

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF
RUSHWICK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 12 JULY 2023 AT 7.30 PM
AT RUSHWICK VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr Jenkins (Chair) , Cllr Hemsworth (arrived 7.45pm) , Cllr Lowe, Cllr Wise, Cllr Williams and Cllr Haywood

In Attendance: Sharon Baxter (Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer)
District Councillor Whatley, District Councillor Rouse

1. Apologies: Cllr Hemsworth had given advance notice that he would be 15 minutes late.
2. To appoint by co-option - Please note there are 3 vacancies available. Cllr Jenkins suggested if no volunteers come forward soon to drive a recruitment campaign.
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

No questions for Public Question Time
County Councillor - No report available
District Councillor Report/s appendix to these minutes

5. Minutes: Having been previously circulated the minutes of The Parish Council meeting of 21.06.2023 were signed as a true and correct record.
6. Progress Reports: Matters arising from previous minutes – None
The Action Plan was reviewed.
Cllr Hemsworth to notify OPT Football Club that the maximum age category to use the football field will be under 14.
Cllr Williams had reported the large red hoop over a stile to the site office at Bloor potentially as a health and safety hazard.
7. Parish Lengthsman Scheme: Update
Parish Lengthsman Scheme: An update was presented as per timesheet which included cleaning and clearing rubbish from the underpass and cutting back verges along Claphill Lane, Upperwick and along the Bransford Road.
8. Finance
 1. Payment of accounts as per schedule were authorised.
 2. Monthly Bank Reconciliation Statement – For Information Only
 3. Budget Monitoring to 30.06.2023 – For Information Only
 4. VAT Recovery 2022/2023 £1612.77 – For Information Only

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

1. Report from Village Hall Committee: Cllr Jenkins – Nothing to report.

2. Footpath Officers report: Cllr Williams has

- Recently trimmed nettles and brambles at Oldbury Woods, Claphill Lane and Summer Hollow.
- The fencing along the Summer Hollow path has deteriorated further and is leaning over onto the footpath. Cllr Williams to report this to WCC as a safety hazard to the nearby footpath.
- A parishioner reported that the kissing gate has been partially blocked at the entrance to the footpath in Upper Wick, where the Cherry Orchard meets Upper Wick Lane, opposite the cricket club. We understood this was to try to stop livestock entering the enclosed area of the gate and getting stuck. The opening area has been considerably reduced. Cllr Williams/Cllr Jenkins to try and resolve the issue with the farmer. The parishioner confirmed the matter has been reported to WCC. A notice placed has been installed at the Powick end to warn users that the path currently has no exit for wheelchair users until the issue is resolved.
- To report on the WCC website that a rusty metal post displaying the 30MPH has fallen over and is creating a safety hazard on the grass strip, opposite the Whitehall, on the junction of Whitehall Close and Bransford road as you head west.

3. Report of Play Area: Cllr Hemsworth

The pump track is still well used & continues to be in good condition.

The new benches & swing seats have been installed by Reid's.

Work is in progress to finalise a S106 funding application for park improvements to include:-

1. New tower multi play unit
2. New wooden obstacle course
3. Football pitch refresh
4. Perimeter path

Approx. £120K in total

4. School Representative report: Position Vacant – Nothing to report

5. Speeding Issues & Crime Prevention Update: Cllr Wise gave a community speed watch update.

So far, he has identified three volunteers from the Village and one volunteer from Worcester Gate and is seeking just two more volunteers to progress with the scheme. Two parish councillors are also required and Cllr Jenkins and Cllr Wise have put themselves forward.

He has also arranged a more frequent pass by of the local road officer to combat the summer increase of anti-social behaviour in and around the village.

10. Update on the Parish Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr Lowe

Placed on hold due to trying to register the Whitehall Public House as an Asset of Community value and how this may impact or have any significance to the Parish Neighbourhood plan.

11. Highway Issues – Progress Update: Cllr Jenkins

Moving away from a railway-based strategy to a road-based strategy it was **RESOLVED:** To allocate up to £2K from general reserves to engage the services of a Traffic Consultant

Due to lack of progress with WCC Highways in response to trying to resolve a number of issues regarding access to and from the village via Claphill Lane onto A4103 during and after the construction of the new roundabout on the A4103 adjacent to the junction, Cllr Jenkins suggested to write directly to Mike Rouse, the county councillor responsible for Highways. He requested comments from councillor in relation to a draft letter composed, prior to him issuing.

- 12. To discuss refurbishment / replacement of Parish noticeboards. (Cllr Williams)
Clerk to seek a quotation for the cost of repair/refurbishment for each of the noticeboards located around the village. Cllr Lowe to obtain prices to replace with new ones. To progress at the next meeting.
- 13. Safer Neighbourhood Team Parish Contract dated 14/07/23 to 15/10/23 – The following three policing priorities were identified for the upcoming quarter: -
 - 1. Observation of the underpass to try to combat anti- social behaviour
 - 2. Rushwick Play Park
 - 3. Speeding from A4103 to the Village Hall
- 14. Planning: To consider any Planning Applications received before this meeting. – There were none.
- 15. Correspondence for Information: Circulated by the Clerk

Temporary Road Closure for carriageway resurfacing starting on 21/08/2023 to 25/08/2023 on the Bransford Road, junction with A4440 – Rushwick roundabout to junction with U54184 - Bransford Road

Clerk referred to a letter received from the solicitors regarding the transfer of the village hall car park to the Parish Council confirming the estimated completion for the registration process is June 2024.

Following a parishioner request, who wanted to ascertain the views of the Parish Council on the position of the Whitehall Public House, a discussion took place which confirmed that the Parish Council were very supportive of trying to register it as an Asset of Community Value. Supporting evidence of groups/organisations who benefitted from the use of the Whitehall Inn within the last 5 years was being gathered.

RESOLVED: For Cllr Jenkins to complete a nomination form to submit to MHDC, nominating the Whitehall Inn as an Asset of Community Value under the Localism Act.

- 16. Councillors’ reports and items for future agendas
Cllr Jenkins reported the request for a dropped kerb from the footpath on the Bransford Road to Orchard Close has now been placed on the works schedule, but there is no definitive date for the works to go ahead.

The meeting closed at 9.03 PM.

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

Standing Order were adjourned.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

District Councillors Peter Whatley & Sarah Rouse

An update was presented on the SWDPr, following a request for a preliminary meeting held about the rail strategy, SWDPr and how there is no functional need for a rail stop in Rushwick.

WCC Highways have confirmed that the network system can cope with the extra traffic the SWDPr will create and building of 1000 will not have any impact.

It is understood, that as a train station is not going to be delivered, this is now not a railway-based strategy but a road-based strategy.

The District Councillors have written to the Leader asking for sustainable transport of £1.9M held in CIL monies and £1M identified in an Infrastructure pot to be ring fenced against a train station pot/ to sustain transport for Rushwick and the West of Worcester.

Standing Order were reimposed.