

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF
RUSHWICK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 13 APRIL 2022 AT 7.30 PM
AT RUSHWICK VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr Jenkins (Chairman), Cllr Bryan, Cllr Williams, Cllr Wise and Cllr Haywood

In Attendance: Sharon Baxter (Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer) and District Cllr Walton

1. Apologies: Cllr Wigglesworth (Personal), Cllr Hemsworth (Personal) and Cllr Hughes (Personal) – Accepted and District Cllr Chambers (Personal) – Received.
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

No questions for Public Question Time.

District Councillor Report had been circulated in advance of this meeting.

4. Minutes: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 9.3.2022 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. Tim Hughes was commended on his efforts for carrying out remedial repairs to the milestone. The commercial wheelie bin contract has been signed and is now in place.
6. Parish Lengthsman Scheme: An update was presented as per timesheet. This month the Lengthsman has been busy cleaning and clearing rubbish from the underpass, working in Summer Hollow, along the Bransford Road, Claphill Lane, clearing around signage, cutting back verges, clearing gulleys and rubbish and attending to the VAS sign.
7. Finance
 1. Payment of accounts as per schedule were authorised. In addition, the following was agreed.
RESOLVED: To make a donation of £500 to Rushwick Cricket Club in support of them hosting the Queen's Platinum Jubilee event on Thursday 2 June 2022.
 2. Bank Reconciliation Statement – For Information Only
 3. **RESOLVED:** To accept the new pay scales for 2021-2022 agreed by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) to be back dated to 1 April 2021
8. Reports from representatives: To receive an update
 1. Report from Village Hall Committee: Cllr Bryan
Cllr Bryan was working away at the time of the last Village Hall Committee meeting so could not attend the meeting and unfortunately the minutes are not yet available for update.
He had been in contact with the Land Registry office regarding the registering the village hall. The Land Registry office confirmed that the title has never been registered with them hence the reason this is not available online. Their advice is that a copy of the title deeds will be required to register the title or should these not be available, we should refer to the process under Practice Guide 2 but this could be complex and may require legal advice.

2. Footpath Officers report: Cllr Williams
 - ‘ No issues have been reported to me lately.
I have recently carried out :-
 1. Minor trimming from Grange Lane to the Level Crossing, and along the Teme to Bransford (Paths 517 and 518)
 2. Litter pick from there back to the Village Hall.
 3. Minor trimming along the Bransford Road to Summer Hollow (Path 513)Following on from the complaint received from the resident at Westways last month, Cllr Williams will draft a sign which Cllr Jenkins agreed to get produced, to try and help alleviate this problem.

3. Report of Play Area: Cllr Hemsworth

Litter picks are having to be done regularly (daily when the sun is out), a large amount of litter in the park due increased numbers as the weather is good. It is disappointing as litter is throughout the park & not isolated to one area in particular, nor is it one particular demographic.

1,100L Wheelie bin contract signed and is now in place.

Strategy to manage litter in the park – See Rushwick Park Litter Management Proposals below.

Spring bulbs planted last year have come into bloom at the top of the park with more wildflower seed planted for the summer.

Container is in place and being used to store football equipment by Oldbury Park Tigers U13s as well as maintenance equipment for the park. Unfortunately, there has been some damage that has appeared this month.

ROSPA inspection due imminently – await feedback to establish next steps regarding maintenance/replacement/repair. It is anticipated that the climbing net on the tower unit will fail and need replacing at a cost of approx. £800 ex VAT.

RESOLVED: To allocate £1K to facilitate urgent repairs to the climbing net on the tower unit and also, to include re-tension of the zip wire.

 - a. **RESOLVED:** Proposal to purchase 3x50L litter bins for installation at the recreation area costing £350- £400 inc. VAT & delivery.
 - b. **RESOLVED:** To purchase a rake, broom and cleaning supplies to the value of £50 for use at the recreation area.

4. Social Media Update: Cllr Hughes

A quiet month. RPC website has been updated with agenda/minutes as supplied by the Clerk. Facebook posts created, based on material and photos supplied by Cllr Hemsworth, Cllr Williams and Tim, the Lengthsman.

The number of followers is stable, up 1 to 278. No new messages or other items to report.

5. School Representative report: Position Vacant

Mr. Jeffrey is unlikely to return this school year. The school has received an unfavourable OFSTED. Cllr Jenkins to write to the school governors to advise them that the Parish Council has lost their representation but are very keen to maintain good contact links.

6. Speeding Issues & Crime Prevention Update: Cllr Wise

Cllr Wise had followed up various speeding issues investigating speed data, Community Speed Watch, Speed Enforcement and Operation SNAP (An initiative managed by the Police whereby members of the public usually vehicles/cyclist can use their car dashcams/head cams to report incidents of poor standards of driving.)

A suggestion was to invite a representative to attend the Annual Parish meeting to help combat speeding issues.

He reported an accident blackspot, highlighting that the WCC road signage on the A4440 needs upgrading as there are no reflectors on approach to the roundabout island. Clerk to refer to our County Cllr. He is looking into linking the Community Neighbourhood Watch to the website.

He had also investigated the Smartwater initiative concerning cost and roll out.

It was agreed to invite a representative along to the Annual Parish meeting to help with crime prevention measures.

9. Update on the Parish Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr Jenkins/Cllr Hemsworth
A copy of the draft Neighbourhood Plan has been submitted to MHDC for their comment and feedback.
10. Planning: To consider any Planning Applications received before this meeting – None to discuss.

For Information

Planning Application Ref: 21/01596/FUL

Proposal: New Dwelling

Location: Branksome, Bransford Road, Rushwick, WR2 5TD

Application Approved

New Street Name Request x14

Site Address: Land At (Os 8202 5595 West of Worcester),

Martley Road, Lower Broadheath Grid

Reference: 382025,255958

Development Details: 261 new properties

The suggestion agreed was focussing on the history of Earl's Court, resulting in the following suggestions:-

Owners of the property - Also High Sheriffs (date given)

John GOWER - 1547

Timothy BRIGGENSHAW -1694

Edward HOPTON -1752

Features of the Farmhouse and outbuildings

Cider Mill

Water Mill

Moat

Hop kiln

Redwood (a tree once stood nearby)

Granary

Fields within the estate

Ox Leasowe

Cherry Orchard

Bowling Alley

Cowcroft

Five acres

Mill Meadow

Unfortunately, the Council did not reach a definitive list to expand upon these names with road, drive, close , way etc and would like to leave to this to the discretion of MHDC, along with selecting the preference/order of which street name indicated on the map are named.

11. Correspondence for Information: Circulated by the Clerk
Resignation of Councillor Virginia Wigglesworth – Cllr Wigglesworth was thanked for her dedication and commitment in carrying out her role and wished every success for the future.
12. Councillors' reports and items for future agendas
Residents are working together well, in reaching a resolution to remedy problems with public footpath 520 Upper Wick Lane (The Ashpath). The area has now been levelled out, trees cut and speed humps reintroduced. The Annual Parish meeting will take place in person this year at the Village Hall in May, date to be confirmed.
Cllr Bryan confirmed the three additional litter bins recently installed appeared to be well used and MHDC collection schedule appears to have settled down now, with no reported issues over the past couple of weeks. Cllr Bryan would now like to identify a location for installing the fourth litter bin.

RESOLVED: Under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meeting(s)) Act 1960 to consider excluding the public and press from discussions only in respect of agenda item 13. as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

13. **RESOLVED:** To implement contractual changes for the Clerk as agreed in the Annual budget for FY 2022/2023

14. An update was presented on the specialist advice received so far and actions required as a result of this.

Meeting closed at 9.10 PM

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

Rushwick Parish Council - District Council Report – April

It's been another busy month. Two weeks ago, in the Administration our leader Sarah Rouse made the choice to step away from the group and continue to stand as an independent but not part of the administration after three years as leader.

I was elected as the new Democratic Group leader and Tom Wells takes over leadership of the Council as Acting Leader until our AGM on May 10th. We remain a group of Independent councillors covering the entire length of the District.

The Dog Control Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) was approved on Tuesday 22 March at Executive Committee.

The PSPO pursuant to dog control will be brought into force with effect from 1 May 2022, this will continue to allow us to deal with dog control offences by issuing fixed penalty notices.

As part of the PSPO the following will be an offence:

- Fouling – Persons in charge of dog must remove faeces from land immediately
- Leads by order – Persons in charge of dog must place dog on lead when directed to by an authorised officer
- Exclusion – Persons in charge of dog must not take dog into a fenced/enclosed children's play area
- Means to pick up – Persons in charge of a dog must have the appropriate means to pick dog faeces deposited by that dog.

If signs are wanted in reference to these let me know.

On 2 December 2021, we had launched a six-week consultation to gather responses on the PSPO that had expired. More than 480 took part in the consultation, with overwhelming support from residents, the majority of which were dog owners.

The first test of our new 5 year housing land supply comes in a appeal lodged on an application in Leigh Sinton. Our 5 Year Housing Land Supply is now measured as a joint supply across the three planning authorities of Malvern Hills, Wychavon and Worcester City. As we work together under the South Worcestershire Development Plan this makes sense as delivery is joint.

We had a planning meeting last week where planning officers went through the numbers and clearly showed that despite the pandemic building has continued. The revised time table for the SWDPR is still on track. That appeal should be with us in May.

We also launched our first shared working space in a village hall this past month. Lindridge village hall is the hall we're trialling so working space has been set up there with enough room for several people to turn on particular days and to use the space to work in. It has good wi-fi, printing facilities and is a good environment for people working from home or new entrepreneur to work from.

Called 'The Village Office' if it works there, we are then looking to roll out the concept to other village halls. We've done this in partnership with Community First who, as we know, work closely with village halls across the district.

There is also a part of Vic's update covering the successful launch of our Crowdfunding event – something that many local organisations have been successful in utilising to raise funds. We now have a £100,000 funding pot for future initiatives.

And finally, at our Exec meeting this month we voted to invest £1m into the Council owned Malvern Theatre for long overdue upgrades. The major part of the upgrades involves creating more space for community use and support. The funding put in place by us is alongside funding from other sources to ensure the works can happen.

As this progresses, I will keep you updated.

We are yet to see a reserved matters application for the Lioncourt land and there is no decision as yet on the land behind Coronation Avenue.

Thanks,

Daniel.