



Rous Lench Parish Council

DRAFT Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 18th November 2024

at 7pm at Rous Lench Village Hall.

Present	Cllrs D Browne (Chair), L Newton, G Hughes, S Davis. In attendance: Kerry Williamson (Clerk), PC Fabian Gayle. Public: 0 Meeting opened at 7pm
79/24	Chairman's Welcome: Cllr Browne opened the meeting and welcomed the Councillors and PC Gayle.
80/24	Apologies for Absence: Cllr K Hicken, Cllr S Harrison and Cllr Ben Hurdman (District) sent apologies.
81/24	Declarations of Interest: None
82/24	Dispensations: No requests received.
83/24	<p>To receive reports from District, County Council, Police and Public Question Time (PQT):</p> <p>Wychavon Dist. Council (WDC): Cllr Ben Hurdman provided the following report to be shared at the meeting:</p> <p><i>At a Council meeting earlier this year, the executive board member for housing committed to holding a summit to discuss how the Council could deliver more affordable homes to meet local needs.</i></p> <p><i>I will be attending a meeting at the end of the month to discuss this, should you have any comments for me to make known, do let me know. Whilst the initial Council discussion focused specifically on the need for one-bedroom homes, the Housing Team will also help members understand affordable housing needs more broadly.</i></p> <p><i>On Monday, 4 November HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) urged people to download the HMRC app to access HMRC services such as Child Benefit and their National Insurance number. https://www.gov.uk/government/news/do-one-thing-get-on-the-hmrc-app</i></p> <p><i>This Talk Money Week (4 to 8 November), taxpayers are being urged to "Do One Thing" and get on the HMRC app to save time and simplify managing their money and tax.</i></p> <p><i>Download the app from Google Play or Apple Store.</i></p> <p><i>There will be some changes to the Post Office in Inkberrow (WR7 4EJ); following the resignation of the postmaster the Post Office branch will be closing on Friday, 24 January 2025.</i></p>



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	<p>For further information, please visit the Consultation Hub via the link below: https://www.postofficeviews.co.uk/national-consultation-team/inkberrow-wr7-4ej-183247/</p> <p>Customer posters will also be displayed in the branch.</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>Worcs County Council (WCC): No report provided.</p> <p>Police: PC Gayle was present and introduced himself as the new PC on the Droitwich East Safer Neighbourhood Team. PC Gayle updated the Council on action against speeding in the Parish. West Mercia Police have new devices that record speeds and issue tickets. PC Gayle will receive training on this device and will then bring the device to the Parish.</p> <p>PC Gayle promoted the use of Neighbourhood Matters. This service provides 2-way communication with the SNT. Residents can sign up to be part of the group for Rous Lench and Radford.</p> <p>Councillors raised the possibility of the Beltane Bash being held in Rous Lench next year. PC Gayle will monitor for a Worcestershire Regulation licence application.</p> <p>Action: Clerk to email PC Gayle for the details on Neighbourhood Matters and publicise it to residents on social media.</p> <p>PQT: No members of the public were present.</p>
84/24	<p>To approve minutes of previous meeting. The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 30th September 2024, were agreed as a true record and approved.</p>
85/24	<p>Planning Applications and Appeals: The following applications were noted and/or discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) SWDP Review consultation – response provided by RLPC. Any updates to be provided. No updates. b) 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. c) W/24/02012/FUL (Clerk's delegation) To note comments submitted between scheduled meetings: The Nathan, Evesham Road, Inkberrow - Proposed steel framed building for the storage, repair and maintenance of vehicles and parts (use classes B2 and B8) in connection with existing business for sale and hire of HGVs (Sui Generis) – Retrospective. Noted.
86/24	<p>Public Rights of Way and Highways - Clerk reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) PROW maintenance and obstruction issues – None. b) Lengthsman Scheme – None. c) Flooding <p>Action: Letter to be sent to local farmers and landowners asking them to keep their ditches clear, to keep roads and neighbouring properties clear of flood water.</p>

87/24	<p>Progress Reports - Clerk reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Update on Actions since Previous Meeting – routine work. VAS data sent to West Mercia Police as a Parish Priority and follow up communications. b) 2024/25 Pay Scales – Clerk’s new pay scale value was noted.
88/24	<p>Community Orchard/garden & allotments – Cllr Newton provided the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wychavon rural fund bid had been successful. • Water bore hole is fitted. A hand pump will be used. • The play equipment, compost toilet and shed should be fitted during weeks beginning 2nd & 9th December. • Project will then be completed, before the deadline of February 2025. <p>Cllr Newton thanked the Parish Council for the grant funding that had been received, and the Councillors commended Cllr Newton on her work to fulfil the project of a Community Garden for Rous Lench & Radford.</p>
89/24	<p>Rous Lench & Radford parish matters for discussion or decision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. b) Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) – The second data collection had been sent to West Mercia Police as a Parish Priority. PC Gayle had attended the meeting to update the Council on actions (see minute 83/24). Action: Clerk to send the new data reports to the Police (charter priority for Q4). c) Atlas Tower Group – Deferred to January meeting. d) Health and Wellbeing survey – Councillors completed the survey from Worcestershire CALC. Action: Clerk to send survey answers to CALC. e) Superfast Broadband – Cllr Browne reported that the new build houses in Rous Lench have superfast broadband, so the cable must now be in the village and should/could be available to the rest of the properties in the village. Action: Cllr Browne will enquire with Openreach. Cllr Browne will draft a letter to Wychavon District Council to make further enquiries. The Clerk will contact Worcestershire County Council to make further enquiries. f) Recruitment Campaign – Cllr Browne expressed his intention to step down as Chairman in May 2025. The PCC and Village Hall Committee are struggling for volunteers. Cllr Browne suggested that all the local community groups could come together to try and encourage more volunteers – ideas included leaflet or an event for residents to come along to and find out more about each local group, including the Parish Council. Action: Cllr Browne to speak to the local community groups to gauge interest.

90/24	<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) Draft Budget 2025/26: Items considered for the 2025/26 budget included any costs for broadband.</p> <p>Action: Clerk to prepare a draft budget and arrange a Finance Working Group meeting to look at the draft budget.</p>
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91/24	<p>Correspondence: All correspondence has been circulated to Councillors.</p> <p>Worcestershire CALC: CALC Update 24-07.</p> <p>Worcestershire CALC: CALC Update 24-08.</p> <p>Worcestershire CALC: Quarterly Meeting of the Wychavon Area of Worcestershire CALC minutes.</p> <p>Worcestershire CALC: Quarterly Meeting of the Wychavon Area of Worcestershire CALC.</p> <p>Worcestershire CALC: Health and Wellbeing Survey.</p> <p>Worcestershire CALC: Staff Payscales 2024-25.</p> <p>Wychavon District Council: CIL Letter & Statement.</p> <p>Wychavon District Council: 2025-26 Budget Requirement.</p> <p>Worcestershire County Council: Managing Road Verges to Promote Biodiversity Survey.</p> <p>West Mercia Police: Community Charter Priorities.</p>
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92/24	<p>Councillors Reports & Items for Future Agenda</p> <p>Atlas Tower Group – January meeting agenda.</p>
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93/24	Date of next meeting: Monday 20th January at 7pm.
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Meeting closed at 8.58pm

SIGNED:..... Chair

Date:

Rous Lench Payments and Expenses 18th November 2024 meeting				
Payments for authorisation.				
Chq. No.	Payee	Details	Net	VAT
online	Mrs Kerry Williamson	Salary & Expenses	£725.44	£0.00
online	HMRC	PAYE	£20.80	£0.00
online	Parish Lengthsman	September (£240) & October (£240)	£480.00	£0.00
online	Rous Lench Village Hall	Meeting booking November 2024	£24.00	£0.00
TOTAL			£1,250.24	£0.00
				£1,250.24

Kerry Williamson
Clerk and RFO