

Minute No. 249

ROCHFORD PARISH COUNCIL
Clerk to the Council: Carole Powell
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Minutes of the **Ordinary Business** meeting of Rochford Parish Council held on Monday, 21 February 2022 at Rochford Village Hall starting at 8pm

Attendance: Cllrs C Lord, A Prosser, T Jones, and Cllr M Gough

Apologies: Cllr M Powell, County Cllr D Chambers and District Cllr Thomas

In Attendance: Clerk – C Powell

1) **Apologies:** Cllr M Powell , County Cllr D Chambers & District Cllr Thomas

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

3) **Public Question Time**
No members of the public present at the meeting.

4) **Minutes of Last Meeting**
Read and agreed minute note 248

5) **Progress Reports for information**

Smart Water – Clerk has asked for the final time via the village magazine for any interest. Should there not be enough interest after the March magazine then the idea will be shelved.

Highways Speeding – Clerk to contact Community Speed Watch again to ask when the review will begin and to ask what they do as part of their review.

Clerk to ask Cllr Chambers about a recording box for the B4204, and if any funding was available.

Highways had emailed council to quote approx. £300 per pair of 30mph roundels. Red tarmac strips and rumble strips are governed by policy and advice from DfT in special circumstances where there is a collision record.

Clerk to ask Hannah Davies of Highways when resurfacing will be done.

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

Bus Shelter – 3 quotes have been received and forwarded to the insurers. Clerk waiting for confirmation from insurers before instructing contractor.

Litter Bin – Clerk has prices for litter bins. It was agreed to take up Cllr. Lord's kind offer to repair old litter bin and attach to bus shelter when done.

6) Finance

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

Precept request has been sent & acknowledged

Clerk reimbursed for Defibrillator battery and pads replacement.

7) Footpath

Water main damage on Hill Top led to silt build up in drains – lengthsman has reported & copied Clerk in on report.

Footpath bridge works has been completed.

8) Clerk Training

Clerk has booked two training courses:-

March – Creating accessible council documents & content

April – GDPR

9) Insurance

Pre-renewal questionnaire has been completed & returned. When renewal is received Clerk to send to all councillors for approval.

10) Planning

21/01530/HP – 1 Hilltop Cottage – Approved

21/01687-HP – Rochford Court – Approved

21/01479/HP – 2 Hilltop Cottage – Approved

The Pink House – Planning enforcement replied to Clerk to state that the current structure was in breach of planning regulations. Planning officer is in negotiations with owner to discuss alterations which would need to be reviewed by the parish council and local residents. If negotiations failed then the owner would be instructed to remove the structure.

M/22/00076/FUL – Lower House Farm – Accepted by Parish Council with no comments to make.

10) Correspondence

- South Worcestershire Rural Beat – latest edition – sent via email to councillors
- Vic's Roundup – sent via email to councillors

15) Councillor's reports & items for future agenda

- Queen's Jubilee Platinum – Mr E Yarnold organising the beacon in Hanley Childe and Mr A Barbe in the process of organising a celebration for Rochford – further details to follow
- 29th May 2022 – Open Gardens of Rochford
- Bus Shelter
- Highways speeding
- Smart Water
- Litter Picking – Clerk to put message on village WhatsApp to state that anyone coming forward to take responsibility for an area of litter picking to be offered some litter picking equipment.

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

Monday 9th May 2022

Monday 19th September 2022

Monday 28th November 2022

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

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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.