

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF  
RUSHWICK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 7.30 PM  
AT RUSHWICK VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr Jenkins (Chair) , Cllr Hemsworth (arrived 7.37pm) , Cllr Williams and Cllr Haywood

In Attendance: Sharon Baxter (Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer) & Tim Hughes (Parish Lengthsman)  
County Councillor Scott Richardson-Brown and District Councillor Whatley

1. Apologies: Cllr Hemsworth had given advance notice that he would be 10 minutes late.  
Cllr Lowe (Personal) and Cllr Wise (Work commitments) - Accepted  
District Councillor Rouse (Work) - Received
2. To appoint by co-option - Please note there are 3 vacancies available.  
A household drop is to be made to call for volunteers.
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 – Appendix to these minutes.  
District Councillor Report - Appendix to these minutes

5. Minutes: Having been previously circulated the minutes of The Parish Council meeting of 12.07.2023 were signed as a true and correct record.
6. Progress Reports: No matters arising from previous minutes. The Action Plan was reviewed.
7. Parish Lengthsman Scheme: An update was presented as per timesheet which included cleaning and clearing litter from the underpass and cutting back verges along Claphill Lane, Upperwick and generally around the Parish. In addition, he had also attended to a tree blocking the footpath in Claphill Lane.
8. Finance
  1. Payment of accounts as per schedule were authorised.
  2. Monthly Bank Reconciliation Statement – For Information Only
  3. Conclusion of Audit year ended 31 March 2023 – For Information Only  
**RESOLVED:** To grant delegated powers to the Clerk in conjunction with the Chairman to progress matters brought to our attention by PKF Littlejohn LLP, concerning Email Management.
9. Reports from representatives: To receive an update
  1. Report from Village Hall Committee: Cllr Jenkins  
Cllr Jenkins has been liaising with Kay Poole to get up to speed on matters concerning ownership, its constitution and reporting before the next meeting on 28 September 2023.

2. Footpath Officers report: Cllr Williams

‘Since mid-July I have: -

- Reported the fallen 30MPH speed sign at Whitehall Close to County Highways.(like many others).
- Responded to a post on social media about some sheep in the field near Aymestrey and visited the farm in Otherton Lane to inform them.
- Trimmed back the vegetation on the corner of Grange Lane next to my property.
- Visited Roots and spoken to the farmer about the gates to his orchard. He told me the situation was regrettable but had to remain as long as there were cattle in that field. The reason for the arrangement was that the gates had not been correctly installed, because ( I think he said) iron posts were found in the ground at the main gate entrance, so the new posts had to be aligned in a different way. He added, in mitigation, that he had not been made aware of any disabled person being inconvenienced.
- I responded to a post on Facebook from a Powick resident about a difficulty with a footpath and commented that any problem in Rushwick could be addressed to me via Rushwick Village News or Rushwick Nextdoor – in addition/ instead of reporting it to WCC.
- I have cut back heavy growth in the Summer Hollow path .
- I noticed, in passing, that the contractors at the Branksome new build had left two large tubs of building materials projecting half a metre into the roadway, and returned with a traffic cone to alert drivers, later informing them that I had done this.
- ( This in addition to them obstructing the Summer Hollow path with a leaning fence, which has not been attended to. I have cut back the path from Bransford layby to the footbridge.’

3. Report of Play Area: Cllr Hemsworth

- Repairs had been carried out to the zip wire.
- The Clerk to invoice OPT U13s for 5 x home games.

**RESOLVED:** To adopt the Rushwick Parish Council Masterplan 2023 which details the strategic projects that Rushwick Parish Council wish to deliver over the next 5 years. These include: -

1. Improvements to Rushwick Park – This included the justification for selected equipment via a Focus group of children between the ages of 5 & 11 who live in Rushwick and attend Rushwick Primary School
2. Improvements to the Village Hall
3. New Rushwick Pre School
4. Second cricket pitch for Rushwick Cricket Club

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

5. Speeding Issues & Crime Prevention Update: Cllr Wise

Seven volunteers have been found for the community speed watch and all details have been passed on for vetting.

10. Update on the Parish Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr Lowe

Some corrections are due to be made to progress forward.

11. WCC Highway Issues - Progress Update: Cllr Jenkins – No definitive answers to the queries raised, but continuing in dialogue with WCC.

12. Update on refurbishment / replacement of Parish noticeboards.

**RESOLVED:** To accept the quotation from Mr. T Hughes to refurbish the noticeboard located by the milestone at a cost of £649.00

13. Planning: The following Planning Applications were considered: -.

Application Number: M/23/01186/OUT

Location: Land at (Os 8163 5361), Bransford Road, Rushwick

Proposal: Outline application for 8 dwellings together with vehicular/pedestrian access: Green Infrastructure including landscaping, play area and sustainable drainage; and other related infrastructure.

Consultation Ends 28 September 2023.

Comments: Clerk to await any further comments from councillors regarding the grade II listed building, Willow House, which may need to be submitted via MHDC online portal.

**Notification of Planning Appeal**

Planning Inspectorate Ref: APP/J1860/W/23/3319152

Appellant Name: Custom Land Limited

Proposal: The erection of 8 dwellings together with vehicular/pedestrian access from Coronation Avenue: Green Infrastructure including landscaping, play area and sustainable drainage; and other related infrastructure.

Site at Land at (Os 8163 5361), Bransford Road, Rushwick

All representations must be received by 26 September 2023

Councillors felt there was nothing new to submit. Cllr Jenkins requested a slot to speak at the Appeal, if possible. Clerk to make further enquiries.

**New Street Name Request**

Site Address: Land at (OS 8205 5394) off Claphill Lane, Rushwick

Development Details: 120 New Properties

Request for 7 new street names

The Developer has suggested following the connection with plants found in ponds and flowers.

Councillors favored the flower theme suggesting the following: -

Poppy, Daisy, Cornflower, Buttercup, Jamine, Violet and Hydrangea, confirming that should these/any of these names, not be acceptable, the Parish Council are open to the developer’s suggestions, fitting in with a flower theme. Street suffixes to be decided by the developer as they feel appropriate.

14. The Whitehall Inn – Update on an Asset of Community Value.

An application form has been submitted to MHDC, together with the Land Registry Title, to nominate the Whitehall Inn as an Asset of Community Value under the Localism Act. This takes around 8 weeks to determine.

15. Correspondence for Information: Circulated by the Clerk

1. West Mercia Police Community Charter Parish Contract dated 01/10/2023 to 01/01/2024

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 – combat any anti-social behaviour
- 3. Speeding along A4103 to the Village Hall

Parishioner Complaint – RPC Perceptions – dated 11.9.2023

Councillors commented that there were some valid points made in this letter, highlighting they will try to engage more with the community on a variety of topics and also attempt to fill the three remaining councillor vacancies. Cllr Hemsworth now has authority to update the Facebook page to aid communication. Cllr Jenkins agreed to write directly to the parishioner in response to this complaint.

16. Councillors’ reports and items for future agendas – None

The meeting closed at 9.03 PM.

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

Standing Order were adjourned.

## **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

### **County Councillor Scott Richardson – Brown**

- Reported he is pursuing a barrier on the A44 Bromyard Road reported by a disabled resident.
- It has been identified due to the increased volume of traffic that a crossing is needed on the B4885 . Two types of crossing had been identified:-
  - a. Zebra crossing costing in the region of 80-100K
  - b. Toucan Crossing costing approx. £200K.Cllr Richardson -Brown asked the Parish council for their preference. Preference was to try and progress with a zebra crossing.
- Examined the embankment at no.1 Snowdrop Drive and will write to the resident.
- No update report on Claphill Lane - Highway issues - progressing.
- Missing bus stop – Bransford Road – identified as very costly to replace.
- The reported fallen 30MPH speed sign at Whitehall Close to County Highways has been repaired.

### **District Councillor Peter Whatley**

- The summer period has been quiet.
- A revised timetable for SWDPr, based on submission of the plan and comments (1500+) is to be made public.
- A meeting is to take place on 20/09/2023 based on the rail-based strategy. Followed by a meeting with MP Harriet Baldwin. (The administration is keen to push ahead with a rail strategy despite having no trains in the plan.)

Parish Councillors confirmed they wished to continue to lobby with the local residents about these issues and Cllr Jenkins will devise a letter for circulation, to place on the website and Facebook, to encourage MP Harriet Baldwin and Council Leaders to act.
- A solar wind farm previously cited at Wick Episcopi is due to be redirected to Malvern due to connection difficulties.

Standing Order were reimposed.