

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF
RUSHWICK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 10 JANUARY 2024 AT 7.30 PM
AT RUSHWICK VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr Jenkins (Chair) ,Cllr Hemsworth (arrived 7.47pm), Cllr Williams, Cllr Lowe and Cllr Haywood

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

County Cllr Scot Richardson Brown (7.45 pm - 8.07 pm), District Councillors Peter Whatley plus 4 members of the public

1. Councillor Vacancies - Three vacancies are available for co-option. One application has been received but unfortunately, the applicant was unavailable to attend this evening, but will attend in February to be co-opted.
2. Apologies: Cllr Wise (Work Commitments) - Accepted
Cllr Hemsworth had given advance notice that he would be joining this meeting later this evening.
District Councillor Sarah Rouse (Personal) - Received
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

Public Question Time – Appendix to these minutes

County Councillor – The report was noted.

District Councillors Report – The report was noted.

5. Minutes: Having been previously circulated the minutes of The Parish Council meeting of 08.11.2023 were signed as a true and correct record. (with one correction identified and subsequently removed under District Councillor Reports).
6. Progress Reports: No matters arising from previous minutes. The Action Plan was reviewed and updated.
7. Parish Lengthsman Scheme: An update was presented as per timesheet which included attending to the VAS sign at various locations, tidying and clearing litter from the underpass. cutting back verges and footpaths in Crown East and Upper Wick.
8. Finance
 1. **RESOLVED:** Payment of accounts as per schedule were authorised for payment.
 2. Monthly Bank Reconciliation Statement - For Information Only
 3. Quarterly Budget Monitoring - Quarter 3 - This was reviewed.
 4. **RESOLVED:** The budget of £38458.00 for the financial year 2024 -2025 was unanimously agreed.
 5. **RESOLVED:** Based on the budget of £38458.00, a precept of £35038.00 is to be requested from MHDC for financial year 2024/2025.

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

1. Report from Village Hall Committee: Cllr Jenkins to meet with Kay Poole to get up to speed on various matters.
2. Footpath Officers report: Cllr Williams
 - ‘A quieter month! I have
 - 1. Inspected the path from Brickfields to the pedestrian level crossing and cut back thorns near the kissing gate.
 - 2. Ditto the path from there to Christine Avenue - no issues.
 - 3. Looked into a complaint re. the field opposite the Bransford Road / A4103 junction : that it has been totally ploughed over including the footpath. Cllr Williams to refer to WCC Countryside Access Services. Cllr Jenkins to speak to the local farmer to establish who the owner is.
 - 4. Checked the condition of the Oldbury Woods path. Still impossibly muddy.’
3. Report of Play Area: Cllr Hemsworth

Thanks were expressed to Peter Whatley for speaking to Mark Hammond for identifying S106 grant funding of £123,661 to improve the play area. (Including replacing the tower unit, improving the football field and establishing a circular trail)

An advert is to be placed on Contracts Finder shortly, inviting quotations.

Planning permission needs to be sought for the height of the tower unit. Quotes also need to be obtained for the pitch refurbishment/path.

Cllr Hemsworth to supply dates to the Clerk to raise invoices for use of the football pitch.
4. School Representative report: Position Vacant - Nothing to report.
5. Speeding Issues & Crime Prevention Update: Cllr Wise
 - Vetting process - The police have authorised the clearance checks for the volunteers.

10. Update on the Parish Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr Lowe

Around 30 people had attended the public consultation held on Wednesday 13 December 2023 at Rushwick Village Hall where the following was discussed: -

1. The Parish Neighbourhood Plan - There were no objections to the Parish Neighbourhood Plan. An additional 5 emails were received with comments.
- The documents will be proof read (kindly offered by a volunteer). Cllr Lowe to provide an electronic copy for this purpose. This document will then be submitted to the local authority following the guidance.
- Cllr Lowe to progress

11. WCC Highway Issues - Progress Update: Cllr Jenkins

Still awaiting a formal response from WCC Highways to questions regarding the A44/Claphill Lane junction and information requested on Traffic Assessments.

We are aware that the dropped kerb in Orchard Close has been installed and express our thanks to WCC Highways for organising this work.

We have been informed that the CMP was approved for the Lioncourt development some time ago. The plan indicates that construction traffic will only access the site from the A44. However, we are disappointed that it did not specify the installation of 'no construction traffic' signage at the A4103 and A4440 access points into the village - in particular the latter to avoid construction traffic directly passing the village primary school. County Cllr Scott Richardson Brown to follow up.

12. Planning: To consider any Planning Applications received below or before this meeting.

SWDPR 53 Rushwick Expanded Settlement

A response had been received on 10 January 2024 to questions raised at the Malvern Hills District Council meeting on 28 November 2023 and the email sent in reply of 13 December 2023 clarifying the questions Clerk to double check if the Parish Council are registered to speak at the public inquiry.

13. Correspondence for Information: Circulated by the Clerk

Environment Act 2021 - Biodiversity requirements – Following discussions, the Clerk to send the draft policy to the Chairman (in word format) for modification who will then circulate to councillors for comment. This will feature as a proposal on the February agenda for adoption.

14. Safer Neighbourhood Team Parish Contract - The following three policing priorities for the upcoming quarter 1 January - 1 April 2024 were identified: -.

1. Anti- Social behaviour at the underpass and playpark
2. Reckless driving A440 at the roundabout
3. Speeding from A4103 to Village Hall Bransford Road

15. Councillors' reports and items for future agendas

Clerk to chase the contractor to establish a date when the refurbishment of the noticeboard, near the milestone, will take place.

A parishioner highlighted car parking problems in Upper Wick Lane resulting in the grass verges getting churned up. He also identified unauthorised parking, which is taking place in Upper Wick Lane, at the commencement to the footpath together with noise from speeding vehicles along the A4440.

The parishioner is to email these issues to the Chairman who will try to address under Highway Issues he is currently pursuing.

The meeting closed at 9.00 PM.

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

Standing Order were adjourned.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A parishioner addressed concerns over access to the Lioncourt Development highlighting construction traffic was using Claphill Lane and not the A44. Construction vehicles were parking and obstructing residents' driveways and creating issues with turning in Claphill Lane.

The Chairman confirmed that there is an approved Construction Management Plan in place, submitted by Lioncourt which states that all construction traffic will access the site from the A44. He suggested residents write to the Enforcement Officer at MHDC, with supporting photographic evidence/notes when this occurs.

District Councillor Peter Whatley

The next meeting is due to take place on 30 January 2024.

Paish and Town Councils will not be capped next year.

WCC - capped 4.99%

MHDC - capped 2.99% or £5.00.

There are three streams of finance:-

- a. Grants - Rural Services
- b. New Homes Bonus
- c. Business rates and council tax

The new planning framework - ability to refuse planning applications not in keeping with the local area. All conditioned on the overriding plan laid down by Westminster, The Strategic Housing Allocation. Nothing has relieved us from building more houses by 2041 across South Worcestershire.

Correspondence on Facebook with MP who confirmed no developments should take place until the station is in place.

New divisional boundaries – Need to be aware of draft proposals which would result in a significant change in representation. Our County Councillor to explain in more detail.

County Councillor Scott Richardson Brown

- Explained the draft proposals recommendations for new boundaries and what this could mean for Rushwick regarding being grouped and representation.
- Now paid to have the barrier removed from the A44.
- WCC are going through the draft budget proposals for 2024 which has a large deficit of tens of millions of pounds, due to meeting statutory requirements including adult social care, children with special needs and home to school transportation.

Standing Order were reimposed.