

Minutes of the Meeting of Rushock Parish Council held on Tuesday 8th April 2014 in Rushock Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs. L. McCurrich, J. Nicholls, D. Cutler, T. Green and G. Wilson, District Cllr P. Hayward, PCSO D. Johnson, PCSO S. Eden, Mr. W. Waldron and the Clerk.

To Receive Apologies and Approve Reasons for Absence: Apologies were received from Cllrs. S. Hamilton, S. Clee and S. Williams.

Declarations of Interest: There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes: Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 14.1.14 and Planning Meeting 24.2.14 were approved and signed as a true record.

Progress Reports not Covered Elsewhere: Cllr McCurrich reported that it was ironic that although the new process of using cheques and not cash should solve the scrap metal problem, lead had been stolen from the church roof.

Reports from District and County Councilors if Present: Cllr Hayward reported that although WFDC had tried to keep the rates down as well as possible, after four years of not raising the rates there had been a small rise this year. It was thought that commencement of the link road from Stourport to Kidderminster should be fairly imminent. The Council to write to Cllr Clee to ask why the rubbish dump at Hoobrook had been closed. Cllr Hayward did not know the reason for John Champion's resignation as Leader of the Council but Marcus Hart had taken over for the time being.

Police: PCSOs Debbie Johnson and Sue Eden reported that there had been no key crimes in Rushock over the last two months. Chaddesley had had 4 burglaries in the last month and consequently unmarked police vehicles were patrolling rural areas, including Rushock. A rogue trader awareness operation had been launched today and leaflets would be sent to the Clerk. Cllr Nicholls mentioned the problem of HGVs getting stuck in the lanes despite the signage. Cllr McCurrich is in touch with Hovi.

Elections: It was hoped that Jon Cutress would stand in place of Sam Palmer who had stood down. Tom Jennings had agreed to stand for election and Cllr Hamilton had indicated her agreement to stand down.

Planning: Application No. 14/0141/FULL Two storey side extension at Fairview, Clattercut Lane, Rushock, had been considered by the Planning Subcommittee and there was no objection to this application which was in fact smaller than the two previous applications.

Highways: Cllr Nicholls reported that some work had been carried out at Gabbs Farm although the drain still needed jetting. The bollards had been re-instated. The drain on the A442 still not cleared. It was hoped the verges in Park Lane and New Farm Lane would be re-instated in the near future. There had been a mini landslip in Lunnon Lane. Several residents had contacted Cllr Nicholls about the speed of farm vehicles in the lanes and the Council were concerned at the quantity of farm vehicles and the speed at which they go. The new Lengthsman contract had been received for the coming year at the same level as last year.

Footpaths: Cllr Green reported that he had applied for a grant from the Parish Paths Partnership. There was some serious over cropping of some paths and the Area Officer was to investigate.

Finance: Since the last meeting it had been revealed that the Co-op Bank were in worse financial difficulties than was thought and the FSA had advised Cllr McCurrich that Parish Councils were not covered by the Government Guarantee. It had been decided to move from the Co-op to Lloyds Bank and it was **Proposed:** Cllr McCurrich and **Seconded:** Cllr Nicholls and unanimously agreed that the clerk should set up an account at Lloyds with the signatories being Cllr McCurrich, Cllr Nicholls, Cllr Green and the Clerk to enable her to receive correspondence. Whilst this was being put in place £3,000 had been temporarily moved out of the Co-op Bank into the Rushock PCC account which requires multiple signatories and it was **Proposed:** Cllr McCurrich and **Seconded:** Cllr Nicholls and unanimously agreed that this should be

ratified. The questionnaire with regard to the Transparency Code for Parish Councils was discussed and completed. Tony Horton had kindly agreed to conduct the internal audit.

Cheques: Cheques had already been issued to Glasdon for bollards £110.02. Cheques were signed for the Clerk £229.46, Inland Revenue £50.40, Zurich Insurance £243.80 and W. Waldron £225.00 who was commended for his detailed worksheets.

CALC and Other Meetings: Cllr Green reported that no-one living in Rushock had died in WW1. He could obtain poppy seeds from Worcester Wild Life Trust but these could not be sown on grass. It was proposed that Cllr McCurrich speak to Simon Jennings about creating a bare patch for the poppies near the bench. Cllr McCurrich had attended the WCC Budget Consultation Meeting 22.1.14. Cllr T. Green to attend next Area Meeting 10.4.14. Cllrs D. Cutler and T. Green to attend Parish Conference 30.4.14.

Minutes from Neighbouring Parish Councils: Minutes had been received from Elmbridge 8.1.14.

Emergency Plan: A reminder of the Emergency Plan had been inserted in the Magazine. Jon Cutress has some sandbags but if supplies are needed residents should contact the Worcestershire Hub who will direct them to Green Street depot. Cllr Cutler and Jon Cutress to attend next meeting 16.4.14.

Localism Bill: Cllr Cutler advised that undertaking litter picking would not work in Rushock and Cllr McCurrich advised that there would be no saving using a church owned lawnmower.

Communications with residents: It was agreed that a total reprint should be obtained of the Rushock Parish Council Information and Community Emergency Plan rather than stick on labels. This would cost £184 for 150. Alternative quotes to be obtained by Cllr McCurrich and Cllr Cutler.

Training: No training had been undertaken but there should be further training courses available after the election which new and existing councilors may take up. Cllr Dee expressed an interest in a planning training course.

Correspondence: Listed separately.

Points for Information and Items for Future Agenda: The Flying the Flag ceremony would take place on 23rd June. Cyril Savage had attended last year but had said he was not keen to do it again. Cllr Nicholls might be able to attend and would check this.

Date of Next Meetings: Annual Parish Meeting, Annual Meeting and Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 28th May 2014 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm

Pauline Trimble
Clerk