

## Minutes of the Meeting of Rushock Parish Council

held on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2025 at 7.00pm, Rushock Village Hall

### Present:

Cllr. T. Green (TG) (Chairman)  
Cllr. D. Cutler (DC)  
Cllr. S. Davies (SD)  
Cllr. R. Hampshire (RH)  
Cllr. D. Pugh (DP)  
Cllr. T. Jennings (TJ)

### Also Present were:

The clerk Mrs. B J Drew (BD), Cllr R M Drew (RD) (District Councillor)

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr M J Hart (County / District Councillor) Cllr I Hardiman (District Councillor). West Mercia Police.
2. **Declarations of Councillors Interests:**  
None declared.
3. **Public Question Time:** No Public Present.
4. **Minutes:**  
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th September were duly approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.
5. **External Meeting Reports:**  
Nothing to report
6. **County Councillor's Report:** *Report previously circulated*

### Rushock Issues

#### Ongoing Issues

I have taken off all of the issues on my September report as they have been dealt with.

#### New Issues

1. I am obviously aware of road works around the parish recently, in particular along Clattercut Lane and via your clerk I was asked for all obsolete highways signs to be removed.

### Wyre Forest Issues

Bewdley Bridge should by the time of your meeting have opened to two-way traffic again on 6<sup>th</sup> November following its closure for about 6 weeks for Severn Trent works.

### Strategic Issues County Wide

In respect of local government reorganisation WCC and the six districts worked together to put in their initial proposals by 21<sup>st</sup> March and final proposals by 28<sup>th</sup> November. It will be at least next Summer before the Government make a decision on the submission.

There was not total agreement across the seven authorities as some are supporting a unitary in the north and a unitary in the south and some support a unitary for the whole of Worcestershire.

Full Council met on 6<sup>th</sup> November and the Reform administration have confirmed they support a single unitary authority for Worcestershire. By a clear majority vote, the proposal for the business case was supported to go off to the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board who are meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> November for it to make final recommendations to the Cabinet who will be the ultimate decision makers at their meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> November.

There is now some clarity on the new administration's capital programme as to what commitments they are going to continue with and which ones they will scrap. They look like ceasing funding for Redditch train station. Importantly they are scrapping £5 million of devolved highways funding in 26-27 and 27-28. This is allocated to local county councillors to get pavements resurfaced in their area. This will have a direct effect on local residents. I and my group opposed these proposals and their proposed capital programme amendments have been defeated for now.

Regarding county hall, they have now deemed this surplus and will market the building for sale. They plan to demolish it within 12 months. They have ruled out building a new secondary school on the site or indeed one at all now and have scrapped the proposals. They will bus school pupils from Worcester to Malvern!

Car parks have been rented out for use by the neighbouring hospital.

The Reform administration are also consulting on a 10% council tax rise for 26-27.

It was a very long meeting lasting from 10am – 6:30pm. I am not in any way complaining just indicating that there were lots of important things to discuss.

There was a by-election held on 30<sup>th</sup> October for the seat of Bromsgrove South as a result of the resignation of a Reform Councillor elected at May's election. She never attended a single meeting. The Liberal Democrats won the seat and the result was as follows:-

Lib Dem	1416
Reform	911
Con	309
Lab	92

The change since May for those curious was as follows:-

Reform	967
Lib Dem	878
Con	474
Lab	208
Green	154
Ind	94

Reform have gone down from 27/57 to 26/57. Obviously the Lib Dems go up by 1.

## 7. **District Councillor's Report: Report previously circulated**

### **Local Issues**

We have been dealing with the usual routine casework, reporting litter and fly tipping on the main A roads and along the country lanes and continue to monitor all enforcement issues.

Following the last meeting of RPC when a resident raised the issue of missing name plates on several Lanes, Cllr. Hardiman and I conducted a survey and found several were missing. WFDC are liaising with WCC on locations, then an order will be placed which will take 4-6 weeks. The lane with no name has now been confirmed to be "New Farm Lane"

23/0107 Callimore Farm. Our officers have been working on this and gathering information with a couple of visits undertaken.

The planting scheme was agreed to be carried out within the first planting season following substantial completion of the site. The landscaping couldn't be carried out before now as the works undertaken to install the new roadway, fencing and buildings would have destroyed any planting. Having spoken with Mr Hewitt he has confirmed that it is his intention to carry out the landscaping during this planting season over the next few weeks.

He is now aware that enforcement is on his case about this.

Note: Sam has left the Enforcement team to become a planning officer, his replacement will be announced shortly.

WFDC are now working with Wychavon DC to unpick if there are any breaches of planning consents and of course balance a need for security on these rural Trading Estate sites. A bat survey will be conducted in the near future which may give further evidence of the need to reduce light pollution.

Enforcement is continuing to be sought following recent conversations with the landowner on Clattercut Lane, ref horses and van bodies on his land.

### **Wyre Forest Issues**

The contractor Speller Metcalfe handed over the Piano Building back to WFDC last week and the building is being actively marketed for office space on the first and second floors and food and beverage on the ground floor.

WFDC have let the contract for the next phase of the Connectivity Project and work has commenced on the construction of the urban park. The contractors are Shropshire based building and civil engineering contractors McPhillips (Wellington) Limited and as of 21<sup>st</sup> August they were mobilising. The main body of the work should be done by the end of the year; the project was due to finish this July but will be December now due to unforeseen groundworks.

Since the official opening of The Old Court on 30<sup>th</sup> January we have held an open day to the public and we now have several tenants with leases on office space, including a company called Beta Den and the Kidderminster BID team. On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October we held a 'State of the Area' debate with businesses, charities, key stakeholders and the MP.

Work on the £2.4m HLF project at Brinton Park has now commenced in earnest and the artificial badger's sett has been constructed.

The Old Pals shelter has been demolished and a planning application for its replacement was approved at the September planning committee meeting.

Work has commenced to dig out where the duck pond will be. Work is due to complete next year.

There will be a new café and toilet facilities and a changes places toilet.

WFDC commissioned a feasibility study for Worcester Street, Market Street, the former Crown House site and Lionfields (former Glades site) and cabinet has in principle agreed for to be residential development on this site and at its September cabinet meeting it further considered this subject with a view to circa 150 residential units here and agreed to go out to procure a joint venture partner and hope to have appointed one by June 2026.

WFDC's cabinet at its September meeting agreed a 12 call for sites commencing on 1<sup>st</sup> October, kick starting the next iteration of a local plan. We currently have a 9-year land supply but thanks to the Government we now have an increased housing target from 276 dwellings per annum to 584, a 112% increase. Our fear is we will be forced to remove further green belt land for development, something put simply we do not wish to do. This will be a long process, and we anticipate it will take 12 months to consider what is likely to be hundreds of applications, ranging from an individual householder's garden to large numbers of fields.

By way of a brief devolution and unitary update WCC and the six districts worked together to put in their initial proposals by 21<sup>st</sup> March and final proposals by 28<sup>th</sup> November.

There was not total agreement across the seven authorities as some are supporting a unitary in the north and a unitary in the south and some support a unitary for the whole of Worcestershire. We are now the only district that supports a one unitary approach. We would rather not have this at all and support WFDC and WCC continuing as is but we are, at present, having to do this due to the Government's policy. If we have to do it we believe the financial savings for one unitary authority as opposed to two are compelling.

The Leader of WCC has appointed a Cabinet Member for 'One Worcestershire' and the Reform administration have now made it clear they support one unitary authority not two. WFDC will have a special meeting of full council on 12<sup>th</sup> November to agree its submission to government.

We then await the Government's decision which we suspect won't be until the summer next year.

We will be offering free car parking in all WFDC car parks from 1<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> December from 3pm-6pm. A ticket is required to be displayed from the machine.

Cllr Drew will provide TG with the list of lanes that will be having new nameplates to check spelling.

Field Clattercut Lane – TG is liaising with Sam in Enforcement who is getting the enforcement notice through the legal department.

#### **8. Police Report:**

Report had been circulated. Nothing of note to report.  
Priorities remain as Burglaries / Wildlife Crime / Speeding.

#### **9. Finance:**

- a) The financial spreadsheet was duly circulated, and it was in accordance with the bank statements. The bank balance as at 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025 was £11,178.66 with one unpresented cheque of £172.80, reconciled bank statement £11,005.86.
- b) Appointment of Internal Auditor – The Internal Auditor Engagement Letter had been circulated to all Councillors. It was unanimously agreed to engage Ruth Mullett as Internal Auditor for 25/26. Clerk to return signed letter.
- c) Online Banking – Chairman and Clerk to pursue.
- d) New Website – The Clerk had circulated Parish Council website quotation from James Lungley (Parish Council Websites). The total cost is £569 plus VAT. The Clerk advised that County Councillor M Hart will give the Parish Council funding of £500 towards the website. It was unanimously agreed to proceed with the quotation.

**10. Update on memorial post:**

SD reported that the post is almost finished. It will need installing but RD and DP have volunteered to do this.

TJ advised of a problem with subsidence at the village hall, there is a big crack and problems with the door, he advised to bear this in mind when installing the post.

**11. To discuss Biodiversity Project / Nature Walk:**

TG advised that a new crab apple tree is needed and possibly more bulbs. SD felt that the Parish Council should hold fire on bulbs at the moment and see what comes up in the Spring.

TG will source the crab apple tree from Walcote Nurseries.

The suggested date for the Nature walk is 26<sup>th</sup> April 2026 but this will be discussed at the next meeting.

**12. Planning:**

The Planning spreadsheet had been circulated. TG advised there is nothing to report.

**13. Highways and Verges:**

TG reported that work is imminent on Lunnon Lane and Clattercut Lane so the roads will be closed. The Lengthsman has done the drains in Park Lane. The drain by the Rushock Wood Village sign has still not been cleared by WCC, Cllr Drew will report.

**14. Footpaths:**

TG advised that the three items reported have not been actioned. BD suggested that we could ask the Lengthsman if he would be prepared to do the work but it would need prior approval from Public Rights of Way.

**15. Rushock Village Hall:**

TG reported that the AGM went very well and all of the committee are very positive. They are proceeding with electric heaters, looking at insulation and double glazing on the windows. Underfloor heating is too expensive. They are applying for grants. TG advised that Katy Jacks has joined the committee.

SD said that historically there used to be a Christmas Meal provided for the elderly residents in the Parish but this stopped during covid and was replaced by Christmas bags. With the cost of living this is now proving very costly to do and SD enquired whether the Parish Council could contribute. BD to check with the Internal Auditor whether the Parish Council have the legal power to do this. TG mentioned that not all eligible Rushock residents received bags last year and offered to liaise with Charlie Morris to address this problem.

DC advised that Councillor Hart has donated £250 for the Chocolate Santa's and Camel Heads for the Crib Service. BD to purchase 35 Santa's.

**16. Agenda items for future meetings:**

Budget / Precept / Nature Walk / Update on website

**17. To note the date of the next meetings.**

15<sup>th</sup> January 2026

7<sup>th</sup> May 2026

10<sup>th</sup> September 2026

3<sup>rd</sup> December 2026

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.48pm

Signed..... (Chairman)

Dated.....