etc.
 - 3 Wi-fi - This is still ongoing.'
 - a. Proposal to allocate £500 to the Village Hall to meet their ongoing costs
as agreed in the budget 2020/2021 – **ITEM DEFERRED** until it has been established until
what this
money is needed for.
2. Footpath Officers report: Cllr Williams
 - '1. I have done a litter pick the whole length of Claphill Lane and round the corner as far as the Church.
 2. I have liaised with Will Edmonds re the Stiles and Gates issue.
 3. I have inspected the path from the Cricket Ground, over the bridge and into the Golf Course, and found the path there extremely muddy and difficult to traverse at this time . Perhaps it could do with some sort of rubble putting in there.
 4. Following a report by a Fire Officer to residents of (lower) Grange Lane, to the effect that a Fire engine could not access the bridge because of trees bordering the approach lane, thus endangering their properties, I have approved and monitored their removal.'
 - a. Rushwick Footpaths Development Report

A parishioner had kindly compiled a very comprehensive report outlining his thoughts and suggestions regarding the use of stiles and gates along one of the main footpaths through Rushwick Parish. Cllr Williams has followed this up with the landowner and is also pursuing with WCC Countryside Access Services.

3. Report from Playscape: Cllr Jenkins

a. Progress update on development of new play area.

The new play equipment and repairs have successfully been carried out and the play area is open. Cllr Hemsworth to seek volunteers to help maintain/ look after the play area.

A ROSPA inspection has now taken place.

Dog Fouling has been highlighted as a problem, especially as they are not allowed in the play area.

Cllr Hemsworth to look at the cost of installing some new signage.

a. Progress update on Playscape bank account- To be pursued.

4. School Representative report: Cllr Wigglesworth

‘The school now has a rota system in place with half the staff working from home concentrating on home schooling for a week and the other staff teaching in their bubbles at school. The rota system has enabled the school to keep things sustainable.

Everyone is pulling together and doing a brilliant job despite the understandable anxiety.

The school breaks up for half term this Friday 12th February.’

5. Village Hall Development Committee: Cllr Khan – Nothing to report

14. Update on the Parish Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr Jenkins – No progress to report

15. Correspondence for Information: Circulated by the Clerk

South Worcestershire Playing Pitch and Built Facility Strategy 2020-2041 – This is research being undertaken in Malvern Hills District Council, Wychavon District Council and Worcester City Council who have jointly commissioned management consultancy Knight, Kavanagh & Page (KKP) to carry out an assessment of indoor and outdoor sports facilities which will result in the production of a strategy to identify local need for provision and help with informed decisions on future strategic planning and investment priorities across Worcestershire. Cllr Jenkins agreed to complete.

16. Councillors’ reports and items for future agendas

The Clerk reported the Divisional Fund Application of £766.24 had been accepted from WCC which will enable the Parish Council to provide additional dog waste/litter bins around the village. Clerk to make enquiries with WCC to ask if these bins can be fitted to the finger posts. Cllr Bryan to establish with MHDC if they can be adopted and emptied on the refuse collection rota.

Cllr Khan suggested using the unused telephone post box located on the Main Road as a library / book swap. Cllr Haywood to make enquiries to establish who owns the telephone box. Cllr Bryan to make enquiries regarding the process on how this can be achieved.

Cllr Rowley reported that repairs are needed to some of the noticeboards. The perspex needs changing to help people see what information is being displayed.

Cllr Hemsworth suggested to install a large litter bin in the play area car park to help alleviate the problem with the growing amount of litter in this area. He will investigate styles of bin and prices.

District Cllr Walton reported the problems surrounding landscaping and drainage on the Kier site.

Meeting closed at 8.43 PM

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