

RUSHWICK'S ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10 MAY 2023 AT 7.30PM IN RUSHWICK VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Mr. R Jenkins (Chairman)

IN ATTENDANCE: 7 parishioners were present at this meeting.

1. Welcome: Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all parishioners.
2. Apologies for Absence: None received.
3. The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 25 May 2022 were approved as a true and correct record. No matters arising from these approved minutes.

4. Annual Report from the Parish Council

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance. He highlighted the achievements from all councillor representatives over the past year including the main issues with the SWDPR, including the lack of justification in the consultation process, loss of the Appeal in Claphill Lane resulting in the highway issues currently trying to be resolved with WCC Highways

The Neighbourhood Plan is being reinstated, delayed as awaiting the results of the SWDPR in case of any knock-on effect.

The play area continues to be well used and maintenance is regularly carried out. Seeking to develop the play area subject to a new S106 funding application being granted by MHDC. Thanks were expressed to Cllr Hemsworth for this time and efforts.

Cllr Williams was thanked for his commitment to the work carried out as footpath officer. He delivered the following footpath review: -

' This year has seen some notable changes in our footpaths. We all notice housing projects taking place beside our roads. Some of you here tonight may now live in or near Colonel Drive or Fairfax Way, for instance. Welcome to Rushwick.

The village comprises some 506 hectares, and 26 of these have, or soon will be subject to development - along Bromyard Road, next to the Village Hall, and behind The Whitehall pub. That is roughly 2% of our greenfield spaces. Within these areas more than a kilometre of footpaths cross or run alongside fields, in places creating views of residences rather than landscape. This is certainly the case with the Bloor Homes development off the A4440, where the Public Right of Way is now neatly top-surfaced by sand/grit with timber edging.

We must take care of the remainder of our natural environment and maximise its identity as a gateway to the countryside for Worcester's West Side. Walking and disability access has been greatly improved by new gates and bridges between

Claphill Lane and Broadmore Green, and very recently across the cherry orchard next to Upper Wick Lane (these facilitated by Worcestershire Countryside Access Service). The bridge and handrail over the brook below Brookfields Farmhouse in Grange Lane have also been repaired in the last month or so.

All other paths in Rushwick are routinely checked from time to time for encroaching nettles, brambles and fallen branches, including the path along the River Teme from Bransford Bridge to the pedestrian level crossing, and the path through Oldbury Woods, at the time of writing looking lovely with a carpet of bluebells.'

5. Police Report

Unfortunately, no one was available to attend this meeting. However, PC Jon Hand gave the following crime statistics and other information.

'Some good news, we now have three members of the team, PC Stanley who was standing in for myself during my year off is remaining in post. We have argued the need for a second officer and a CSO on the area for some time, not only has the population in Kempsey grown exponentially in recent years but new housing planned in Rushwick and Lower Broadheath will add greatly to the population. The additional officer will clearly provide a benefit to the surrounding parishes too.

Please find the number of recorded crime in Rushwick for the last year.

April '22 - 2
May '22 - 0
June '22 - 2
July '22 - 1
August '22 - 1
September '22 - 0
October '22 - 2
November '22 - 3
December '22 - 3
January '23 - 1
February '23 - 3
March '23 - 1
April '23 - 0

6. County Councillor Report – No report available.

7. District Councillor Report – Newly elected Councillors Peter Whatley and Sarah Rouse were welcomed. They confirmed they would aim to do their best in serving Rushwick and the Ward as a whole.
Cllr Whatley talked about making the 100 homes plan a local problem, highlighting the issues were not just confined to Rushwick, but extended wider and a better approach would be to work collectively with neighbouring Parishes to try to tackle and resolve them. Cllr Whatley confirmed he was happy to help to try to facilitate this. The Chair confirmed he welcomed this approach and was happy for him to do so.

8. Statement of Unaudited Accounts 2022/23
The Clerk confirmed the Annual Accounts for 2022/2023 were currently being inspected by the Internal Auditor. The next stage is to prepare them ready for the External Audit. As of 31.03.2023 there is a balance of £63005.17 including earmarked reserves of £16461.00. No further questions.

The Chairman thanked parishioners for their time attending this meeting.

He then closed the meeting at 8.30 PM.

Sharon Baxter – Parish Clerk
Tel: 07815468928

Signed Date