

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF
RUSHWICK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 9th SEPTEMBER 2015 AT 7.30 PM
IN RUSHWICK VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr Deakin (Chairman), Cllr Parker, Cllr Elcock, Cllr Bennett, Cllr Haywood, Cllr Wigglesworth and Cllr Rowley.

In Attendance: County Councillor Grove, District Councillors Chambers & Godwin and PC Martin Butcher. PC Martin Butcher offered some help and advice in respect of agenda item 11.

1. Apologies for absence: Cllr Williams (Personal) - accepted
2. Declaration of Interests
 1. Members were reminded to update their register of interests.
 2. Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary: None
 3. Other Disclosable Interests: None
3. To consider written requests from Councillors for the Council to Grant a Dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011): None requested.

No questions for Public Question Time.
4. Minutes: Having been previously circulated the minutes of The Parish Council meeting of 12th August 2015 were signed as a true and correct record.
5. Progress Reports: No matters arising from previous minutes. The Action Plan was reviewed and updated.
6. Parish Lengthsman Scheme: An update was received as per worksheet.
7. Reports from representatives: To receive an update
 - 7.1 County Councillor: Cllr Grove
 - Roadshows have taken place over the last 6 weeks concerning Devolution
 - Syrian Refugees – Government has announced details to follow. County will review once financial costs are established.
 - Update on the Ketch roundabout./Southern Link Road
 - Norton Parkway – Planning Permission has been granted anticipated build by Autumn 2017
 - National Heritage Scheme – Free museum visits available – please check the website for further details
 - 7.2 District Councillor: Cllr Chambers.
 - Derived from the NADMC looking into the legal stance on the wording ‘betterment’ against ‘substantial’ that was recorded in respect of planning application no: 15/00504/OUT. It was determined betterment was the correct terminology. This information has been relayed to Mr. John Scott.
 - 5th October 2015 Parish and Town Conference 6-9pm at MHDC Council Chambers
 - Strategic Review is in progress. This will be reported on in November 2015
 - SWDP Update
 - 22.09.15 – SWDP presented to MHDC for approval
 - 30.09.15 – SWDP presented to Worcester City Council and Wychavon for approval
 - Mid Oct – Late Nov – 6 week consultation on the proposed modifications
 - Jan/Feb 2016 – Inspectors Final report
 - Referred to all three Councils for formal adoption Feb/March 2016
 - March – May – Judicial Review
 - May 2016 – Formally adopted

- 7.3 Report from Village Hall Committee: Cllr Rowley
- Following a review of processes and reporting procedures three books have been set up , Stewards Book, Health & Safety and a Caretakers Book to help identify any issues.
 - In the process of obtaining quotes for the bell pull cord in the cloakroom
 - Reviewing key holders
 - Looking into the possible purchase of new chairs.
- 7.4 Footpath Officers report: A report was circulated from Cllr Williams
- 7.5 Report from Playscape: Cllr Parker
- The disabled swing has been vandalized by children attending Christopher Whitehead School This will be reported to the Headmaster.
 - Thanks were expressed to Oldbury Park Tigers for leaving the pitch in a very tidy state after their use.
 - Play equipment repairs are in hand.
- 7.6 School Representative report: Cllr Wigglesworth

'The 2015/16 school year is going to be important year for Rushwick School, as the school responds to local pressure on pupil numbers and national policy on education and devolution of local authority services :

The local authority is looking more likely to formalise a consultation process over the potential expansion of the school from five classes to seven, making us a one form entry school. The school is almost full to capacity at the moment and the demand for school places this side of the river is becoming an ever more acute issue. Our school leadership has been approached about the setting up of a meeting early this term to discuss whether and how to begin a formal consultation process. It will be interesting to where this leads, but there is already strong support within the school community about the benefits of us becoming one form entry, not least because this will mean year groups will not have to be split, thus avoiding the perennial time consuming process around explaining the benefits of divide seven curriculum years into five classes.

As the local authority continues to outsource more and more of its services to private providers, the pressure / incentives for maintained schools like Rushwick to become part of an academy network increase. Our school has already formed strong partnerships with other local schools but there is an ongoing dialogue at leadership level about the potential of formalising our relationships in the form of a 'Multi Academy Trust'. If this does happen, it will involve a full consultation process with the school community and the support of the Diocese. There is an increasing sense that we may be reaching a tipping point and that by becoming we will be in a stronger position to continue moving the school forward.

The broad KS2 SATS results for 2015 were at least in line with national expectations and well above national averages in terms of pupils achieving level 4 or above in Reading, Writing and Mathematics. The makeup of this

particularly Year 6 was quite complex and as expected the percentage of pupils achieving Level 5 or above in certain areas was lower than previous cohorts. Results elsewhere throughout the school were also strong and the school is well placed to continue the trend of performing well above national averages. This year 6 have moved on to the usual mix of high schools, with Christopher Whitehead's and The Chase continuing to be the most popular.

The whole school community was very sad to hear of the passing away of Father Robin Charles. Although the current pupils never really got to know or see Robin, past pupils and longer serving staff members appreciated the time Robin gave with collective worship, visits to the Church at Crown East and community events such as Carols for All. Robin provided strong support to the school leadership during past Ofsted and Church School inspections and made a valuable contribution to establishing our school aims.'

8. **Finance**

8.1 Payment of accounts as per schedule distributed were authorized.

9. **Planning:** No planning applications to review

Concerns have been raised with the Enforcement Officer regarding right of access for 14 houses land at Upper Wick Lane – Planning Application No: 15/00870/FUL

10. **Update on progress with applications for Expenditure of Section 106 monies**

The Chairman to respond to Planning Officer Tony Young's request to confirm suitable projects that may be eligible for funding within the Parish in respect of planning application 14/01196/OUT. These include:-

- Playscape
- Rushwick Cricket Club
- The Church
- The Guides/Scouts
- The Village Hall

11. **To Discuss Speeding and Parking Issues through the village**

PC Martin Butcher advised The Parish Council to make contact with Safer Roads Partnership who require statistical data before any enforcement action can be taken.

- It was identified there is speeding in Upper Wick lane towards the Cricket Club with many drivers not stopping at the T- Junction before turning right towards the Club.
- Another area identified was the Bransford Road (outside the Village Hall) early morning after 7am and again early evening 5-6pm.

PC Butcher will endeavor to have the white road markings reinstated and will liaise with WCC. (Cllr Grove to report as a matter of urgency)

He also suggested that the Parish Council and the Police issue a joint letter to the Cricket Club to raise speed awareness with members.

PC Butcher also to issue an advice notice to address parking problems on the corner of Claphill Lane/Minett Ave.

12. **Correspondence for Information:**

1. Update and receipt of a donation from the Whitehall Inn
2. Malvern Hills Area Meeting Tuesday 13th October 2015 at 7.30pm at County Hall, Worcester

13. **Councillors' reports and items for future agendas**

Request from Cllr Elcock for Defibrillator Training to feature on the October Agenda

Under The Public Bodies (Admission to Meeting(s)) Act 1960 The Council resolved to exclude the public and press from agenda item 14 as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

- 14. **To conduct Clerk's Annual Review** – Review to be carried out by Cllrs Deakin and Parker.
Date to be arranged.

Meeting closed at 10.20pm

Sharon Baxter
Clerk

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