

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF RUSHWICK PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9th NOVEMBER 2016 AT 7.30 PM
IN RUSHWICK VILLAGE HALL**

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

In Attendance: District Councillor Chambers plus 15 members of the public. Elizabeth Woods and David Weale representing Persimmon Homes

1. Apologies for absence: County Cllr Grove (attendance at the Sports Awards at Six Ways) and District Cllr Godwin (Work)
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.

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| The meeting was adjourned for Public Question Time, notes of which are appended to these minutes |
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4. Minutes: The minutes of The Parish Council Meetings stated below were deferred for signing.
 - Wednesday 13th July 2016
 - Wednesday 10th August 2016
 - Wednesday 14th September 2016
 - Wednesday 12th October 2016
 - Planning Committee Minutes 20th October 2016
 - Planning Committee Minutes 3rd November 2016
5. Progress Reports: The action plan was reviewed and updated
A request was made by Cllr Parker for the tree tops to be cut at Playscape.
Clerk to advise County Cllr Grove that the tree awaiting removal on Grange Lane is not the landowners responsibility. This is now confirmed as per Deeds.
Cllrs Deakin/Parker to read/ complete the blanks /raise any queries to the draft football contract as supplied by the solicitors.
Clerk to request to County Cllr Grove if a further inspection could be made on Minett Ave on a Thursday morning on a bin recycling day to highlight the problems parishioners are experiencing.
6. Parish Lengthsman Scheme: An update was received as per worksheet.
7. Reports from representatives: The following updates were received.
 - 7.1 County Councillor - Cllr Grove – No report available.
 - 7.2 District Councillors – Cllrs Chambers
 - Staff have moved out of the Council House whilst refurbishment/demolition is underway. It is anticipated staff (including those currently at Brunel House) will move back in February/March 2017.
 - 5 year Strategic Plan is currently underway with extensive consultation and focus groups. Feedback is people are generally content with ideas which need to be delivered within existing budgets.
 - Community Awards to take place on 1st December 2016.
 - Parish & Town Conference is under review. Executive Officer Richard Levett from CALC is

to liaise with Parishes to establish what they actually want from this Conference.

- Waste Procurement Exercise is in progress. The next stage is to meet with the three contractors.
- A request was put forward from Cllr Roger Bass (Lower Broadheath) if Lower Broadheath, Rushwick and Cotheridge and Broadwas would like to visit the waste site. Cllrs from RPC thought this was a good idea and expressed interest.

7.3 Report from Village Hall Committee – Cllr Rowley

RESOLVED: To purchase a new boiler (Nesbets EB3FX Lincat) at a cost of £363.59 for the Village Hall from the £650 budget at the onset of the financial year and then to pay the remainder of the monies to the Village Hall.

7.4 Footpath Officers report

Cllr Williams is in the progress of obtaining some dog gates to be installed in Upper Wick Lane. Cllr Haywood highlighted that Western Power wants to install electricity cables along the Ashpath. Some landowners had been notified.

7.5 Report from Playscape

a. Update on Football Contract – In progress.

Cllr Parker reported vandalism to the fence at the entrance to Playscape. This had been reported to the Police (Crime Ref: 22CC-86693-16) Graffiti had also occurred on the Wendy House.

Clerk to request one further grass cut before winter.

Quotes are in the process of being obtained to enter into a grass cutting contract for next year.

7.6 School Representative report – Cllr Wigglesworth

Works gone out to tender. Anticipated work is to start next term with a new pond installed before Christmas.

8. Finance

8.1 Payment of accounts as per schedule were authorized.

8.2 Quarterly budget comparison to 30.06.16 and 30.09.26 circulated.

9. Planning: To consider planning applications received below and prior to this meeting:-

Planning Application No: 16/01497/FUL

Proposal: The erection of two detached dwellings

Location: Land adjacent to The Nursery, Upper Wick Lane, WR2 5SN

Comments: Please see attached.

10. **Correspondence for Information**

1. Contribution of £200 from Whitehall Inn and letter update - dated 16.10.16

2. MHDC Tree Preservation Order number 588 (2016) - 1 Orchard Close

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

Cllr Rowley requested if the same person who cleans the bus stops would be prepared to clean the notice boards. Clerk to make enquiries.

Cllr Elcock confirmed he had organized the wreath for Remembrance Sunday.

He also suggested any plans concerning building development received from MHDC be displayed on the windows of the Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 9.05pm

Sharon Baxter

Clerk

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

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Elizabeth Woods and David Weale representing Persimmon Homes briefed The Parish Council on the proposal to build 104 houses on the Bransford Road. No formal planning application has been submitted to MHDC as yet as they are in the process of acquiring the land.

John Scott – Broadmore Green
Please refer to his update

Abigail Tilling
Please refer to her statement

Members of the public expressed their general dissatisfaction in respect of the upcoming Planning Application for land off Bransford Road and Greenlight Development.

Planning Application No: 16/01497/FUL

Proposal: The erection of two detached dwellings

Location: Land adjacent to The Nursery, Upper Wick Lane, WR2 5SN

Comments: Please see below

Rushwick Parish Council (RPC) has concerns relating to this application and objects on the following grounds;

- 1 OVERDEVELOPMENT
- 2 ACCESS
- 3 SAFETY

1 OVERDEVELOPMENT

There is already a high level of development and house building along this unadopted, agricultural track and Public Right of Way;

- 4 large family homes built at The Birches
- 2 houses have had large extensions – including immediate adjacent property of Nursery Bungalow
- Planning permission granted for 2 new houses on an adjacent plot.

The wider Parish Rushwick has been subject to considerable speculative housing development in last few years and the SWDP has identified other areas for further development. The Rushwick Parish Profile shows that in the decade up to 2011 Rushwick had an increase of 35 new houses.

In the years since 2011 Rushwick Parish has seen the building of or planning permission granted for almost 60 new houses.

Currently there are 4 plots for which further planning applications are being made;

- 18 on Old Bransford Road
- 55 on Bransford Road on land adjacent to the Village Hall
- 106 between the A4440 and Laugherne Brook by Persimmon
- 150 at Grove Farm off A4440

In the West Worcester Development the Parish will see over a 1000 new houses built within it's boundary.

With this scale of development ongoing RPC does not feel that these houses are required.

2 ACCESS

RPC has 2 concerns relating to access, in that vehicular access to these houses is along a Public Footpath, number 520, that this may be;

- In breach of Section 34 of The Road Traffic Act 1988
- Cause detriment and neighbour nuisance in the immediate area of the development.

This Public Right of Way, which is known locally as The Ash Path, is an agricultural track.

This development will require vehicular access along a Public Right of Way, for developers and subsequently for new home owners. Representations made by Parishioners have identified that:

- The maintenance of The Ash Path is the responsibility of home owners who currently reside along the Ash Path, or whose properties in Christine Avenue back onto the Ash Path.
- They are also the only ones with vehicular 'rights of access' over the Ash Path through the part that relates to their property.
- This is all outlined in detail in their Property Deeds.

RPC would ask Planning Officers to consult with Highways and other relevant MHDC Officers to consider this point of law.

The outcome on the Ash Path of all this development traffic and subsequent increase in vehicle movements, related to new home ownership and service/support requirements, is causing neighbour nuisance. Damage to the surface of the Ash Path for both users and the local home owners who have financial responsibility for its upkeep.

RPC considers that this is unfair as none of the affected home owners could reasonably foresee this outcome and increased costs.

3 SAFETY

RPC's main point regarding safety going forward with this development is that of safety of pedestrians using Ash Path in light of;

- a) increased vehicular movements
- b) degradation of the track surface
- c) lack of safe passing places for pedestrians and cyclists
- d) lack of safe passing places for vehicles, except for the one proposed

The Ash Path connects with 2 other Public Rights of Way, Footpaths 518 and 521, serving the large residential areas within Rushwick of Christine Ave, Vivian Ave, Grange Lane and Upper Wick Lane.

Many children and Parishioners use this route to go and from;

- School
- The village play area at Playscape
- Village bus stop
- Village Hall
- Village Pub
- Visit their friends and neighbours
- Walk their dogs
- Go for a stroll

RPC is going to approach the MHDC Footpaths Officer for an opinion on what a relevant surface for this Public Footpath, in these new conditions, ought to be.

Similarly, RPC will ask The Ramblers Association for recommendations.

RPC considers that this development makes the area less safe for its Parishioners.

RPC objects this planning application and recommends REFUSAL.