

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF RUSHWICK PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9 APRIL 2025 AT 7.30 PM
AT RUSHWICK VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr Jenkins (Chair), Cllr Hemsworth (arrived 7.40pm), Cllr Lowe, Cllr Williams, Cllr Staff, Cllr Haywood and Cllr Griffin-Blugher.

In Attendance: Mrs Sharon Dunn (Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer) plus a representative from Elgar Festival.

1. Apologies: District Cllr Whatley (Personal) - Received
2. 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
3. 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

Representation received from a Trustee from Elgar Festival seeking support for use of the pump track to help participate in the Elgar Festival on 28 May 2025 from 10-12 noon, together with any financial contribution available to help pay towards an MC system or a gazebo.

County Councillor Report - No report available

District Cllr Report - Very little currently happening at MHDC. The situation on SWDPr is unchanged. Plans for local government reorganisation are no further advanced, though the county and district councils have now submitted their initial responses to Westminster. There remains no consensus on whether one or two unitary authorities should replace the current county council, nor on what form the new upper layer of government should take.

As expected, MHDC has announced its new pool for grants to communities. The formal name is the Community Infrastructure Investment Plan. If there are schemes in Rushwick that might benefit from this funding, the best first point of contact is via Community Services at MHDC.

4. Minutes: Having been previously circulated the minutes of The Parish Council meeting of 12.03.2025 were signed as a true and correct record.
5. Progress Reports: Referencing 9.2.2 from previous minutes Cllr Williams confirmed he is pursuing to locate the landowner. The Action Plan was reviewed and updated.
6. Parish Lengthsman Scheme: Update

The Lengthsman has signed his contract for services for 2025/2026.
Cllr Staff to follow up with WCC various blocked gulley drains requiring jetting.
Unfortunately, the contractor that the Parish Council had identified, to cover in the absence of the Lengthsman is currently inundated with other work so is not available.
7. Finance
 1. Payment of accounts as per schedule were authorised.
 2. Monthly Bank Reconciliation Statement - For Information Only

8. Reports from representatives: To receive an update
 1. Report from Village Hall Committee: Cllr Griffin-Blugher confirmed the order has been placed for the new defibrillator. Invoice to follow shortly.
 - a. Update on the transfer of ownership status - This is more complicated than envisioned but she will endeavor to progress.
 2. Footpath Officers report: Cllr Williams has recently inspected the following and cut back brambles and fallen branches where necessary.
 - Path near the pedestrian level crossing (521(c))
 - Gateway below Aymestrey fishing ponds (508(b))
 - Path from Bransford Rd to Broadmore Green, where I have also litter-picked (513(c))

He has also collected several small bags and assorted rubbish from along Claphill Lane.'

It was reported a tree had fallen over the top of the footpath located at the rear of the Whitehall. Cllr Williams to refer to Patrick White at WCC Access Services.
 3. Report on Play Area: Cllr Hemsworth

Smartcut has started to oversee the maintenance of the football pitch.

 - a. ROSPA Play Safety Inspection 2025 - No major concerns.

It was established that the bike rack located in the car park outside of Rushwick Park is generally not used. as people either take their bikes into the park to use the pump track or take them with them for safety purposes. It was noted it may be worth relocating the bike rack inside the park for better use.
 4. School Representative report: Position Vacant

The weekly bulletin has been circulated
 5. Speeding Issues & Crime Prevention Update: Vacant
 - a. Policing Priorities April - June 2025 - To repeat the same priorities as last quarter which were:-
 - 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.
 6. Litter Bin Audit - Status Update

Cllr Staff had highlighted four litter bins were required and had obtained quotes from two suppliers, liaised with the school regarding the colour of the bin they would like outside the school. He is optimistic that Lioncourt may contribute towards the cost of the replacement of these litter bins, so is pursuing this option before any orders are placed. To place on the next agenda.
9. Update on the Parish Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr Lowe - No progress to report
10. WCC Highway Issues - Progress Update: Cllr Jenkins

Some progress has been made, following a meeting Cllr Jenkins attended on Monday. On the Claphill Lane/A44 junction it was understood that the roundabout size is to be increased. The main issue is WCC Highways have accepted that this is not part of the development site, so it will not be included as part of the junction. This is to be reviewed again after construction. Awaiting section 278 agreement to be signed. Cllr Jenkins would like to communicate to parishioners the events from the Public Hearing together with these issues.
11. Planning: To consider any Planning Applications received before this meeting.
 - a. Representation was made at the South Worcestershire Development Plan Review Hearing on 13 March 2025. It was suggested to communicate with parishioners following a post meeting with Barwood Land who are seeking to build an additional 1200 houses, once it is understood how this is to be delivered, the housing density and concept plan.

Application No: M/25/00322/RM

Proposal: Reserved matters application for the approval of layout, scale, appearance and landscaping for 137no. dwellings within residential phases 1b and 1c pursuant to Outline Planning Permission 15/01419/OUT.

Address: Land At (Os 8202 5595 West of Worcester) Martley Road Lower Broadheath

Comment: No comment to make to this proposal

Cllr Lowe confirmed he had been contacted by the Estate Agent concerning the field behind his house who have been unsuccessful in their approaches to all the local land developers and will now place this land on for sale on the open market.

12. Correspondence for Information: Circulated by the Clerk

1. Email request dated 19.03.2025 - Elgar Festival 2025 - Request about holding an event during the Festival at Rushwick Pump Track to help celebrate the festival

RESOLVED: The Parish Council offers its support of the use of the pump track at Rushwick Park to help participate in the Elgar Festival on 28 May 2025 from 10- 12 noon , subject to receipt of a copy of risk assessment and insurance certificate. No financial contribution is on offer, for this trial event.

13. Councillors' reports and items for future agendas

Cllr Staff suggested a possible solution to the parking issues along the Bransford Road, particularly outside the Kier Housing Development to the Village Hall was to allow use of the overspill car park area of the Village Hall for use of the vans for a fixed cost. This suggestion is to be put forward to the Village Hall Committee.

There is video evidence, work is taking place on the Lioncourt Housing Development until 7.30pm. This is outside the agreed hours restriction and Cllr Staff will bring to the attention of the site foreman..

The meeting closed at 8.55 PM.

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