

Minute No. 248

ROCHFORD PARISH COUNCIL
Clerk to the Council: Carole Powell
Email: rochfordpc@gmail.com

Minutes of the **Ordinary Business** meeting of Rochford Parish Council held on Monday, 29 November 2021 at Rochford Village Hall starting at 8pm

Attendance: Cllrs C Lord, M Powell, A Prosser, T Jones, County Cllr David Chambers and District Cllr Thomas

Apologies: None Given

In Attendance: Clerk – C Powell, and 7 members of the public

1) **Apologies:** Cllr M Gough and District Cllr L Bruton

2) **Declarations of Interest:** None declared and no changes

3) **Public Question Time**

Cllr David Chambers' report is attached to the end of the minutes (Appendix 1)
Cllr Bridget Thomas reported on the various Christmas markets and shopping opportunities happening in Tenbury in the forthcoming weeks, all organised in partnership with MHDC, Boffy Markets and Tenbury Town Council. Further reporting items are attached to the end of the minutes (Appendix 2).
No other members of the public spoke at the meeting.

4) **Minutes of Last Meeting**

Read and agreed minute note 246

5) **Progress Reports for information**

Smart Water – It was decided to ask the villager via the magazine who might be interested and if no interest taken, the idea would be shelved.

Litter Bin – As there is no bin in the village at the moment, litter would be monitored to determine if a new bin was required. Cllr Thomas had kindly enquired for Rochford to have a bin, but had been told that the parish council were responsible for purchasing any bins. Clerk to get prices.

Litter Picking – The Chairman thanked Mr R Barlow for organising a litter pick for the village. Cllr. Jones had attended and taken the parish council's litter picking equipment. It was decided to draw up a list of people willing to be responsible in litter picking within the village, and then given the equipment we have.

The Clerk thank Cllr Jones for the photos, which would be sent to Helping Hand who had donated the litter cart to the parish council.

Highways Speeding – Clerk to get in touch with Community Speed Watch and request that we start the process.

Clerk to ask Cllr Chambers about a recording box for the B4204.

Clerk waiting to hear back from Highways with regard to options and costs.

Grit Bins - WCC have confirmed that they will install a bin on Church Lane, but not on St Dunstan's Lane or Hill Top

Mole End – Clerk has received no response to the council's letter to date.

6) **Finance**

Income & Expenditure cashbooks and the Bank Reconciliation were agreed by all.

Budget for the year 2022/23 was prepared – copy attached to these minutes

Clerk to request the precept of £3750 for 2022/23

Bus Shelter – Clerk has informed the Insurers. Clerk was advised by Insurers not to contact the owners of the hedge that was damaged. Councillors all agreed that the owners would be approached and offered the cost of repairing any damage. Quotes to repair/replace bus shelter to be obtained.

7) **Footpath**

The bridge below Weavers has collapsed and needs re-instating – WCC notified

8) **Planning**

21/006210CU – Dean Meadow Cottage – Chalet – Approved

21/01306/LB – Bank Cottage – Awaiting Decision

21/01530/HP – 1 Hilltop Cottage – Awaiting Decision

21/01687-HP – Rochford Court – Planning officer had requested that as a site meeting was not taking place that he would wait comments from the parish council at this meeting. A discussion was had and the following comments to be made to the Planning application - Only spaces for four vehicles within the site. How will services be installed. Off the building line being made 50% larger Questionable for extra need.

A vote was taken by the councillors in attendance whether it was accepted or refused and the vote was 1 vote of acceptance and 3 refusals.

21/01479/HP – 2 Hilltop Cottage – Accepted by parish council with comment to be made that the exterior building materials should be matched to 1 Hilltop Cottage.

The Pink House – Car Port complaint – A member of the public had complained to the parish council and the Clerk has written to the planning enforcement officer to investigate. The Clerk is still awaiting a reply.

9) **Highways Reporting**

St Dunstan's Lane closure for 1 day starting 1st December 2021.

10) Correspondence

- Worcestershire Queens Green Canopy link
- Christmas refuse collections
- Tenbury SNT newsletter – sent via email to councillors
- Vic's Roundup – sent via email to councillors

15) Councillor's reports & items for future agenda

- Bus Shelter
- Highways speeding
- Smart Water
- Mole End

16) Date of next meeting & future meetings – All meetings start at 8pm

Monday 21st February 2022

Monday 9th May 2022

Monday 19th September 2022

Monday 28th November 2022

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9pm.

Appendix 1

Worcestershire County Council Report

Meeting of Rochford Parish Council, 29th November 2021

1. Latest Covid Figures as at 29th November are:
 - a. Worcestershire is showing an infection rate of 490 cases per 100,000.
 - b. The infection rate in the Malvern Hills District is 423 cases per 100,000.
 - c. The direction of travel is up with the exception of Redditch and Bromsgrove within Worcestershire.
 - d. Wyre Forest has the lowest infection rate in Worcestershire with Worcester City District the highest rate at 620 per 100,000.
 - e. The rate of infection in England as a whole is 438 cases per 100,000.
2. The vaccination of children aged 12 and over is now progressing well, in schools and elsewhere, with Booster jabs being offered to those over 40 and the otherwise vulnerable. Vaccination of children over 5 is now under consideration
3. Please encourage everyone you know who is eligible, to take their booster jab as soon as possible. At a meeting of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee recently, the Chief Executive of the Acute NHS Trust reported, that many of the new Covid patients are now double vaccinated but have not yet taken up their booster jab.
4. With all the pressures the Acute NHS Trust currently finds itself in, with winter still approaching and attempting to bring forward delayed operations due to the pandemic, I personally was very disappointed that on 3rd November, the Planning Committee at MHDC refused to allocate the requested £1.8 million to the Acute Trust, as part of Section 106 monies coming forward from the South Worcestershire Urban Extension.
5. Worcestershire County Council have put in a bid to the Department of Transport totalling £86 million for Bus Service improvements. The aim is to completely transform the bus network across the county, looking to improve service frequency, punctuality and reliability. An enhanced partnership with the bus operators will start in April 2022.

David Chambers

County Councillor, Tenbury Division.

Appendix 2

Bridget Thomas – District Councillor, Tenbury

Defra & APHA have confirmed there is an ongoing Avian Flu A (H5N1) in the wild bird populations in Worcestershire

The UK Health Security Agency is urging people in Worcestershire not to touch any sick or dead wild birds, with avian flu confirmed in Swan populations around the Diglis Basin in Worcester. All respective councils and groups are working with APHA and the RSPCA to protect public health and the risk to other birds.

The strain of bird flu was first diagnosed at a wild bird rescue in Droitwich the risk to human health is considered very low.

A meeting was held to promote the Town Transformation Plan by Malvern Hills District Council who are asking people in the Tenbury area to complete forms, to better inform MHDC of what the people would like as possible improvements and what important issues there are that affect most people in the town. The idea is to improve the high street which in turn would promote tourism and help the local economy.

Last Wednesday saw the first public engagement meeting of the Environment Agency in the Community Centre behind the Regal, which showed the virtual photos of the proposed flood defences. There was a lot of interest and steady footfall from 12.30 until 7pm.

Another meeting is planned for tomorrow with the same timescale.