

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF
RUSHWICK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 8 JANUARY 2025 AT 7.30 PM
AT RUSHWICK VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr Hemsworth (Chair), Cllr Lowe, Cllr Williams and Cllr Haywood

In Attendance District Cllr Peter Whatley and Sharon Dunn (Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer)

1. Apologies: Cllr Jenkins (Personal) - Accepted and County Cllr Scott Richardson Brown (Personal) - Received.
2. To appoint a councillor vacancy by co-option - Three councillor vacancies are currently available. One application form has been issued following an expression of interest.
3. Declarations of Interest
 1. Register of Interests: Councillors were reminded of the need to update their register of interest.
 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

No Questions for Public Question Time County Councillor Report - No report available. District Councillors Report - The report was noted.
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5. Minutes: Having been previously circulated the minutes of The Parish Council meeting of 13.11.2024 were signed as a true and correct record.
6. Progress Reports: Matters arising from previous minutes - None
The Action Plan was reviewed and updated.
7. Parish Lengthsman Scheme: Tim Hughes
In December Tim cleared footpaths in Upper Wick and along the Bransford Road, cut back verges in Claphill Lane, attended to the VAS sign and cleaned and cleared the Underpass.
Unfortunately, due to pending surgery Tim will be absent for 4-6 weeks from January 2025. We wish him well for a speedy recovery.
8. Finance
 1. Payment of accounts as per schedule were authorised.
 2. Monthly Bank Reconciliation Statement - For Information.
 3. Quarterly Budget Monitoring - Quarter 3 – This was reviewed.
 4. **RESOLVED:** The budget for the Financial Year 2025/2026 was finalised and agreed at £40,100.00. It was agreed from money held in our general reserves to look into developing our own parish council website.
 5. **RESOLVED:** To request a precept from MHDC of £36,790.00 for Financial Year 2025/2026
9. Reports from representatives: To receive an update
 1. Report from Village Hall Committee: Cllr Jenkins/Cllr Griffin-Blugher – No update available
 - a. Update on the transfer of ownership status

2. Footpath Officers report: Cllr Williams
This month Cllr Williams had cleared branches and large twigs and raked leaves and small twigs on a section of the path bordering the A4103, Bransford Road junction to the Bransford Bridge lay-by.
3. Report on Play Area: Cllr Hemsworth
 - a. Request to work in collaboration with the police to help combat damage to Rushwick play area - Cllr Hemsworth had spoken directly to the police to help remedy the situation. Thanks and appreciation were expressed to Cllr Hemsworth for his time and dedication looking after the play area. Moving forward the Parish Council will seek some paid help to carry out out general maintenance duties to the play area rather than relying on the goodwill of volunteers.
4. School Representative report: Position Vacant - Nothing to report as start of new school term.
5. Speeding Issues & Crime Prevention Update: Vacant
 - a. Safer Neighbourhood Team Parish Contract Dec - Feb 2025 – The following three policing priorities for this quarter were identified.
 - Illegal/inconsiderate parking outside the school and village hall, especially from vehicles from the Kier Housing Development
 - Anti-Social Behaviour at the underpass
 - Reckless driving from the A4440 roundabout and speeding from A4103 to the Village Hall.
10. Update on the Parish Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr Lowe - No update to report.
11. WCC Highway Issues - Progress Update: Cllr Jenkins
A44/Claphill Lane junction roundabout, I have met with Bransford PC regarding this as they also have a number of concerns. They will arrange a meeting with WCC to jointly present our concerns and try to get some valid response on their plans.
Cllr Jenkins has asked our County Cllr to raise questions with WCC Highways, but so far have had no response.
12. Planning: To consider the following Planning Application: -

Application No: M/24/01759/SCO
Location Address: Land at (OS 8205 5321) Upper Wick Lane Rushwick
Proposal: Proposed urban extension comprising of 1000 dwellings, 5 ha employment land, primary school, safeguarding land for new railway station and 500 space car park, local centre comprising retail and community uses, sports facilities, as well as associated access, landscaping and other ancillary works.
Consultation Ends: 9 January 2025. (2-week time extension granted)
Comment: No comments to be submitted as the application is more of a technical nature at this stage

South Worcestershire Development Plan Review (SWDPr)
RESOLVED: That the Clerk is authorised to notify the Inspector before 31 January that representation will be made from Rushwick Parish Council to attend and make a statement at the hearing.
RESOLVED: Delegated powers were granted to Cllr Jenkins and Cllr Hemsworth in conjunction with the Clerk to formulate a hearing statement based on the questions being asked and submitted to the Inspectors by the 11 February 2025. This statement to then be reported retrospectively at the February Parish Council meeting.
13. Correspondence for Information: Circulated by the Clerk throughout the month.
 - a. Local Government Devolution Bill – reported by District Cllr Whatley
14. Councillors' reports and items for future agendas - None

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm.

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

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

District Councillor Reports – Peter Whatley

Cllr Whatley reported that the Local Government settlement was made on a 2-year basis with District level capped at 3% and County level at 5%.

Under Westminster Government proposals to abolish two-tier authorities and reduce to a single tier (Unitary) Authority. Correspondence outlining the English Devolution White Paper was referenced outlining the local government re-organisation, transition and implementation.

South Worcestershire Development Plan Review - The examination arrangements were discussed with the Hearing Sessions to commence at 9.30am on Tuesday 4th March 2025 at Worcester Guildhall.
Reference was made to the SWDPr viability data.