

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Rushock Parish Council held on Thursday 9th May 2024, 7.00pm, Rushock Village Hall

Present: Cllrs. T. Green, (TG) (Chairman), S Davies, (SD), R Hampshire (RH) and T Jennings (TJ).

Also Present were: The clerk Mrs. B J Drew (BD), County/District Councillor M J Hart (MJH), PCSO Nicky Thomas (NT), PCSO Alice Owen-Jones (AOJ) and two Parishioners (JN/ML).

- 1. Welcome from Parish Council Chairman Cllr. Terry Green.** Chairman welcomed all to the Annual Parish Meeting.
- 2. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 11th May 2023.** These were duly approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.
- 3. Chairman's Report.** The Chairman reported as follows: -

I would like to thank all councillors for their help and support over the last year which has been invaluable. We have had a busy year with lots of involvement in village activities made possible by councillors' enthusiasm and willingness to take on a range of roles. Bev's excellent guidance, support and expertise have helped us immeasurably over the year. Our District and County Councillors, Marcus Hart, Robin Drew and Ian Hardiman have been very supportive and accessible, regularly attending our council meetings as well as village events.

Meetings

The Council has held four ordinary Council Meetings this year. We have also been well represented at CALC meetings, WFDC Parish Forums and WCC meetings.

Planning

We have had 8 planning applications this year, 7 of which were recommended for approval. One from last year, Callimore Farm, was strongly recommended for refusal by the Parish Council but was approved by WFDC. We did, however, manage to get conditions attached to the approval which will reduce the visual impact of the site. Councillors also attended a WFDC planning training session.

Finance

Due to increased costs a small increase was made to the precept. We received £500 from our County Councillor Marcus Hart's divisional funding towards our Children's Bird Box project as well as Lengthsman's Scheme funding and a grant from the Parish Path's Partnership. No councillors have claimed personal expenses.

Highways

Bill Waldron, our Lengthsman, who has provided an excellent service for many years, has now hung up his shovel and Russell Peach has taken over. Park Lane verges have been destroyed by the heavy traffic during the A448 closure and damage has also affected Well Lane. We have been promised by WCC that Park Lane will be restored promptly. In May, residents were enraged by the early destruction of the wildflowers in the verges and took direct action. Cutting was delayed until mid-June and changes in the regime were requested. Despite numerous visits by the Highways Engineer there has been no progress so far in agreeing a more biodiversity friendly verge cutting regime.

Footpaths

These remain in good condition generally and are well used. Crops were sprayed off to retain access and some repairs and vegetation clearance has been carried out, including some work under the Parish Path's Scheme. The Parish Paths Scheme has now been withdrawn and WCC are taking over the clearance of some paths. The Lengthsman will also be available to help.

Biodiversity project

Further bulb planting has been carried out this year with pleasing results and a Rowan Tree was planted on the triangle. Delayed cutting back of biodiversity areas, as approved by residents in the

Parish Poll, has improved the range of wildflowers present which is appreciated by the majority of residents.

Community

The Parish Council has worked with the Village Hall Committee on village activities this year including sponsoring and helping to arrange the Coronation Tea Party. We also covered the cost of the Chocolate Santas for the Crib Service. The Jubilee bench has been installed in the Community Orchard. The Bird Box making for younger parishioners project went well and was enjoyed by all participants.

4. Other Reports.

None Received.

5. Resident's Open Forum.

JN expressed concern over Rushock triangle not being cut causing a hazard risk for traffic.

Meeting Closed at 7.07pm