

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF RUSHWICK PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11 JUNE 2025 AT 7.30 PM
AT RUSHWICK VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr Lowe (Chaired this meeting), Cllr Staff and Cllr Haywood

In Attendance: County Councillor McSweeney (arrived 7.45pm), District Cllr Whatley and Mrs Sharon Dunn (Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer) plus one parishioner who is interested in joining the Parish Council.

1. Apologies: Cllr Jenkins (Personal), Cllr Williams (Personal), Cllr Griffin-Blugher (Personal) and Cllr Hemsworth (Personal) - Accepted.
Advance apologies given by County Cllr McSweeney who will join later this evening, having another meeting to attend this evening which unfortunately has a time clash.
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 - Cllr Lowe declared a Pecuniary Interest in the Tree Preservation Order as this relates to his property address.
 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

Notes from Public Question Time are appended to these minutes.
Reports from County and District Councillor

4. Minutes: Having been previously circulated the minutes of The Parish Council meeting of 14.05.2025 were signed as a true and correct record.
5. Progress Reports: The Action Plan was reviewed and updated.
An order has been placed with Broxap Street Furniture for the supply of three new litter bins and concrete ballasts (one blue to place outside Rushwick Primary School, one green to place at the bus shelter by the school and one jet black to place at the bus shelter located on the Bransford Road), at a total cost of £1020 excluding VAT. Estimated delivery 3.7.2025.
The two dead cherry trees located on Claphill Lane have been reported to WCC and allocated a service number to track progress.
Comments were submitted to MHDC in respect of planning application M/25/00459/OUT and are appended to these minutes.
Further details to be obtained from Cllr Griffin-Blugher to understand the extent of tree works required at Snowdrop Way and Bedwardine Close before accepting any quotations.
Ward Budget Application Funding Request - £250 is to be awarded to help towards new litter bins.
6. Parish Lengthsman Scheme: Tim continues to cut back verges around the village and has been busy cleaning and clearing the underpass, charging moving and changing the VAS sign at various locations.
Request that Tim issues a polite notice or speaks to the landowner requesting that the hedge be cut on the corner of Christine Avenue to the Ashpath as it is impeding the footpath.
7. Finance
 1. Payment of accounts as per schedule were authorised.
 2. Monthly Bank Reconciliation Statement - For Information Only
Consideration is to be given for the purpose of how to spend the CIL money.
8. Reports from representatives: To receive an update
 1. Report from Village Hall Committee: Cllr Griffin-Blugher

The deeds have been located. The next steps are for a meeting to be arranged with the Chairman of the Parish Council and the Trustees of the Village Hall Committee.

A quotation has been received for painting of men's toilets and entrance area of village hall.

To be decided upon at next Village Hall Committee meeting.

Publication of next meeting and AGM to be posted on Facebook.

Defibrillator - invoice address for Parish Council received and sent on to the supplier. Invoice to be sent directly to Parish Council.

2. Footpath Officers report: Cllr Williams

The ponds adjacent to Colonel Drive have been re-inspected. The bogginess near the footbridge has dried up, so contact will be made with Severn- Trent once flooding occurs again.

It was suggested that Tim in conjunction with Cllr Williams identifies any sections of footpaths that require attention.

3. Report on Play Area: Cllr Hemsworth - No report available

4. School Representative report: Cllr Jenkins - The weekly bulletin has been circulated.

Rushwick Primary School Summer Fayre is on Friday 4th July 2025 3.30-5.30pm.

5. Speeding Issues & Crime Prevention Update: Cllr Staff reported that speed awareness training had taken place with a group of volunteers at the Village Hall on 15.05.2025. The volunteers are going through the vetting process and details are to be sent to PC John Hand. Once approved a further training day will be organized.

Cllr Staff to investigate the viability and cost of having another speed sign.

9. Update on the Parish Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr Lowe - No progress to report

10. WCC Highway Issues - Progress Update: Cllr Jenkins - No update available

11. Planning: To consider any Planning Applications received before this meeting

Planning Application 25/00459/OUT Severn House, Bromyard Road, Crown East

Outline application for a development of nine Class E(g) (i,ii and iii) business units with details of access, layout and landscaping submitted for consideration

District Cllr Whatley confirmed the Highways comments have been taken on board and the applicant is to be consulted with the objections.

Bellway is preparing an application for around 100 new homes in Rushwick, on land bordered by the A4440, A44 and Claphill Lane and would welcome the opportunity to meet with the Parish Council, to discuss the proposals in further detail. Councillors confirmed they were unsure of the location and requested verification of the exact location together with a site map in the first instance.

12. Correspondence for Information: Circulated by the Clerk

A new Tree Preservation Order has been submitted - reference number 737 (2025) affecting a tree at Westfield House, Bransford Road, Rushwick, WR2 5TB.

Save the Date - Local Government Reorganisation briefing. An online (Teams) briefing session for Parish and Town Councils on Local Government Reorganisation will be held from 6pm-7pm on Monday, 7 July 2025

13. Councillors' reports and items for future agendas - None

The meeting closed at 8.38 PM.

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

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The parishioner commented on parking along the Bransford Road/Grange Lane junction creating road safety and visibility issues. He was advised that the Parish Council supports the proposed Traffic Regulation Order for the Bransford Road/Grange Lane junction and have requested that double yellow lines along Bransford Road to be extended to the West and East of the junction to the kerb drops for pedestrian crossing outside Balmedie to the West and to just before the junction with Claphill Lane to the East.

County Councillor Chris McSweeney

A new administration has been formed led by Jo Monk and the Reform Party.
The Overview and Scrutiny is run by all the other parties.

District Councillor Peter Whatley

MHDC has a new Administration.

The Government intends to sweep away all 21 two-tier council areas in England in favour of creating unitary councils. This represents the most significant change to how councils are structured, and services are delivered in the county in over 50 years. There are currently two options being considered:

Replace all councils with one unitary council

This would replace the county council and six district, city and borough councils with just one council for the whole of Worcestershire. It would provide all services from collecting bins to school admissions. The new council would geographically cover the same areas as Worcestershire County Council does now.

Replace all councils with two unitary councils

This means the county would be split into two new councils with one for the north of the county and one for the south of the county. Each one would be responsible for all services in their part of the county. Councillors will be asked in the autumn to decide which of the two options to work up in more detail and submit to the Government by 28 November 2025. Comments to support councillors to make this decision to be received by 29.6.2025

We await update on the SWDPR, which appears to have gone very quiet.

Rushwick Parish Council Consultation Comments

Planning Application 25/00459/OUT

Severn House, Bromyard Road, Crown East

Outline application for a development of nine Class E(g) (i,ii and iii) business units with details of access, layout and landscaping submitted for consideration

Rushwick Parish Council objects to this development and **recommends the application is refused**. Our principal reasons are:-

Site Allocation

The application land is not allocated for development in the South Worcester Development Plan (SWDP) that was adopted in 2016.

The SWDP classifies this land as 'Green and Enhance' and consequently the proposed development is contrary to SWDP Policy 5 on Green Infrastructure.

Active Travel and Vehicle Access

The only access to the site by bicycle would require travelling along the A44 which is fast busy road used by a number of large lorries. Cycling along this route and turning right into the site would create a significant, and unacceptable safety hazard.

The cycle route from Worcester suggested in the application is not suitable, practical or sustainable for commuter travel. It is often impassable during the winter and heavily rutted during the summer. There is no suitable cycle route from the west of the site that does not involve using the A44, which as stated above is considered unsafe.

There is no suitable bus schedule to Crown East that would suit commuter travel as there are no buses prior to 9am or after 6pm.

Pedestrian access from Crown East is also not safe or sustainable. The footpath which is only 1.2m wide and often overgrown makes it unsafe to use without stepping onto the A44 or being too close to the heavy commercial traffic which frequently uses that section of the A44.

The application appears to have significantly underestimated the traffic flows generated by the development and does not appear to have taken into account traffic from the West of Worcester development including the new access roundabout which will be constructed on the A44 immediately to the East of Crown East.

Access to the site from Worcester during rush hour will cause delays and disruption to the traffic and unless an additional lane is installed for the right hand turn into the site will cause a significant safety hazard. It does not appear that the developers are planning any such works.