

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF
RUSHWICK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2023 AT 7.30 PM
AT RUSHWICK VILLAGE HALL**

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

In Attendance: Sharon Baxter (Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer)
District Cllr Daniel Walton plus 1 parishioner.

1. Apologies: To receive apologies and approve reason for absence
Cllr Haywood (Personal) , Cllr Bryan (Work), Cllr Wise (Personal), Cllr Lowe (Personal)
and Cllr Hughes (Work) - All Accepted.
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 n 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

County Councillor Report - Cllr Scott Richardson Brown has arranged a representative from WCC Highways to attend the March Parish Council meeting to help address various matters.

District Councillor Report - Cllr Daniel Walton – The report was noted.

4. Minutes: Having been previously circulated the minutes of The Parish Council meeting of 11.01.2023 were signed as a true and correct record.
5. Progress Reports: No matters arising from previous minutes. The Action Plan was reviewed.
It was agreed the Annual Parish Meeting is to take place on Wednesday 10 May 2023 with a suggestion for a guest speaker from the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust to attend.
6. Correspondence for Information/Action: Circulated by the Clerk throughout the month.
7. Parish Lengthsman Scheme: Update
Work this month included clearing out gully grates in Upper Wick, cleaning and clearing rubbish at the underpass, cutting back and clearing the footpath along the Bransford Road and Upper Wick, clearing overgrown vegetation around signs at Claphill Lane and attending to the VAS sign.
8. Finance
 1. **RESOLVED:** Payment of accounts as per schedule were authorised.
 2. Monthly Bank Reconciliation Statement – For Information Only
 3. Agreed Budget for 2023/2024 and precept – For Information Only
 4. The Risk Schedule and Model Scheme of Delegation was reviewed and adopted
 5. The Asset Register 2022/2023 was reviewed and adopted.

9. Reports from representatives: The following updates were received:-

1. Report from Village Hall Committee: Cllr Bryan

A meeting had taken place on Wednesday 25 January 2023 at 7pm where Management of the hall, Treasurer's report, Village Hall Supporter's Club Draw and AOB were discussed. The next meeting is to take place on Wednesday 22 March 2023 at 7pm

2. Footpath Officers report: Cllr Williams

Footpaths inspected :

1. Grange Lane - Village Hall - Bransford Lay

Litter pick (one black bag completely filled) and one fallen branch cleared to the side

2. Bransford Layby - Temeside path - Brookfields - Grange Lane.

Minimal amount of bramble cutting. A great deal of last year's Himalayan Balsam has been mechanically removed. The supporting posts of the fence leading down to the footbridge at Brookfield's are loose and are dangerous : action needed.

As this work requires two people to carry out repairs Cllr Williams to seek assistance from the Lengthsman and /or another councillor.

a. Progress update on replacing stiles and gates – Cllr Williams is progressing with WCC and is waiting to hear back from them.

3. Report of Play Area: Cllr Hemsworth

The park continues to be very busy and popular with visitors from within the Parish and further afield. Litter picking & sweeping of the stones for the drainage pits at the pump track continues to be a regular duty although installing the bins has had a positive impact on the amount of litter within the park.

New signage has been put up at the entrance of the park as the old signage was nearly 15 years old & had severely faded at a cost of £22.80.

Oldbury Tigers U14s played a further match on Saturday 21st January with 4 more left to play for the season (11/02/23, 11/03/23, 25/03/22 & TBC).

Top Cut continue to cut the grass biweekly for £80+VAT per cut on either a Thursday or Friday – This was paused during the Christmas period.

The Annual ROSPA inspection due in March & as such there are a few maintenance items that need addressing:

- Zip wire take off platform needs repairing
- Flat swings require replacing in the vacant spaces on the swing frames
- Raise ground level of rubber matting under roundabout by 20mm due to compaction

RESOLVED: To purchase two swings, two benches, carry out maintenance repairs to address safety issues identified by ROSPA, at a cost of £4,755.00 from Reids Playground Maintenance Ltd. These items to be funded by a combination of the remaining S106 & CILS monies from the Park improvements & Pump Track with any surplus coming from the main budget.

Next Steps – To look at purchasing a tower unit and install a junior team football pitch with drainage possibly via S106 funds.

A request was received from the RAF Falcons parachute display team to carry out a display and land on the football pitch within Rushwick Park at the end of March. Permission was granted. subject to all the necessary insurance cover and risk assessments in place from the RAF Falcons parachute display team.

4. Social Media Update: Cllr Hughes – No report available

5. School Representative report: Cllr Hemsworth (Temporary)
Rushwick Primary School - From Claire Daffern – Head of Rushwick School Governors
“Rushwick School is very excited to have completed the conversion process and joined the Diocese of Worcester Multi Academy Trust (DoWMAT). Executive Headteacher, Pal Brom, has been appointed by the DoWMAT and Mr Clement is currently Acting Head of School, with Mrs Stephens supporting him in the role of Acting Assistant Head of School.

The Leadership Team, and all the staff, are committed to providing quality teaching and learning for all pupils, whilst other school priorities are established and actioned.
The preschool is currently operating in the school building so that building works on the pre-school site can begin as soon as possible.”

6. Speeding Issues & Crime Prevention Update: Cllr Wise
a. To progress with Community Speed Watch. Cllr Wise had received further information/requirements for the 20s Plenty campaign. This information was circulated to all. 20MPH speeding to be progressed with WCC Highways next month.

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

11. Planning: *Cllrs were reminded to view MHDC website for full details*
To consider the Planning Applications listed below plus any others received before this meeting: -

Planning Application No: M/22/01838//FUL
Location: Rushwick Pre School Playgroup, Upper Wick Lane, Rushwick, WR2 5SU
Proposal: New Pre-School; The works comprise of the existing (condemned) portacabin and the erection of a purpose-built new building, the accommodation includes an activity room (3–5-year-olds), small group room, staff office, staff WC, children’s toilets, kitchen/store and Cloakroom. There are also proposed works to the external spaces, including a new hard standing play area and a parent waiting room.
Comments: No Objections

Cllr Jenkins to progress concerns with District Councillor Walton regarding planning matters relating to planning ref 22/00776 - Land at Claphill Lane, Rushwick

12. Councillors’ reports and items for future agendas
Cllr Williams had identified some fly tipping in the Parish of car seats and a wheel. This will be referred to the Lengthsman to report for collection.
Cllr Williams also suggested the Parish Council organize a village litter pick in the spring. This was deemed as a good idea to take pride in the appearance of the village, which then led onto discussions regarding Adopt a Street, where parishioners sign up, are given equipment to carry out a litter pick function focusing on specific areas. It was confirmed many residents have already signed up, so perhaps collectively a litter pick could be carried out. Cllr Hemsworth to progress.

Meeting closed at 8.38 PM.

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

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

District Councillor Report: Daniel Walton

It's been a busy start to the year. I know I sent over Vic's round up a couple of weeks ago and that was circulated. Some of the big news of last month was that Malvern was successful in receiving a levelling up fund of almost £20 million for Malvern Theatre.

The aim will be to deliver a world-class cultural facility and transform the visitor economy by attracting 135,000 more attendees and boosting the local economy by £11m annually.

The funding will be used to invest in the community, widening access to creative arts and to expand the popular theatre with proposals to build an extension to create a dedicated creative learning space. A further extension is also proposed to accommodate flexible workshop spaces.

As well as this, an external amphitheatre is proposed, an external lift will be installed to improve access and the main theatre will be upgraded to increase capacity.

As well as this we've continued to work re-opening Malvern Arts College – the two together will give Malvern a real boost in terms of our arts and culture.

As you can imagine, with rising energy costs and the effects of Covid our local swimming pools and fitness centres have been hit hard. We've already proposed to support Malvern Splash and in the last month we're supporting Tenbury Swimming Pool and Sport Martley with funding – essentially this is in cuts to what we receive from them to ensure they can keep the doors open for residents.

At our recent O&S Panel we brought in the head of Active Travel from the County Council to better understand what the County Council were trying to do – or aiming to do – in linking up cycle routes and walking paths. Having recently been rated zero by the Government on its active travel proposals the County Council are now putting in plans to join us existing schemes. It wasn't that impressive as it is now but hopefully the County can pull itself together. It would nice to be able to safely cycle between our large towns such as Malvern and Upton, and of course Malvern and Worcester which still doesn't work due to the incomplete route at the other side of the bridge they built into Powick.

We've seen the proposed plans for Rushwick with lots of cycle paths – but nothing between here and anywhere else.

To help offset this we've also employed an active travel officer within Malvern Hills to work across departments to ensure that we're putting in schemes where possible and picking up some of the slack from County.

Despite our recent resident's survey saying that 9 out of 10 people were happy in Malvern and happy with the work done by the District Council (it was our highest ratings ever as a District Council) getting cycle routes and walking routes right remains a big issue for lots of people and makes up a lot of emails and messages I receive.

We also had Platform housing in to answer many of the questions from disgruntled councillors disappointed in the service being given by Platform. For my part I've taken them up on their offer to deal with mould in a few houses they have residents in across our ward and they have been more active on this matter over the last month.

With Full Council our Business Plan for the next five years was adopted showing the council in a good position despite all economic pressures. The total budget gap over the next five years is 2.05m but that is dealt with through various measures, including the fall in the number of councillors so that there are no cuts to be taken as a Council but that there will need to be an increase in Council Tax, as is usual, – which will still be lowest in the County at less than 3% on a band D home and will be the lowest increase across all elements of Council Tax. As always there is support there for residents who may struggle with the overall council tax rise which is expected to be considerable from County Council and our Police and Crime Commissioner.

This is yet to be voted on and approved but is expected.

There was also a refresh of the Council's five year plan. This is a brief refresh given our closeness to the election. It will be updated at: <https://www.malvern hills.gov.uk/about-your-council/your-local-council/five-year-plan>

Finally, at Full Council, we also adopted our 5 year housing land supply again, meaning that throughout the term of this administration we've retained a 5 year housing land supply,

The minutes from the meeting noted:

The Council received a report that set out the Malvern Hills District Five Year Housing Land Supply (5YHLS) position for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2027. RESOLVED: that i) the publication of the South Worcestershire Councils' 2022 5YHLS Report and Appendices on 19 December 2022, which sets out the 5 year housing land supply calculations, for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2027 against the Standard Method housing requirement, be noted. ii) The Malvern Hills District 2022 5YHLS position is 5.06 years, be noted. iii) The need to maintain a robust 5YHLS position to successfully reject unsustainable development proposals, be acknowledged.

We've also updated our 'Become a Councillor' page to encourage potential new Councillors for the up and coming election.

This can be seen at: [Become a councillor - Malvern Hills District Council](#)

We are going to be posting some videos from current councillors to this page soon and if anyone is interested in standing I'm very happy to talk to them.

In terms of more local news I was glad to see the proposed housing off Bransford Road turned down and we now have the application for reserved matters on Claphill Lane to consider. I've also been working with residents and enforcement in regards to Snowdrop way.

A lot of time has been taken up in regards to road closures at Lower Broadheath.

I have set up meetings, or have ongoing conversations, with all businesses effected by the closures and with all of them I'll be discussing how we might be able to look at some other business grants, not directly linked to the roadworks, to help their business.

It does feel like it's been a busy month.

Daniel.

Standing Orders were reimposed.