

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

Prior to the start of this meeting, a public consultation took place attended by 62 parishioners in respect of the SWDPR – Proposed expansion of Rushwick, led by the Chairman Cllr Robert Jenkins. Parishioners were invited to express their views which the Parish Council will use to help formulate their response to the SWDPR consultation. Representation will be based on the viability of the station, road infrastructure, transport links, education availability, health provision, retail needs, green infrastructure, environmental and ecology concerns. RPC intends to submit a response to MHDC and also the local MP.

The Parish Council intends to devise a flyer, outlining the main points, which will be circulated to all parishioners to help them formulate their own individual responses to add strength/to support our case.

Comments were also expressed regarding the South Worcestershire Traveller and Travelling Show people Policy. The public consultation commenced at 7.30 pm and concluded at 8.42pm.

The Parish Council meeting then commenced at 9.00 pm.

Present: Cllr Jenkins (Chair), Cllr Hemsworth, Cllr Hughes, Cllr Williams and Cllr Wise

In Attendance: Sharon Baxter (Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer)

District Cllr Daniel Walton plus one parishioner.

1. Two Councillor vacancies - To appoint by co-option  
Cllr Christopher Lowe was co-opted onto the council and his declaration of acceptance of office duly signed.
2. Apologies: To receive apologies and approve reason for absence  
Cllr Bryan (work commitments) - accepted.
3. 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 in items on the agenda and their nature - None
4. 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**

Notes from Public Question Time are appended to these minutes

County Councillor Report - Cllr Scott Richardson Brown – No report available.

District Councillor Report - Cllr Daniel Walton – Circulated in advance of this meeting.

5. **Update on SWDPR – Proposed Expansion of Rushwick**

This consultation was to consider if the plan is:  
Positively prepared (a sustainable development?)  
Justified (alternatives, proportionate evidence?)  
Effective (can it be delivered?)  
In accordance with NPPF

Deadline: 13 December. RPC to formulate our response by 01 December and publish to parishioners.

**RESOLVED:** The proposal was amended to state ‘Proposal to engage a strategic railway consultant at a cost from £800 up to £2000 maximum (plus VAT) to help devise a response to the SWDPR consultation by 13 December 2022, in respect of a new railway station proposed for Rushwick.’

**RESOLVED:** The amended proposal was agreed and then voted on to accept.

6. Minutes: Having been previously circulated, the minutes of The Parish Council meeting of 12.10.2022 were signed as a true and correct record.
7. Progress Reports: Matters arising from previous minutes and review of Action Plan  
No matters arising.  
The action plan was reviewed. Cllr Jenkins to engage with the local farmer to offer Parish Council support and assistance in respect of progressing with the issues surrounding the gates and stiles.  
Cllr Williams to follow up with a local farmer the location of where the surplus grit/salt is being stored needed to replenish the grit bins.
8. Correspondence for Information/Action: Circulated by the Clerk
  - South Worcestershire Development Plan Review Publication Consultation - Begins on 1 November 2022 and closes at 23.59 on 13 December 2022.
  - South Worcestershire Traveller and Travelling Show people Policy and Site Allocations Development Plan Document Publication Consultation (Regulation 19) - Begins on 1 November 2022 and closes at 23.59 on 13 December 2022.
9. Parish Lengthsman Scheme: Work this month included: - Charged/checked the VAS sign, cleaned and cleared rubbish from the underpass, cleared verge grips Grange Lane, cut back verges along Bransford Road, Upper Wick and Claphill Lane.
10. Finance
  1. **RESOLVED:** Payment of accounts were authorised as per schedule.
  2. Monthly Bank Reconciliation Statement – For Information Only
  3. **RESOLVED:** To agree pay scales and conditions for 2022-2023 for local government employees, advised by The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) who have been notified by the Local Government Association (LGA) that an agreement on the 2022/23 pay offer had been reached.
  4. To review and discuss budget for 2023/2024 – Under review to be concluded in January 2023
  5. Proposal to agree and request precept for 2023/2024 – To be determined by the budget 2023/24 which is due to be concluded in January 2023.
11. Reports from representatives: To receive an update
  1. Report from Village Hall Committee: Cllr Bryan – Nothing to report
  2. Footpath Officers report: Cllr Williams - No updates to report.
    - a. Progress update on replacing stiles and gates – Cllr Jenkins agreed to progress with the local farmer.
  3. Report of Play Area: Cllr Hemsworth – No update to report.
  4. Social Media Update: Cllr Hughes  
‘No unusual activity. One parishioner asked about the potential closure of Claphill Lane and if Cllr. Richardson Brown could update. I passed this on to Council for a response.  
The Facebook page has matured and become a useful place to spread messages. A message will typically reach 200 people which is good given the size of the village and also since many messages are copied to ‘Rushwick Village News’ which enjoys a wider audience.  
A recent message regarding the SWDPR consultation reached 661 people (approx. 3 x the usual number). I posted on ‘Nextdoor’ which is an email group. The post again concerned the SWDPR and received 10 responses.’
  5. School Representative report: Cllr Hemsworth (Temporary)  
A new Headteacher has been appointed.

6. Speeding Issues & Crime Prevention Update: Cllr Wise
  - a. To progress with Community Speed Watch.  
A call for volunteers is to me made to progress with Community Speed watch.  
The Neighbourhood watch is waiting to be verified and associated signage under discussion.  
Worcestershire's 20 is Plenty campaign – To progress with the help from our County Coucillor.

12. Update on the Parish Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr Jenkins – Nothing to report.

13. Planning: The Planning applications listed below were considered: -

Planning Ref: 20/02000/RM

Proposal: Application for approval of reserved matters relating o layout, scale, external Appearance and landscaping (pursuant to outline planning permission reference 16/01168/OUT) for 310 dwellings along with associated drainage, highway and green infrastructure, including construction of spine road (Phase 2).

Location: Land At (Os 8202 5595 West of Worcester), Martley Road, Lower Broadheath

Description of Additional Information: Amended Plans showing amended layout and house Types

Comments: No Objections

Planning Ref: M/22/01475/RM

Proposal: Application for the approval of reserved matters relating to layout, scale, external appearance, and landscaping pursuant to outline planning reference 16/01168/OUT for 46 dwellings along with associated infrastructure (Part Phase 5)

Location: Land at (Os 8202 5595 West of Worcester), Martley Road, Lower Broadheath

Comments: No Objections

Rushwick Draft Strategic Allocation – A meeting is to be progressed in January 2023 with Barwood Land, following a request from them.

14. To discuss the Queens Green Canopy in Worcestershire  
Councillors were interested in developing this idea subject to identifying a suitable area to plant trees.
15. Councillors' reports and items for future agendas - None

Meeting closed at 9.38 PM

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

## **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

### **District Councillor Report : Daniel Walton**

'It's been a busy month. I wanted to start by just picking up on an award we've won at District Council for the Economic Development team. The award is from the Federation of Small Businesses for support through Covid.

Malvern Hills District Council has recently been awarded regional champion for its work on supporting businesses and town centres during the Covid pandemic.

Some of the things we did in that time were:

- Recruited a Town Centre Recovery Officer
- Launched a Town Centre Support Scheme towards shop front improvements, security measures and digital enhancements
- Provided business support including workshops, 121 support and improved communication
- Safety signage and measures including installation of hand sanitiser stations across five town centres
- New events created and existing events supported
- Town centre activities and trails
- Radio, video and digital marketing campaigns
- Established a footfall data platform
- Consultation and support for development of Town Centre Plans
- Flags and bunting, lamppost banners, refurbished street furniture and market stalls have all been provided to enhance town centres across Malvern Hills

Alongside this as part of my role in Economic Development we have supported the Festival of Innovation in Malvern , which this year took place at the Science Park and was very well attended by Schools and the public.

We also launched our first ever Malvern Story Telling Festival – aimed at schools and families the four day event was a huge success. It's something that I've been keen to set up and run since taking on the role of Portfolio Holder for Economic Development. I see Malvern has a great location for those interested in books and storytelling and now we've established an event this will become a yearly event that will grow into a larger Book and Story Telling event. We already have some more great authors keen to attend in 2023.

[Malvern Festival of Stories: All the details | Malvern Gazette](#)

## **Flooding**

We have seen a lot of rain in the last month and this has hit Lower Broadheath. I have spoken with the residents most affected and if I haven't visited them then I will be over the next week. I have spoken with our own flood support officer who is aware of the situation and once I've visited all sites, I'll be speaking with them again. In the meantime, I've also spoken to the relevant person at WRS and where it's needed, I have a contact at Platform housing so I'm hopeful that once I have everything needed we'll be able to get the support needed prior to any more flooding.

## **Planning**

Since our last meeting we've had two planning committees and for the last one I took an application concerning a farm which had applied for a number of buildings to committee as it had been a complicated application and has caused residents some concern. Tack Farm, in Broadwas, was passed on the provision that conditions are approved by me and David. We will now look to ensure that the conditions set to the building of a lake, house, stables and a barn for dogs are robust.

At our last full council last week, we voted on the SWDP. Of course, this includes the proposed building of 1,000 homes in Rushwick along with a Rail Station – it's now being called a Station rather than just Halt – and other amenities. It was voted through. I did not vote for it and in what I guess was the longest speech of the evening I said that I felt that residents were not being listened to, that the building of these houses alongside the 2,500 in Lower Broadheath would have an extremely detrimental effect on the area and that no houses should be built until, at least, a railway station is in place – something that is still only being talked about and has no firm commitment from those that it's needed from.

Not just for Rushwick – but for all villages around Rushwick I've continued to fight this. Only one other Councillor didn't vote for the proposal and that was a Councillor in Malvern Link. Worcester City and Wychavon have now also voted for the plans.

We now have 6 weeks to submit comments on the proposals for the purpose of the inspector.

<https://www.malvernhills.gov.uk/news-alerts/consultation-starts-on-swdp-review>

Following the start of the consultation I wanted an opportunity for residents in Rushwick to have their say so I got a planned presentation at the village hall moved from the 24<sup>th</sup> November (right at the end of the consultation period) to the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Officers from Malvern and Wychavon set the village hall up to speak to and listen to residents from Rushwick.

At least 250 residents turned up to speak to officers, and I was there for most of the day (from 12-8). The overriding message was that nothing should happen without infrastructure and the promised rail station. Following the day residents are now feeding their thoughts back.

I know this will be the largest subject we discuss this evening and it's important that we get as many resident views as possible to the inspector.

In better planning news we now have our housing numbers back and Malvern Hills categorically has a 5-year housing land supply. The exact figure will be published to all Parish Councils very soon, but it is around 5.06 years of housing stock. This is stark contrast to neighbouring councils such as Wychavon and Worcester who are only around 3.5 years.

It shows that it's been a difficult few years through Covid for house building but that we've done enough to stave off speculative development where other councils – not wanting to get political – haven't quite managed it.

Finally, we are still waiting on the shared prosperity funds from central government. This is now heavily delayed as it was sending the first funds would arrive in October and we've yet to hear anything. As soon as the Government sorts itself out, I'll let you know as we'd like to support something in Rushwick where possible.