

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

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

In Attendance: Sharon Baxter (Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer)  
District Councillors Walton plus 5 members of the public

1. Apologies: District Cllr Chambers (Personal) – received.
2. Cllr Carl Bryan was appointed to the role of Vice-Chairman
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

## PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The meeting was adjourned for Public Question Time, notes of which are appended to these minutes. Reports were received from County & District Councillors – Available to view on the Parish Council website. District Cllr Walton has raised issues in consultation with WCC Highways regarding Redrow Housing- Earls Court and cycle routes. He has received no update regarding the landscaping and drainage issues on the Kier site. Potholes issues were reported on Upper Wick Lane/Christine Avenue which residents are asking to be resurfaced.

5. Minutes: Having been previously circulated the minutes of The Parish Council meeting of 10.02.2021 were agreed as a true and correct record.
6. Progress Reports: No Matters arising from previous minutes. The Action Plan was reviewed and updated.  
**RESOLVED:** To allow Oldbury Park Tigers (OPT) use of the football pitch to finish off their games for this season, at a cost of £28.00 per game with Cllr Hemsworth as the main point of contact. Clerk to supply bank details.  
The Clerk had distributed the Housing Needs Survey from Wychavon/MHDC.  
Clerk had written to Lloyds Bank Plc to dissolve Playscape bank account and transfer funds back to Rushwick Parish Council.  
The Produlic invoice and cheque had been issued following clarification of £250 discrepancy.  
Cllr Hemsworth had obtained and installed some new dog fouling signage for the play area.  
Cllr Haywood has established who own the telephone box and will try to make contact, following a suggestion to perhaps use this as a book swap facility.
7. Parish Lengthsman Scheme: An update as per timesheet was reported.  
Thanks were expressed to the Lengthsman for his excellent work carried out.
8. Finance
  1. **RESOLVED:** To authorise payments of accounts as per schedule.
  2. **RESOLVED:** A donation of £50 was approved to The Royal British Legion in memory of Rex Montgomery, a former Chairman.
  3. Monthly Bank Reconciliation Statement– For Information Only

9. 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.  
The text has been agreed and will be posted onto the RPC Facebook page to gather people’s ideas and suggestions on how they would like to see this money used, prior to any final decisions being made.
- 10 Planning: The following planning application was discussed: -  
Planning Application No: 21/00154/CU  
Location: 4 Aymestry Court, Bromyard Road, Crown East, Worcester, WR2 5TR  
Proposal: Proposed conversion of former gymnasium to dependent relative unity (granny annexe)  
Comments: Whilst some of our previous concerns had been addressed in the plans the Parish Council still objects to this application. It was agreed the Chairman would formulate the final comments for submission to MHDC, subject to agreement from the Councillors.  
Consultation Ends 30.03.2021

Notification of Planning Appeal  
Planning Inspectorate Ref: APP/J1860/W/21/3267054  
Lioncourt Strategic Land  
Residential Development of up to 20 homes.....  
Land at (OS 8205 5395) Claphill Lane, Rushwick  
Virtual Enquiry 10 May 2021 at 10AM

11. Reports from representatives: To receive an update
1. Report from Village Hall Committee: Cllr Rowley  
‘The Village Hall is still in lockdown. I have nothing to report at the moment, but an emergency meeting is being set up to discuss the usage of the hall by Pre School whilst their new building is under way. I will let you know the outcome in due course.  
With regard to the £500 allocated in the budget, the Village Hall Committee request that this money be made available to enable a number of bollards to be installed in the new car park for safety reasons. They are to be situated on the new car park fronting Bransford Road. This is to stop cars going down the hill to the road. At the moment a hedging is in place but are only sticks at the moment. It is felt that this could be dangerous if someone reversed too quickly.’
    - a. **RESOLVED:** To allocate £500 to the Village Hall as agreed in the budget 2020-2021 to enable a number of bollards to be installed in the new car park for safety purposes.
  2. Footpath Officers report: Cllr Williams
    1. Comments on stiles were received by two parishioners:-  
‘Parishioner 1. Would like to see metal gates on the path between Upper Wick Lane and the approach to Powick Mill. I would support this in respect of the upper and lower of the four he has indicated, but the middle two are integral parts of a footbridge and would involve additional technical problems and financial commitment. Also, the first of these has a dog-gate ( although perhaps not suitable for very large dogs) and the second offers easy access from the bank of the brook below.  
Parishioner 2. observes, that dog-walkers wander all over his fields instead of using the stiles. I would support the use of a metal gate across the field from Claphill Lane, as that stile is in poor condition, despite attempts to mend it and has no dog-gate. However, the lower two are again integral to a footbridge, and would attract the same issues as in the above.  
Cllr Jenkins will respond to the parishioner addressing the issue that walkers should walk on the footpath and not across his fields. It was suggested to supply a sign to warn walkers of this.
    2. I am in correspondence with WCC Countryside Access Services about replacement gates and propose that we submit a map to him showing where we would like replacements, after consultation with the Landowners.
    3. I have done litter picks in Claphill Lane and along the wooded path at the bottom of the Golf Course.’

3. Report from Playscape: Cllr Jenkins  
The next stage is to look at purchasing and installing a storage container.  
There has been a good public response to the newly installed and refurbished play area.  
It is anticipated the zip wire will be operational in the next 10-12 weeks as the parts are on order.  
Cllr Hemsworth to follow up the repairs to the zip wire.  
Oldbury Park Tigers (OPT) are going to use the football pitch to finish off their games for this season, at a cost of £28.00 per game. Cllr Hemsworth agreed to be the main point of contact with them.  
A few minor defects need to be addressed highlighted in the ROSPA report which include repairs to the zip wire (parts are on order) and replacing some timbers on the slide.  
The pots holes in the car park need urgently attention to improve the surface.
4. School Representative report: Cllr Wigglesworth  
'All the children returned to school on Monday, and everything is going well so far.  
The timetable is very different with the continuation of staggered starts, bubbles and one-way systems throughout the school.  
Engagement with the remote learning has been mostly positive with a minority of families really struggling and needing support from school staff. Over the next few weeks virtual parents' evenings are being conducted.  
Once again our thanks and appreciation must go out to Mr Jeffrey, Mrs Hulls and all the staff for all they are doing to keep the school as safe as possible for our children.'
5. Village Hall Development Committee: Cllr Khan – No meeting had taken place.
12. Update on the Parish Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr Jenkins – Awaiting a revised proposal from RCA Regeneration. Once in receipt of this a household leaflet drop is to be arranged.
13. Progress update on installation of additional dog waste bins  
A grant has been received from WCC to fund the additional dog waste bins for £766.24. Cllr Bryan to enquire with WCC Highways if the bins can be installed on the existing finger posts before placing an order.
14. Correspondence for Information: Circulated electronically by the Clerk

Cllr Hughes kindly agreed to take over the role of Social Media from Cllr Khan. Cllr Khan was thanked for his contribution and efforts. Cllr Hughes to prepare a draft social media document for adoption by the Parish Council. A Social Media category to be added to 'Reports from Representatives.' To improve communication.

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 has now completed and submitted this survey.

15. Councillors' reports and items for future agendas

Some suspicious building activity had been reported heading from Grange Lane over the railway bridge. Cllr Jenkins to take some photographs which he will send to District Cllr Walton, for referral to the Enforcement Officer for further investigation.

Complaints have been received from residents regarding the potholes on PROW 520 (referred to locally as the Ashpath). There is some confusion on who is responsible for maintaining this footpath. Is this the responsibility of the landowners in Christine Avenue or that of WCC Highways?  
District Cllr Walton to seek a legal opinion from MHDC solicitors to try to help resolve this issue.

**RESOLVED:** Under The Public Bodies (Admission to Meeting(s)) Act 1960 to exclude the public and press from discussions in respect of agenda item 16. as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

16. Auto Enrolment – Cllr Jenkins to seek help and investigate the options available.

Meeting closed at 9.07 PM

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

*Standing orders were adjourned*

**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

A parishioner questioned what was the delay with the progression of the Neighbourhood Development Plan?  
He was advised the Parish Council is awaiting feedback from RCA Regeneration .

*Standing orders were reimposed*