

# RUSHWICK'S VIRTUAL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5<sup>th</sup> MAY 2021 AT 8.00PM

**PRESENT:** Mr. R Jenkins (Chairman)

**IN ATTENDANCE:** 8 parishioners were present at this meeting.

1. Welcome: Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all parishioners.
2. Apologies for Absence: District David Chambers
3. The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019 were approved.
4. Matters Arising from approved minutes – None

5. Report from The Parish Council

The Chairman thanked everyone for all their efforts in what had been a long difficult year adapting and continuing to function due to Covid19 restrictions.

He thanked past councillors Andrew Deakin, Ian Parker and Margaret Rowley for all their efforts and contributions and welcomed new councillors Carl Bryan, Robert Hughes and Steven Hemsworth, highlighting there was one councillor vacancy available.

Achievements in the past year including acquiring the additional car park located at the Village Hall from Kier, play area improvements and the successful win on the planning appeal on the Bransford Road. Another Planning Appeal to challenge is the Lioncourt Development located behind the Whitehall Inn. Major issues this year encountered this year have been dealing with the implications of the South Worcestershire Development Plan Review which we will continue to do with vigor and the help and guidance of our District Councillors.

6. Report from School Representative: Ginny Wigglesworth

All the children have been back in full time since the 8 March, after what was a pre-longed and unsatisfying period of remote learning for everybody. Attendance since Easter has been excellent, averaging around 98%. Although the children are very happy in school, the winter lockdown has had an adverse impact on many individuals learning and it will take more than a term to address all the issues around this. Like all schools, we are re-evaluating our staffing structure and curriculum priorities in order to address things in the best possible way. It is a real challenge and requires the input of people with a proven understanding of children and education.

The school is more like normal, but we are still operating with covid restrictions, involving class bubbles, staggered starts and finishes, and strict limits on visitors and meetings. School governor business has revolved around Zoom meetings, but we are planning to meet in school after the next government road map announcement on May 17th. This is also the time we are hoping to have more crossing over of bubbles in school for staff.

Later this term the Year 6 children have a residential visit to look forward to and we are also taking Year 5/6 'bell-boating' on the River Severn. All other educational visits are not going to take place for the rest of the school year, including swimming sessions at Lower Wick.

I am full of admiration how Mr Jeffrey, Mrs Hulls and all the staff have coped during this last year. The COVID pandemic has wreaked such havoc but Rushwick School has risen above every hurdle. We as a Parish Council cannot thank them enough for all that they have been done and are continuing to do for our children.

7. Report from Village Hall Committee: Margaret Rowley  
The Village hall will be open to Regular Users from 27th May subject to Covid19 Regulations. From 21st June everyone, including occasional bookers, may re-start in line with Government guidelines.  
The Village Hall will be used for the May 6th election, with 2 people only allowed in at one time.
8. Report from Footpath Officer: Kit Williams  
Recent Activity :  
(1) I have supplied landowners of Claphill Farm with contact details for of Countryside Access Services for the purpose of enquiring re installation of Kissing Gates.  
(2) I have begun to record the Definitive Descriptions and Map Locations of all the paths in the Parish ( 50% complete )  
(3) I have litter-picked (a) from Christine Avenue to the Level crossing.  
(b) from Grange Lane to the Level crossing.  
(c) from the Level crossing along the Teme to the layby at Bransford Bridge and back up the Main Road to Roots.
9. Report from Playscape: Steven Hemsworth  
New play equipment has recently been installed and improvements made to existing. A small group of volunteers are helping to keep the area litter free. New improvements under consideration include a pump track and portacabin.
10. Update on Neighbourhood Plan: Robert Jenkins  
The policies to be included in this document are now ready to be sent to the consultants to progress the plan further.  
This has taken longer than expected due to Covid19 restrictions.
11. County Councillor Report: Phil Grove – No report available
12. District Councillor Report: Daniel Walton  
The report is appendix to these minutes  
Thanks were expressed to District Councillors Walton and Chambers for all their help, guidance and support in what had been a difficult year and the Council were looking forward to working with them on future prospects.
13. Statement of Accounts 2020/2021  
The Clerk confirmed the Annual Accounts for 2020/2021 had successfully past the Internal Audit. The next stage is to prepare them for the External Audit.  
As of 31.03.2021 there is £85347.05 (which includes Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) of £2208 and £34104) in the bank accounts. The precept is £26722 (paid in two installments by MHDC- April & September 2021) with an anticipated expenditure of £28732 for this financial year.
14. Questions /Comments  
The Chairman thanked parishioners for their time and attending this meeting.  
He then closed the meeting at 8.22pm

Sharon Baxter – Parish Clerk  
Tel: 07815468928

Signed ..... Date .....