

## Minutes of the Meeting of Rushock Parish Council

held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022, 7.30pm, Rushock Village Hall

### Present:

Cllr. T. Green (TG) (Chairman)  
Cllr. D. Cutler (DC)  
Cllr. S. Davies (SD)  
Cllr. R. Hampshire (RH)

### Also Present were:

The clerk Mrs. B J Drew (BD), Parish Lengthsman Mr. Bill Waldron (BW). District Councillor Mrs L Jones (LJ) and West Mercia Police – Alice Owen-Jones (AOJ)

The Chairman requested a one-minute silence be held following the sad news just received of the death of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr J Nicholls and Cllr T Jennings due to other meetings, Cllr M Hart (County / District Councillor) and Cllr I Hardiman (District Councillor).
2. **Declarations of Councillors Interests:**  
None declared.
3. **Public Question Time:**  
No Public Questions.
4. **Minutes:**  
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2022 were duly approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.
5. **Progress Reports:**  
Jubilee Celebrations - Cllrs agreed all events were well organised, well supported and thoroughly enjoyed by all.
6. **County Councillor's Report:** *Report previously circulated*

Rushock Issues

Regarding verge cutting I have raised the ongoing issues with the new cabinet member for highways asking him to ensure we do not keep having these ongoing issues in the Parish.

I have met with your chairman and our new highways officer Hayley Steele (replacing Paul Green), and the outgoing Paul Green back on the 13<sup>th</sup> July to agree in principle the location for a bench to be placed on highway verge along Lunnon Lane just down from the orchard.

I have reported the paintballing signs and recently I have spotted one so I will keep chasing to ensure these are removed from the A442 Droitwich Road and indeed anywhere else.

I am trying to lobby to devolve more work for the lengths man and have a cabinet away week coming up where I will be making the case. I know you have raised this as an issue.

## Wyre Forest Issues

The planning application for the proposed Quarry at Lea Castle, Wolverley, was considered by the planning committee at WCC on 24th May. I spoke against this application and it was refused.

A planning application for a proposed 89 space car park has now been submitted to the WCC planning committee and has still to be determined. This has certainly divided local opinion.

## Strategic Issues County Wide

The County Council has been heavily involved in the response to the Coronavirus pandemic working with our other statutory partners.

Worcestershire has a fantastic website Here2Help which is a community action response to Coronavirus. There is also a dedicated phone number 01905 768053 for those without access to the internet. There is now a Here2Helpbusiness scheme as well. (simply google Here 2 Help Worcestershire and it comes straight up.)

Here2Help is now also co-ordinating our Ukranian Refugee programme working with the 6 District Councils. We now have several hundred refugees in the County and a number of families have now come to the Wyre Forest and young people are taking up places in local schools.

## 7. **District Councillor's Report:** *Report previously circulated* Cllr Mrs L Jones reported,

### Local Issues

We have been dealing with the usual routine casework, reporting litter and fly tipping on the main A roads and along the country lanes.

The Callimore Farm Planning Application - The appeal has not yet been determined by the inspector, we are awaiting their decision. We will update you in due course.

We are excited to be invited to the village show this month and are looking forward to talking to our residents and seeing the wonderful exhibits and art from Sylvie in the church.

### Wyre Forest District Issues

Wyre Forest House is open to the public through the reception facility only, Green Street Hub is not open as a walk in Hub, appointments must be pre-booked save for dealing with housing and homelessness applications and 'urgent' issues.

The District Council are still proposing that Parish Councils take on litter picking and bin emptying but with no grant from WFDC. We totally oppose this.

Following the adoption of the Local Plan, planning applications on sites now removed from the Greenbelt are flooding in, land at Blakedown, Wribbenhall, Low Habberley, Consiton Crescent, Lea Castle and Woven Oaks to name but a few!

The District Council have started a consultation on their proposals for a new three-storey residential building, this will be for short-term accommodation units. They are looking to build it at the corner of Castle Road and New Road in Kidderminster. If they get the go-ahead it will help the District Council meet a growing demand for temporary accommodation and save money on external accommodation.

There is a Older Persons Showcase Event being held on Thursday 22 September from 10.am to 12Noon at Kidderminster Health Centre, Waterloo Street. This is a free event for residents who will be able to access advice on Healthy Living, Finances, Benefits and Local Services.

There will be at another jobs fair at Kidderminster Town Hall on Thursday 29 September.

This is a brief update on the Homes for Ukraine Scheme.

In total, Wyre Forest has received approximately 95 guests from Ukraine to date, who have been accommodated within 44 host families.

Private Sector Housing have carried out 49 property inspections to ensure the accommodation being offered is suitable for a guest to reside. Like many areas Officers are seeing some issues between hosts and guests and are working hard with the county and other districts to set up a rematching service where the offer of a home breaks down completely. An additional 6 properties have been inspected so they can be allocated a Rematch if required.

Lisa also advised that she has been speaking to Green Street regarding fly-tipping recently dumped in a field in Lunnon Lane. It has now been moved onto the lane and collected. Green Street are getting surveillance cameras in location to monitor. The reporting app has my 3 words which you can put into satellite mode and see a map which makes it easier for residents to report.

DC commented on the Homes for Ukraine Scheme and advised they had a property where the tenant had moved out and they would have offered for Ukraine Scheme but they could not get assurance with regard to section 21 (new white paper) on the rights to evict. LJ will investigate this.

## **8. Police Report:**

PCSO Alice Owen-Jones reported;

Police Ref; 00308\_I\_28052022 – Burglary Rushock trading Estate. At approximately 11:30hrs unknown person driving a white transit van with ladders on the roof has stolen alloy wheels, brass, copper and also diesel from vehicles

Police Ref 353\_I\_31032022 Burglary Cakebole Lane -Sometime between Monday morning 28/03/2022 and late afternoon 31/03/2022 A property has been broken into and a window has been smashed. A substantial amount of cash and jewellery was stolen

TG mentioned the dead buzzard. TG liaised with PC Mike Roberts, Wildlife, Rural & Business and WDBC Officer at West Mercia Police. The bird was x rayed and it was confirmed it was not shot. It tested negative for avian flu and was too decomposed and old for any further tests.

The new PC Jamie Guest recently attended the coffee morning.

Policing Priorities – Agreed as Inappropriate speed, particularly in lanes / wildlife crime / burglaries.

Police Community Safety Charter – Clerk will sign up on behalf of Rushock Parish Council.

## **9. To discuss Civility & Respect Pledge:**

The existing code of conduct is currently being reviewed therefore it was agreed to defer this until that has been received and agreed. The Pledge is also due to be discussed at the Parish Forum.

**10. Finance:**

- a) The financial spreadsheet was duly circulated and it was in accordance with the bank statements.  
The bank balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022 was £8321.86.
- b) Opt out of SAAA central external auditor appointment arrangements.  
It was unanimously agreed to continue as part of the SAAA sector led auditor appointment and remain part of the central scheme.
- c) Parish Council Laptop and Security.  
Clerk had asked Rushock Parish Council to consider purchase of laptop solely for use of Rushock Parish Council. This was unanimously agreed.
- d) Parish Councillor E Mail Addresses.  
It was agreed Clerk proceed to purchase domain name to enable set up of Parish Councillor E Mail Addresses. The benefits are fully automatically encrypted e mail, administrator (clerk) can add, remove, monitor, easier to respond to Freedom of Information requests, 2 factor authentication and overviewed by government central digital data office.
- e) The following were unanimously approved for payment:-

Already Paid:

Mr W Waldron (Lengthsman May 22)	£22.50
Zurich Municipal (Insurance 22/23)	£214.00
Mr J Nicholls (Jubilee Celebrations Food)	£250.00
Mr P Haskell (Work – Lunnon Lane)	£40.00
Rushock Village Hall (Re-issue of chqs 221 and 227)	£180.00
Mr P Haskell (Work – Lunnon Lane)	£38.00

To Be Paid:

Mrs B J Drew (Clerks Expenses)	£86.80
Re-issue of Chq (Lengthsman May 22)	£22.50

**11. To update on bench and discuss and agree style and location of memorial post:**

License for new bench not yet received. SD is liaising with TJ regarding the bottom of the bench regarding possible Gabion seating ideas.

The Memorial Post will be located outside the village hall, the area will be cleared, people will put own plaques on and they will be a standard size.

**12. To discuss Biodiversity Project:**

The area around the Orchard has been cut and is looking good, the triangle will be done soon.

A discussion took place around more planting and suggestions of wildflower seeds, poppies and more bulbs were made. TG will liaise with all Parish Councillors prior to purchase.

**13. Planning:**

TG reported on Planning since the last meeting;

22/0450/PNC 07/06/2022 Buildings at Os 388560 270390, Lunnon Lane, Rushock:  
Conversion of part of building to form 3 residential units

Recommend Approval subject to;

1. The footpath must be kept open and clearly waymarked,
2. Care must be taken not to cause any pollution to the adjacent watercourse.

Application Withdrawn 08/08/2022

22/0465/FUL 07/06/2022 Buildings at Os 388560 270390, Lunnon Lane, Rushock:  
Proposal for external changes to existing building (addition of doors and windows) alongside prior approval for conversion to residential

Recommend Approval subject to;

1. The footpath must be kept open and clearly waymarked,
2. Care must be taken not to cause any pollution of the adjacent watercourse.

Application Withdrawn 08/08/2022

22/0521/CLP 08/08/2022 Little Gains Farm, Clattercut Lane, Rushock:

Temporary siting of mobile home

FOR INFORMATION ONLY Pending Decision

**14. Highways and Verges:**

A few potholes have been repaired which look to be of a good standard. Still waiting on verges and hoping to extend job tasks for Lengthsman role.

**15. Footpaths:**

TG reported cleaning around some stiles, TJ has cleared footpath from Church down to Chaddesley and WW has done various works.

**16. Rushock Village Hall:**

Nothing to report.

**17. Correspondence:**

The clerk had circulated the schedule of correspondence and presented the correspondence to the meeting. Several items had already been discussed and the schedule was noted.

TG also advised of letter received from John Nicholls dated 8<sup>th</sup> September which Clerk read out. It was agreed that the Clerk should reply to the two points raised; Firstly, with regard to the Badger Setts, these have been found in both Rushock and Elmbridge parishes. The locations are not revealed to prevent further interference.

Secondly, the Parish Council concluded that the Chairman's email did not infer that the hunt had interfered with the Badger Setts.

**18. Agenda items for future meetings:**

Please advise Clerk.

**19. To note the date of the next meetings.**

Thursday 24th November 2022

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm

Signed..... (Chairman)

Dated.....