

Minutes of the Meeting of Rushock Parish Council held on Tuesday 14th January 2014 in Rushock Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs. L. McCurrich, J. Nicholls, D. Cutler, T. Green and G. Wilson, County Cllr S. Clee, PC P. Green, PCSO D. Johnson and the Clerk.

To Receive Apologies and Approve Reasons for Absence: Apologies were received from Cllrs. S. Hamilton and S. Palmer and Mr. W. Waldron

Declarations of Interest: There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes: Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 19.11.13 were approved and signed as a true record.

Progress Reports not Covered Elsewhere: Cllr McCurrich had spoken to Dr. Wilkie at Chaddesley Surgery concerning the Free Stop Smoking and NHS Health Checks and he was of the opinion that it was a commercial money making scheme and was not of much value as they did not have access to patients records and most surgeries would offer the same service. A reply had been sent concerning the bus service as agreed at the last meeting. Cllr Nicholls advised that a decision was likely to be made tomorrow.

Reports from District and County Councillors if Present: Cllr Clee advised that the new Leisure Centre at Silverwoods was to replace The Glades which was now in a dilapidated state. It would have an Olympic size swimming pool and a childrens' pool and was expected to open at the end of 2015. Negotiations were taking place with a large supermarket over the current site. Concerning the energy from waste plant at Hartlebury, Cllr McCurrich thought it was a great pity that County Council had not issued a succinct summary to Parish Councils of the cost and why this was the best option. The brigading of ballots was an economic measure to hold ballots and referendums all on the same day. The number of District Councillors was to be reduced from 42 to 33 with three District Councilors to cover Cookley, Wolverley, Blakedown and Chaddesley. There was to be a service of celebration in February to mark the life of Elizabeth Mills who had died recently and who had served for 67 years on various councils.

Police: Cllr McCurrich welcomed PC Phil Green and PCSO Deb Johnson. PC Green commented on the monthly reports which were being issued and there was not much in the way of crime in rural areas. There had been no reported incidents in Rushock since the December report. He reported on his dealings with two scrap metal yards and the new measures they were taking to reduce scrap metal theft. It was likely that there would be a merger of West Mercia and Warwickshire Police Forces. Cllr McCurrich thought it would be nice to have a record of road accidents in the parish but if no one was injured, the accident was not reported. PCSO Johnson re-iterated that it was important to make sure no goods were left in cars and cars were secured.

Precept: Cllr McCurrich expressed concern over the phasing out of the Churchyard Grant. Cllr Clee advised that it had been a gentlemen's agreement and the District Council did not have a statutory duty to provide it. It was proposed that Cllr Cutler put forward an funding application with regard to litter picking and the grass cutting contractor would be consulted over the use of a church owned lawnmower. Cllr McCurrich had proposed a precept for 2014-2015 of £2020 which would be a 6.32% increase but would appear on Council Tax bills as 3.47%. It was **Proposed** Cllr Nicholls and **Seconded** Cllr Cutler and unanimously agreed that the Precept would be calculated to show a 5% increase on Council Tax bills.

Planning: The Energy from Waste Plant at Hartlebury had already been covered.

Highways: Cllr Nicholls reported that the lengthsman had rodded various drains although there was still an issue with drainage on the A442 by the Trading Estate and at Gabbs Farm but this work needed to be organized with David Hunter as traffic management was required. Bollards needed to be replaced by Gabbs Farm following an accident. The proposed new 'Slow' signs should help. It had not yet been possible to fill the verges in Park Lane and New Farm Lane with scalplings due to the weather and work commitments of the lengthsman and Mr. Pardoe. The Clerk had written to Mr. Weaver, Mr. Tynan and Mr. Kendrick concerning logs on the verges and they had been removed. Upton Warren

District Council had arranged for a 'No HGV' sign on the A38 at the junction with Ford Lane which should stop HGVs making their way to Rushock.

Footpaths: Cllr Green reported that some maintenance of styles had taken place and it was hoped that the Parish Paths Partnership would continue next year.

Finance: Current position: £4707.27 Co-op Bank. 121 Lloyds Bank shares @ 85.35. Cllr Clee advised that the Cambridge and Counties Bank was offering 2% interest rate. The Clerk to investigate and enquire of the Co-op Bank if Parish Council money was covered by the Government guarantee if the bank failed. Cllr McCurrich to attend the Budget Consultation meeting 22.1.14 at County Hall.

Cheques: Cheques had already been issued to W. Waldron £275.00 and D.E. Talbot £144.00. Cheques were signed for Glasdon £78.18, the Clerk £229.46, Inland Revenue £50.40 and L. McCurrich £15.00 (to cover the cost of the buffet for 3 councilors at the last CALC meeting).

CALC and Other Meetings: Cllr Green reported on the CALC Area meeting 10.12.13 and the proposed World War One Commemorations. There was no war memorial in Rushock and efforts were to be made to discover if anyone from Rushock had died in either WW1 or WW2. Cllr Cutler suggested that poppy seeds could be scattered by the bench and possibly some daffodils planted. Cllr Green would contact Worcester Wild Life Trust who he thought may provide poppy seeds free of charge. Cllr Green to attend next Parish Forum 10.4.14.

Minutes from Neighbouring Parish Councils: Cllr McCurrich reported on Minutes received from Elmbridge 13.11.13. A letter had been received from Chaddesley Corbett Parish Council giving details of viewing times and locations of their Draft Neighbourhood Plan.

Emergency Plan: Cllr D. Cutler and Mr. J. Cutress had attended the Emergency Planning Forum 20.11.13 and it was thought a brief note could be inserted in the Magazine to remind people of the Emergency Plan. Cllr Clee advised that Richard Osborne is Emergency Co-ordinator for Wyre Forest. The 'sand' bags were to be given to the Lengthsman. Cllr Cutler to attend next meeting 16.4.14.

Localism Bill: Churchyard Grant already covered.

Communications with residents: Cllr McCurrich was submitting reports to the Magazine

Training: No training had been undertaken but the Council would be very happy to pay for anyone to attend CALC training courses.

Correspondence: Listed separately. The Parish Games Quiz Night would take place on 19th March 2014. Details to be put into the Magazine. No-one was able to attend the Mayor's Ball on 7th February and apologies to be sent.

Points for Information and Items for Future Agenda: The next Parish Council elections would take place on Thursday 22nd May 2014 and Cllr Clee would send details of the relevant dates, especially the date by which nominations have to be in.

Date of Next Meetings: Annual Parish Meeting and Parish Council Meeting Tuesday, 15th April at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.00pm.

Pauline Trimble
Clerk

