

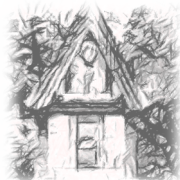


Rous Lench Parish Council

DRAFT Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 30th September 2024

at 6pm at Rous Lench Village Hall.

Present	Cllrs D Browne (Chair), G Hughes, S Davis, S Harrison. In attendance: Kerry Williamson (Clerk) Public: 4 Meeting opened at 7pm
64/24	Chairman's Welcome: Cllr Browne opened the meeting and welcomed the Councillors and public.
65/24	Apologies for Absence: Cllr L Newton, Cllr K Hicken and Cllr Ben Hurdman (District) sent apologies.
66/24	Declarations of Interest: None
67/24	Dispensations: No requests received.
68/24	To receive reports from District, County Council, Police and Public Question Time (PQT): Wychavon Dist. Council (WDC): Cllr Ben Hurdman provided the following report to share at the meeting: <i>Residents have the chance to win £100 and influence Wychavon's work by having their say on local services and upcoming changes to waste and recycling collections. The survey is open until 13th October and asks people to give their views on everything from how satisfied they are with the council to how safe they feel in their local area. As a thank you for taking the survey each person who completes it is in with a chance of winning £100. The survey can be found at www.wychavon.gov.uk/consultations</i> <i>At the last overview and scrutiny committee meeting the need for public transport was discussed for the community. Several of these schemes have been put in place in the past and have been unsuccessful mainly due to a lack of use. Is this something you feel any residents in Rous Lench would be interested in? There is a survey on the Wychavon website to gauge interest. If you could publicise this, it would be appreciated.</i> https://www.wychavon.gov.uk/community-and-living/transport-in-wychavon/rural-transport-research <i>The government has set out its proposed reforms to the national planning policy framework which are out to consultation. Wychavon have submitted a response after discussion with the executive board.</i> <i>Some things that stand out in the policy are housing targets are to become mandatory and increased. This is very likely to mean the housing target set out on the SWDP review will have to be increased. The deputy prime minister has confirmed that local plans already at the examination stage can continue under the current system, which is good news for the plans to adopt the SWDPR as soon as possible.</i>



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	<p><i>Councils will need to show they have a constant five year land supply up from the four year recently introduced. This is a Frankenstein attack on agriculture and insists on an arbitrary doubling of our housing provision without evidence of local need. I believe we should be growing the cities where there is already existing infrastructure. The government seem to be playing fast and loose with the countryside, showing political malice.</i></p> <p>Worcs County Council (WCC): No report provided.</p> <p>Police: No report to share.</p> <p>PQT: One member of the public was present to raise concerns regarding anti-social behaviour. The resident had reported lamping (including damage to property – gates and cut chains) and littering to the Police. The resident had received an email acknowledgment and crime reference number but no follow-up since. The resident has also been clearing up flytipping of garden waste, which has been increasing in the last 3 months.</p> <p>Cllr Browne said that the Parish Council will contact the Police regarding the crimes reported and report the increase in flytipping to Cllr Ben Hurdman.</p> <p>Another resident was present to raise concerns about Rous Lench Community Garden, specifically whether a ‘change of use’ planning application should have been sought. The resident provided another local example of the Church Lench Pre-School, and their use of agricultural land for a forest school, for which a ‘change of use’ was required. The resident had been in contact with Oliver Brewer-Hughes at Wychavon District Council Planning department, he had felt, given the information he had, a planning application was not required. The resident asked if the Parish Council had investigated this at all and asked if the Parish Council can divorce itself completely from the Community Garden Trust given a Councillor is a Trustee.</p> <p>Cllr Browne addressed both concerns. The Parish Council has no responsibility to look at the planning aspects of the project, that would be up to the Trust. Cllr Browne suggested that the resident take this up directly with the Community Gardens Trustees and Wychavon District Council Planning department. Cllr Browne assured the resident that the Parish Councillors have a legal obligation to disclose interests in agenda items and seek dispensations. This would all have been recorded on the Parish Council meeting minutes.</p> <p>Another resident was present to ask the Parish Council to consider reintroducing the communal skip in the village. Historically this used to happen twice a year and residents could fill it with their rubbish. The resident had researched the prices: £560 +VAT. Councillors said they would give the idea consideration but had concerns over it being abused by commercial companies or flytippers. The Parish Council would need to put the idea to Parishioners for their views.</p>
69/24	<p>To approve minutes of previous meeting. The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 15th July 2024, were agreed as a true record and approved.</p>
70/24	<p>Planning Applications and Appeals:</p> <p>The following applications were noted and/or discussed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. SWDP Review consultation – response provided by RLPC. Any updates to be provided. No updates. b. W/23/00321/FUL, The Caravan At, Radford Road, Rous Lench, Evesham, WR11 4UL – amended to part change of use of land (retrospective) from agricultural land to provide extension to existing gypsy site approved under reference W/15/01159 together with the siting of 3 no. mobile homes, 3 no. day rooms and 3 no. touring caravans to provide three gypsy pitches for members of the same

	<p>family. Application approved by Wychavon District Council at Planning Committee.</p> <p>Action: For the benefit of Parishioners, objectors, and the applicant (having to endure a lengthy application process) the Parish Council will write a letter to Cllr Ben Hurdman, to ask Wychavon District Council to clarify what rules they are applying to planning applications such as W/23/00321/FUL, as they seemingly did not follow their own rules when making a decision. This should also be raised with the legal department.</p> <p>c. W/23/02236/FUL, Land On, Little Ashdene Farm, Kington Lane, Kington - Change of use of land to residential for the erection of 3 dwellings. Comment provided by RLPC, currently pending decision. Noted.</p> <p>d. W/24/01223/CAN, Rous Lench Village Green, The Green, Rous Lench - Undertake tree works as detailed on the application form and any accompanying information. Submitted by Rous Lench Parish Council. Wychavon District Council raised no objections. Noted.</p>
71/24	<p>Public Rights of Way and Highways - Clerk reported:</p> <p>a) PROW maintenance and obstruction issues – None.</p> <p>b) Lengthsman Scheme – None.</p> <p>c) Flooding</p> <p>Action: Communication to be sent to local farmers asking them to keep their ditches clear, to keep roads and neighbouring properties clear.</p>
72/24	<p>Progress Reports - Clerk reported:</p> <p>a) Update on Actions since Previous Meeting – routine work, external audit completed and published (no issues).</p>
73/24	<p>Community Orchard/garden & allotments – No update.</p>
74/24	<p>Rous Lench & Radford parish matters for discussion or decision:</p> <p>a) Asset maintenance checks (standing item) All assets checked. Defibrillator in Rous Lench needs maintenance. Action: Cllr Browne to forward Rous Lench defibrillator registration information to the Clerk. Action: Cllr Browne to find out if defibrillator in Rous Lench needs any new components.</p> <p>b) Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) – Second data collection from VAS unit showed excessive speeds in Rous Lench and Radford. There had also been two accidents (one at Radford and the other at Abbots Morton) in July and August. Action: Clerk to send the new data reports to the Police (charter priority for Q3) to request action on excessive speeds. Action: Clerk to do a Facebook post to let Parishioners know about the new VAS unit and how the data is being used.</p> <p>c) Atlas Tower Group – Clerk had enquired if planning permission would be sought before public consultation or vice versa. Atlas said that the Parish Council/Atlas should do public consultation to see if there is public interest. Landowners need to be contacted to see if they would consider a mast. If this is all successful Atlas would then do a planning application.</p> <p>d) Police and Crime Plan Consultation – Councillors felt that they could not objectively answer the survey questions without regular reports from the Police.</p>

	<p>Action: Clerk to send feedback to the OPCC and SNT regarding the consultation survey, and the need for regular reports/communications between the Police and the Parish Council.</p> <p>e) Parking on the Village Green – A ‘No parking’ sign was discussed. It was agreed to keep this under review to see if the Green becomes increasingly damaged.</p> <p>f) Sexual Harassment Policy – From October 2024 new legislation (s40A Equality Act 2010) places greater responsibilities and legal requirements on Councils to take proactive steps to prevent sexual harassment at work. The Clerk suggested that this item is deferred to the next meeting when a model policy may be available to adopt.</p> <p>Action: Clerk to check with CALC if there will be a model Sexual Harassment Policy.</p> <p>g) Wychavon Polling Places and Polling Districts Review – Feedback form on Rous Lench & Radford’s current polling place and district was completed.</p> <p>Action: Clerk to submit the feedback by the deadline of 18th October.</p>
75/24	<p>Finance</p> <p>a) Budget expenditure: To consider and approve. The budget expenditure was approved.</p> <p>b) Bank reconciliation: To consider and approve. The bank reconciliation was approved.</p> <p>c) Invoices: To approve the proposed payments. The proposed payments (see table at the end of Minutes) were agreed.</p> <p>d) Direct debits: To note the direct debits between meetings. The direct debits between meetings (see table at the end of Minutes) were noted.</p> <p>e) Grant application from Rous Lench Village Hall – Fran Herdman, Chairperson of the Rous Lench Village Hall committee provided an update that the cost of rehanging the stage doors had cost less than £780, and so a grant of £420 was sought from the Parish Council. It was agreed to approve the grant application of £420 to Rous Lench Village Hall Committee for the rehanging of the stage doors.</p> <p>Action: Clerk to send grant approval letter and arrange payment of the grant to Rous Lench Village Hall Committee.</p>
76/24	<p>Correspondence: All correspondence has been circulated to Councillors.</p> <p>Worcestershire CALC: AGM of the Wychavon Area of CALC.</p> <p>Worcestershire CALC: CALC Update 24-05.</p> <p>Worcestershire CALC: CALC Update 24-06.</p> <p>Worcestershire CALC: Quarterly Meeting of the Wychavon Area of Worcestershire CALC.</p> <p>Worcestershire CALC: Notice of AGM.</p> <p>Wychavon District Council: NPPF Consultation.</p> <p>Wychavon District Council: Wychavon Polling Places and Polling Districts Review.</p> <p>Wychavon District Council: Member Conduct Committee.</p> <p>Worcestershire County Council: Land Transfer Details.</p>

	<p>Worcestershire County Council: Electric Vehicle Charging (EVCI) Infrastructure Strategy Consultation.</p> <p>West Mercia Police: Community Charter Priorities.</p> <p>PKF Littlejohn: AGAR Section 3 – External Auditor Report.</p> <p>Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO): Renewal Confirmation.</p> <p>Rous Lench Resident: NPPF – Make your voice heard on the Government’s Planning Changes.</p> <p>Rous Lench Resident: Parking on the Village Green.</p>
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77/24	<p>Councillors Reports & Items for Future Agenda</p> <p>None.</p>
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78/24	<p>Date of next meeting: Monday 18th November at 7pm.</p>
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Meeting closed at 7.26pm

SIGNED:..... Chair

Date:

Rous Lench Payments and Expenses 30th September 2024 meeting					
Payments for authorisation.					
Chq. No.	Payee	Details	Net	VAT	TOTAL
online	Mrs Kerry Williamson	Salary & Expenses	£651.81	£0.00	£651.81
online	Parish Lengthsman	July (£240) & August (£240)	£480.00	£0.00	£480.00
online	Rous Lench Village Hall	Meeting booking September 2024	£24.00	£0.00	£24.00
online	Rous Lench Community Gardens	Remaining CLG funding	£4,022.18	£0.00	£4,022.18
online	OPCC	Underspent Grant Funding for VAS	£87.00	£0.00	£87.00
online	PKF Littlejohn	External Auditor Fee	£210.00	£42.00	£252.00
Direct Debit	Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)	Data Protection Fee Renewal - Tier 1	£35.00	£0.00	£35.00
TOTAL			£5,509.99	£42.00	£5,551.99

Kerry Williamson
Clerk and RFO