

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF RUSHWICK PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12 MARCH 2025 AT 7.30 PM
AT RUSHWICK VILLAGE HALL**

(The meeting commenced at 7.45pm due to quoracy issues.)

Present: Cllr Jenkins (Chair), Cllr Hemsworth and Cllr Lowe

In Attendance: Mrs Sharon Dunn (Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer)

1. Apologies: Cllr Williams (Personal) and Cllr Haywood (Personal) - Accepted
District Cllr Whatley (Personal) - Received.
2. Councillor Vacancies - Barry Staff was successfully co-opted as a councillor and duly signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
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

Public Question Time – None

District Councillor Reports - Comments/updates circulated to councillors as and when received which included updates on the SWDPR. Unitary authorities and probable revised timetable plus Q&A from Leader's Question Time

County Councillor Report - No report available

5. Minutes: Having been previously circulated the minutes of The Parish Council meeting of 12.02.2025 were signed as a true and correct record.
6. Progress Reports: No matters arising from previous minutes.
The Action Plan was reviewed and updated.
WCC Proposed Traffic Regulation Order - A request was submitted to extend double-yellow lines along Bransford Road/Grange Lane - rather than the proposed suggestion.

Following a parishioner's complaint concerning the flooded, muddy footpath behind the Whitehall Inn, Cllr Jenkins had spoken to Lioncourt who agreed to lay a temporary hard-core surface to help combat the issue.
7. Parish Lengthsman Scheme: Update
 - a. **RESOLVED:** To renew the Contract of Services for the Lengthsman from 01.04.25 to 31.03.26.
 - b. **RESOLVED:** To engage a temporary contractor during the Lengthsman's absence, offering the same rate of pay (subject to receipt of Public Liability Insurance) to help attend to many of the jobs required around the village.
8. Finance
 1. Payment of accounts as per schedule were authorised.
 2. Monthly Bank Reconciliation Statement - For Information Only

9. Reports from representatives: To receive an update
 1. Report from Village Hall Committee: Cllr Griffin-Blugher
 - a. Update on the transfer of ownership status - A copy of the Deed of Grant is now in the Parish Council's possession. Next steps to appoint a solicitor to progress matters. Cllr Jenkins to liaise with the Trustees in the first instance.
 - b. **RESOLVED:** To accept quotation of a Zoll AED Plus Fully Automatic Defibrillator unit at a cost of £845 + VAT (Trade in price)
 2. Footpath Officers report: Cllr Williams

‘ I have recently:-

 1. Cut ivy growth in Grange Lane along the approach to the railway bridge.
 2. Inspected Path 512 (C) for flooding to the north of the Village Hall. This is caused by water not draining through a sluice between the pond below Mere Close and the Balancing Pond, and not , I suspect, the responsibility of the owner. I do not know the ownership of the ponds and sluices to the west of Colonel Drive.
 3. Inspected Path 504 (C) through Oldbury Woods. The path has multiple boggy stretches, certainly requiring wellies, and may even be considered impassable at the present time. This is not caused by the overflow of streams, but by the general high-water table. I imagine the situation will improve in drier weather.’
 3. Report on Play Area: Cllr Hemsworth

ROSPA Inspection due March 2025. To invoice OPT for football pitch usage.
Smartcut has started to oversee the maintenance of the football pitch.
The windows have been repaired to the vandalized play equipment to make complaint.
 4. School Representative report: Position Vacant

Ongoing concerns with dog mess on the pavement outside the school.
Summer Fair to take place 3.15-5.30pm on Friday 4 July 2025 - All Welcome
 5. Speeding Issues & Crime Prevention Update: Vacant
10. Update on the Parish Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr Lowe - No progress to update.
11. WCC Highway Issues - Progress Update: Cllr Jenkins - Ongoing trying to progress a meeting.
12. Planning: To consider any Planning Applications received below or before this meeting: -

Planning Application No: M/25/00290/RM
 Location: Land at (Os 8202 5595 West of Worcester), Martley Road, Lower Broadheath
 Proposal: A reserved matters application (access, appearance, layout, scale and landscaping) for 161 dwellings and associated Infrastructure.
 Consultation Ends 27.03.2025
 Comments: No Objections

For Information Only
 Planning Ref: M/25/00002/ADV
 Proposal: Various Advertisement signs associated with the sales area for housing development
 Location: Land at (Os 8205 5395), Claphill Lane, Rushwick
 Application Approved.
13. Feedback on the South Worcestershire Development Plan Review - Participation, Programme and Written Statements (*Cllr Jenkins/Cllr Hemsworth*)
 SWDPR 53: Rushwick Expanded Settlement - Hearing Day 13 March 2025 in the afternoon at 2.00pm

14. Correspondence for Information: Circulated by the Clerk

- Malvern Hills Healthy Heart Event - Highlights included
Malvern Hills are preparing a £1m fund for Health and Wellbeing projects
Funding available for Defibrillators, Trauma Kits and Bleed Kits
Details of Worcs CALC's Health and Wellbeing offer
A recount of being saved by a defibrillator
Earls Croome's story to get defibrillators
Heartstart Malvern being extended to the whole District
Five Community Resuscitation Schemes being created in 2025
- Parishioner request seeking to purchase a small lake to turn into a fishing pool for the community
We understand this is the property of Bloor Homes. Cllr Staff to investigate further
- Acknowledgement - Thanks of support received from South Worcestershire Citizens' Advice
- Acknowledgement - Thanks of support received from St Thomas Church
- New Community Recognition Scheme Celebrate Local Heros - Deadline for nominations 18.4.2025
- Consultation on Extension of public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO) for Dog Control - Consultation remains open until 5pm on 14 April 2025 for feedback.

15. The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Wednesday 14 May 2025 at 8.00pm
The Parish Council agreed to proceed without a guest speaker

16. Councillors' reports and items for future agendas

Litter Bin Audit - To check status, costs, requirements and locations (Cllr Staff)

It was highlighted that the tarmac surface on the path around the milestone, bus shelters and along Claphill Lane is in a very poor state of repair. Clerk to make enquiries if any funding is available to help facilitate some remedial repairs.

Cllr Jenkins will also speak to Lioncourt (forwarding some photographic evidence) to see if they can also assist.

The meeting closed at 8.40 PM.

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