

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF
RUSHWICK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 9 MARCH 2022 AT 7.30 PM
AT RUSHWICK VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr Hemsworth, Cllr Wigglesworth and Cllr Haywood

In Attendance: Sharon Baxter (Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer) and District Cllr Walton (arrived at 8 PM)
Tim Hughes - Parish Lengthsman plus 2 members of the public

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman Cllr Hemsworth was voted to Chair the meeting this evening.

1. Apologies: Cllr Jenkins (Personal), Cllr Bryan (Personal), Cllr Wise (Personal), Cllr Williams (Personal), Cllr Hughes (Work) - Accepted
County Cllr Scott Richardson Brown and District Cllr Chambers (Personal) - Received.
It was noted Cllr Walton would be arriving around 8pm due to a meeting at MHDC he was required to attend.
2. 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
3. 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
District Councillor Report had been circulated in advance of this meeting.
Cllr Walton confirmed he had supplied some information to Cllr Jenkins in respect of Lioncourt

4. Minutes: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 09.02.2022 having been previously circulated were signed as a true and correct record.
5. Progress Reports: No matters arising from previous minutes.
The Action Plan was reviewed and updated.
Mr. Hughes to inspect the milestone to assess what remedial repairs are needed.
Cllr Wise had provided a progress update with reference to speeding issues within the area.
Councillors confirmed they would like Cllr Wise to proceed in setting up a Neighbourhood Watch.
Cllr Wise also suggested to have a link on the website for Operation Snap where speeding vehicles could be reported at the time of occurrence. This idea is to be discussed with Cllr Hughes who maintains the website.
A request is to be made to MHDC to ask if the newly installed litter/dog waste bins can be emptied more frequently, following complaints of overflowing bins and the smell of dog excrement, rather than relocating it. Next residents meeting concerning the Ashpath (Footpath 520) to take place on Monday 14 March 2022 at 7pm at Rushwick Village Hall.
The Parish Council wish to express their deepest condolences to Mr. Roger Smith, Village Hall Caretaker, following the loss of his wife.
6. Parish Lengthsman Scheme: An update was presented as per timesheet.
This month the Lengthsman has been working along the Bransford Road, Claphill Lane, and Upper Wick Lane including the Underpass, clearing around signage, cutting back verges, clearing gulleys and rubbish and also attending to the VAS sign.
 - a. **RESOLVED:** To renew Contract of Services for the Lengthsman from 01.04.22 to 31.03.23

7. Finance
 1. Payment of accounts as per schedule were authorised.
 2. Bank Reconciliation Statement - For Information Only

8. Reports from representatives: To receive an update
 1. Report from Village Hall Committee: Cllr B1yan
 The Clerk reported Cllr Jenkins has been liaising with the Village Hall Committee concerning a blocked sewer pipe that needs clearing and a broken manhole cover that needs to be replaced. The cost to unblock the sewer is yet to be established and the cost of the replacement manhole cover is expected to be in the region of £240-£260.
 District Cllr Walton had kindly assisted Cllr Bryan in establishing the amounts of SI 06 funding available to the Village Hall and the process for applying for it.

 2. Footpath Officers report: Cllr Williams
 1. I have received a complaint from the resident of "Westways" in Claphill Lane concerning the use of footpath 5I2(c) which starts/ends at the new kissing gate on Claphill Lane. Walkers, especially those with dogs, entering that field from the direction of Broadmore Green or Colonel Drive, are following the line of the hedge after coming across the footbridge, and arriving at the corner of her property, which she believes shouldn't be happening.
 Walkers should instead head for the tall trees on the horizon to the LEFT of the tree near the footbridge, and then pass through the gap in the fence (formerly a stile) to access Claphill Lane.
 I think a sign is called for, saying something like "Path runs Diagonally to your left towards the tall trees on the Horizon". A simple arrow pointing (from this viewpoint) North-West, could be misinterpreted.
 2. Not strictly a footpath, but a pavement issue: the T- Junction sign as one approaches Colonel Drive from the direction of the Village Hall, is totally obscured by branches and foliage. A job for the Lengthsman? '

 3. Report of Play Area: Cllr Hemsworth
 The container has successfully been installed.

 4. Social Media Update: Cllr Hughes
 A quiet month on the Facebook page with no issues to report.

 5. School Representative report Position Vacant
 The Chairman is due to contact the headmaster, who is unfortunately off sick.

9. Update on the Parish Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr Hemsworth reported that the document is progressing and has some maps/graphs have now been inserted.

10. Planning: The following Planning Applications received before this meeting were considered for comment: -
 Planning Application No. M/22/00175/OUT
 Location: Land at (Os 8163 5361) Bransford Road, Rushwick
 Proposal: The erection of 8 dwellings together with vehicular/pedestrian access from Coronation Avenue: Green Infrastructure including landscaping, play area and sustainable drainage; and other related infrastructure.
 Comment: The Chairman is to collate the objection comment for circulation to councillors for agreement prior to submission to MHDC.

 Planning Application No. 21/02319/CU
 Location: Aymestrey Court, Bromyard Road, Crown East
 Proposal: Proposed conversion of former gymnasium to independent relative unit (Granny Annexe)
 Comment: The Chairman is to collate the objection comment for circulation to councillors for agreement prior to submission to MHDC.

11. Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

The Cricket Club plan to host a Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebration event for the village on Thursday 2 June 2022. This intends to be a family orientated event with live music, bar drinks, food, games and children's entertainment. The Cricket Club are seeking funding £4000 from the Parish Council for music staging, lighting, PA systems and outdoor toilet hire.

In the first instance they are to be referred to MHDC to participate in Crowdfunding via Spacehive to try and obtain funding through this initiative. Please see below for info l mation: -

Get funding for your Platinum Jubilee celebration

From street parties to community events, Malvern Hills District Council and Spacehive are working together to bring ideas to life to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee this year.

Individuals, community groups and schools are being encouraged to pitch their project ideas to the crowdfunding platform Spacehive, to begin raising funds for their event.

Malvern Hills District Council has made £10,000 available for the Platinum Jubilee Community Fund, with up to £2,000 for each eligible project.

Projects can be one-off events taking place over the bank holiday weekend from 2 to 5 June or ongoing projects with a lasting legacy, from street parties and get-togethers to community murals and art exhibitions. The council also has funding pots available including the People Make Places Fund, Destination Zero Community Fund and the Ward Budget Scheme which provides councillors with £500 per year to assist local projects financially.

Anyone interested in crowdfunding for their Jubilee project will need to launch their project on Spacehive by 15 March and raise the funds by 29 April.

12. Correspondence for Information: Circulated by the Clerk

a. Save the Date - Parish and Town Councillor Conference 17 May 6-8pm

13. Councillors' reports and items for future agendas

In an email communication Cllr Wise asked if the Parish Council would like to support the Smartwater initiative. It was agreed he should investigate the initiative further and establish some costs and report back at the next Parish Council meeting, before any decision is reached.

Meeting closed at 9.10 PM

Signed Chairman Date.....

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Two members representing Aymestrey Court Management Company stated their objection to planning application outlining the planning history, seeking their support from the Parish Council in respect of planning application no.21/02319/CU.

Rushwick Parish Council – District Council Report March 2022

For this month's report I just wanted to pull out a few things which have been useful over the last month.

The first is also covered in Vic's roundup:

We are providing funding to community projects which aim to make a greener and more sustainable district.

The Destination Zero Community Fund is a dedicated funding pot available through the crowdfunding platform, Spacehive, to support local, community-led projects that help to reduce carbon emissions.

The £100,000 fund, which is aimed at community groups, charities, local councils, schools and individuals to help bring forward projects that would have a wider community benefit.

We are interested in projects that contribute towards the aims of the Destination Zero plan, focusing on reducing carbon emissions, tackling climate change, and enhancing biodiversity and habitats.

Projects with the following outcomes are being encouraged:

- Improved energy efficiency of homes through community action
- Increased low carbon travel for community benefit
- Community campaigns that support reduce, reuse, and recycle initiatives
- Natural measures to capture and store carbon (e.g., tree planting, pollinator sites, wetlands, wildflower meadows)

Examples of projects could be a community garden, e-bike hire schemes, community repair café, swap shop events, local renewable energy schemes, but there are many more possibilities.

We will review all project campaigns and successful projects can expect to receive a pledge of up to £10,000 (max. 50% of the campaign target).

The size of the pledge will depend on the size of the project, how it delivers against fund criteria and Destination Zero objectives, the impact it will have, and the buy-in from the community.

I think there is an opportunity here for the ward to look at potential projects that we can help support.

I also chaired a Transport Summit last month to look at how the various organisations offering both public transport and community transport can be brought together to create a more joined up transport network in the district. There was representation from County there as well. One of the biggest takeaways for me was the potential use of Apps and technology where users can request transport or indicate when they require transport allowing the various organisations to build up a picture of what is needed and then supply as best is possible. This will allow groups to create regular routes which will be used and at times they will be utilised.

For car hire organisations and community transport this will be invaluable to support communities. Certainly, all organisations working together is the way forward and there will be more on this.

We are about to launch our first 'Village Office' - a co-working space based in Lindridge village hall. This format, if it works in Lindridge, - will be rolled out to other village halls as an offer with support from the District Council and Community Action.

With so many people still working from home or having set up new businesses we have lots of individual workers in our villages, so these spaces allow people to come together and co-work.

At full council we presented the council tax and budget for 2022/23. It was voted for that council tax would be see a £5 increase (at band D equivalent).

A vote was also taken on a response to the Local Boundary Commission recommendation. The four responses were: That councillors are surprised and disappointed that a visit to the area by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England was not conducted in line with the Commission's guidance prior to the draft recommendations being published and hope that a visit can be made prior to final recommendations being made.

That the proposal for the Martley and Teme Valley 2-member ward would create a ward that would be too large, including unrelated communities, and 2 single member wards is preferred.

That the proposals for Tenbury and Lindridge wards are supported.

That there is no support for splitting parish councils across wards unless absolutely essential and with good justification. I abstained from the vote as I've already sent my own response stating I support the Boundary Commission report in terms of the North of the district and I also felt these responses did respond in a number of areas they should have done in the centre of the district.

We've also been involved in a lot of marketing of the district from a tourism point of view including a great advert through Free Radio which you may have spotted online. It does mention events and we're in the early stages of putting together a book and storytelling festival for Malvern. Given our literary connections with Tolkien and CS Lewis this is long overdue.