

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF
RUSHWICK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 11 MAY 2022 AT 7.30 PM
AT RUSHWICK VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr Hemsworth, Cllr Williams, Cllr Wise and Cllr Haywood

In Attendance: Sharon Baxter (Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer)
County Cllr Scott Richardson - Brown and District Cllr Walton

1. Election of Chairman plus (signing of Declaration of Acceptance of Office) - Cllr Hemsworth was appointed as temporary Chairperson to Chair this meeting only. His Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed to this effect.
2. Election of Vice-Chairman plus (signing of Declaration of Acceptance of Office) – **ITEM DEFERRED**
3. Apologies: To receive apologies and approve reason for absence
Cllr Jenkins (Personal), Cllr Bryan (Work Commitments) – Accepted
4. Declarations of Interest
 1. Register of Interests: Councilors 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 in items on the agenda and their nature - None
5. 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.

County Councillor Report – The report was noted.

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

6. The following Officers/representatives were re-appointed: -
 - Village Hall Committee representative – Cllr Bryan
 - Footpath Officer – Cllr Williams
 - Play area representative – Cllr Hemsworth
 - Social Media/Communication representative – Cllr Hughes
 - School Representative – Interim representative Cllr Hemsworth
7. To appoint members to the following: -
 - a) Staffing Committee – Chairman & Vice - Chairman
 - b) Planning Committee – Consists of all Parish Councillors
 - (i) **RESOLVED:** To grant delegated powers to the Planning Committee for planning comment submissions.
8. Having been previously circulated the adoption of the minutes of The Parish Council meeting of 13.04.2022 were signed as a true and correct record
9. Progress Reports: Matters arising from previous minutes: Mr. Bryant expressed his gratitude for the £500 donation made by RPC to the Cricket Club in support the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee celebrations
The Action Plan was reviewed and updated
The commercial waste bin contract has been entered into for a year.

Cllr Williams has purchased and installed a sign following a request from a parishioner, advising the route people should walk.

Confirmation has been received that all 14 street names have been accepted relating to land at (Os 8202 5595 West of Worcester) Martley Road, Lower Broadheath.

A speaker is to attend the Annual Parish meeting to talk on the Smartwater Initiative.

10. Parish Lengthsman Scheme: An update was presented as per timesheet which included cleaning and clearing rubbish from the underpass and cutting back verges along the Bransford Road and Claphill Lane

11. Finance

1. **RESOLVED:** To renew the Parish Council insurance from 01.06.2022-31.05.2023 with Hiscox Insurance Company Limited at a cost of £1121.45
2. **RESOLVED:** Payment of accounts were authorised as per schedule

12. Reports from representatives: The following update reports were received: -

1. Report from Village Hall Committee: Cllr Bryan

Cllr Bryan is trying to locate the original deed for the Village Hall with the Village Hall Committee. As agreed at April's meeting, he is making arrangements for the fourth new litter bin to be installed in Grange Lane. This will require a new post to be installed which will be ordered from Glasdon UK. Installation to be discussed with Tim Hughes.

2. Footpath Officers report: Cllr Williams

In response to a request from a parishioner, a new sign has been installed at the footbridge between Claphill Lane and Broadmore Green.

3. Report of Play Area: Cllr Hemsworth –

- The park has been very busy as the sun has come out and over the Easter holidays which has meant a lot of maintenance to keep things tidy. It is not abnormal to see 15-20 cars in the car park during peak times on the weekend as well as the local residents.
- Litter picking and sweeping of the stones for the drainage pits at the pump track is a regular duty. A special mention to Thomas and Pip Mobberley and Eddie Hemsworth who helped with litter picking/tidying and to Matt Mobberley who helped with strimming & grass cutting at top end of the park where it is difficult for the contractors to cut and to keep costs within budget.
- Oldbury Tigers U13s played home matches on the following dates:
08/01/22, 29/01/22, 05/03/22 and 19/03/22
They have 2 games left in this season and are keen to continue for 2022/23 season
- 3 x litter bins for inside the park have been ordered.
- David Bryant has requested the use of Rushwick Park for parking on the day of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations (2nd June 2022). This was agreed subject to it being marshalled and used responsibly.
- There has been an issue with graffiti on the play equipment, with the help of Mr Matthew Mobberley (Head of Sixth Form at Christopher Whiteheads School) the culprits were identified as a group of Year 7 students. Their parents were informed and the school bussed them down on a Friday lunch time to litter clean the graffiti, litter pick & endure a lecture from Cllr Hemsworth and Mr Mobberley about the importance of collective responsibility and looking after the park especially as it is designed for them to have somewhere to go.
- There have been a few instances of individuals climbing on top of the container, to help resolve this to prevent damage and for their safety some anti-climb paint has been put around the edge of the roof to discourage this behaviour. Safety sign has been put in place.
- Despite there being 3 separate "No Dogs allowed" signs or statements obviously placed in full view at the entrance of the park this does not stop a small number of dog owners from taking dogs into the park.

Malvern Hills have recently reinstated a PSPO for Dog Control, as such if a dog owner takes their dog into a park or Farmland where they are prohibited it is enforceable with a £100 fixed penalty notice or up to £1,000 if it goes to court – As such, Cllr Hemsworth has enquired about relating signage.

- a. Update on Grass cutting contract
Top Cut have taken on the new contractor to mow the Park at a price of £80+VAT per cut to be cut fortnightly between April and November with the first cut costing £150+ VAT.
 - b. The ROSPA Playsafety Inspection Report March 2022.
ROSPA inspection complete. Two issues to address, one being the climbing net which was anticipated. The other is to do with the roundabout where the ground clearance is greater than 60-110mm (approx. 130mm), as such the ground level needs to be raised.
The climbing net on the Tower play unit has been removed and will be replaced by Reid's at £860 plus, VAT as agreed at April meeting.
4. Social Media Update: Cllr Hughes – No report available
 5. School Representative report: Position Vacant
It was incorrectly stated in the April minutes, that Mr. Jeffrey is unlikely to return this school year and the Parish Council has apologized to the school for the error in communication.
13. Update on the Parish Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr Jenkins
Comments have been received back from David Clarke from MHDC. These are to be discussed and acted upon.
 14. **RESOLVED:** To accept dates of Parish Council meetings for 2022/2023
Please note Parish Council meetings take place on the second Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm at Rushwick Village Hall except for August and December
 15. **RESOLVED:** To renew football pitch hire agreement for Oldbury Park Tigers U13 for 2022/2023
 16. Planning:
Planning ref: M/22/00517/CU
Proposal: Part change of use from B8 warehouse to Sui Generis Brethren members only retail club
For temporary period of 5 years
Location: Severn House, Bromyard Road, Crown East
Comments: No Objections
 17. Correspondence for Information: Circulated by the Clerk
Delay to SWDPR and reasons – Press Release publication
Worcestershire CALC – Online Training Event – 20 is plenty 17.05.2022 at 10.00am
 18. Councillors' reports and items for future agendas
Cllr Wise asked about the integration of Ukrainian refugees into the community.
District Cllr Walton will seek some advice from MHDC, to assist.
Cllr Haywood confirmed an extra speed bump has been installed down the Ashpath.

The Annual Parish meeting is to take place on Wednesday 25 May 2022 at 7.30PM.
at Rushwick Village Hall. Everyone is welcome. Refreshments available
Guest Speakers to include a talk on Smartwater and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations

Meeting closed at 8.42 PM

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

County Councillor Report – Scott Richardson-Brown

The road surfaces are receiving a summer dressing
Looking into a speed query from a resident in Claphill Lane – Establishing more details
A new Transport Liaison Officer has taken post.

Questions/ Comments

Cllr Wise confirmed his interest/ involvement with speed data and community speed watch.
Cllr Haywood asked for adequate signage, indicating the route to take to Malvern on the approach to the Powick roundabout from Rushwick

District Councillor Daniel Walton

As you'll be aware there had been a delay to the SWDP publication. Originally intended to be delivered in July due to more time being required to finalise the Infrastructure Delivery Plan. A new timetable is currently being set up for councillors to consider and I'll keep you updated.

Of course, this effects the suggested development at Rushwick and we can talk through this.

Also, in planning we have a new Head of Development Management across both Councils. Ciaran Power will officially take on the role from 1 June, but he is currently in the role as an interim. Ciaran has been with us a long time and we've been working with him following Duncan's departure on Worcester West.

The Spring and Summer round of Spacehive projects will be launched soon and at least six community projects from around the district will be included. There has also been a lot of Jubilee community events funded through the Spacehive platform. I would re-iterate that any local community projects should look to Spacehive funding to support.

<https://www.spacehive.com/movement/worcs>

Of course, we're coming into the tourism season and just to give you a taste of how the Malvern Hills area has become below are the hits to our VIST THE MALVERNS website – www.visitthemaalverns.org.

January – 36,010 (+80.19% compared to 2019)

February – 33,107 (+58.19% compared to 2019)

March – 39,846 (+ 76.60% compared to 2019)

Across all of the district we're seeing more people visiting. This includes Tenbury, the Teme Valley and Upton as well as Malvern. The recent completion of Priory Park has certainly helped footfall figures in Great Malvern.

The completion of our Town Centre Plans will go to our Exec committee later this month and give us a number of projects – large and small – to complete to improve our high streets.

Since our last meeting there has been some movement within the Council but in effect little has changed other than Leadership. The previous leader of the Council left the administration, and I took over as Group Leader. The Greens now sit as their own party but still working with us – which actually works better for everyone. On the 10th May at our Annual General Council we'll be putting Tom Wells forward as leader of the Council.

This is due to happen on the 10th May so will have happened by the time we meet on the 11th.

I know we've spoken about new Poo signs for parts of the village and in particular the Play Area. I have the following update from Street Scene.

They will be ready for the for the 1 May 2022, when the PSPO is active.

" We will need to manage expectations a little though and wont be in a position to give third parties signage to self-install, can I ask that you encourage those making the requests to you to report incidents of fouling to us via the report-it page on our website?

That will help us identify the most appropriate places to install signage, the most appropriate type of signage and target our engagement/enforcement patrols. "

As suggested, we need to be reporting issues with Dog Poo at Playscape in order to ensure we get signs there.

Personally, I've also now opened a second warehouse at Holt which means I'm generally always closer to the village than when I was over at Little Witley – which we still have but most of my time is in Holt. This does mean getting over Rushwick Is about 10 minutes quicker.

And finally, it's been three years since I was elected alongside David. So much of that time has been dominated by Covid and a very different way of working. It's nothing we could have expected three years ago and feels odd that in 12 months we'll be going to the polls again. I don't know if it feels like a long time or not. Of course, the Boundary commission will change the shape of wards but to what – we won't know until July.

Following the Boundary commission report it's my hope to still represent Rushwick through what will continue to be a turbulent time. I do feel that despite everything we've had a positive last three years, with the exception of Lioncourt which you know I fought tooth and nail to oppose.

On the 27th May I'll be holding a Councillor Surgery at the Village Hall between 2pm and 7pm. Happy to take any questions and help however I can or just to meet more people after what has been quite a difficult time for meeting people.