

# **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Rushock Parish Council held on Thursday, 16th May 2019 at Rushock Village Hall at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllrs. T. Green, (TG) (Chairman), D Cutler (DC), S Davis, (SD), R Hampshire (RH), Cllr. T. Jennings (TJ) and Cllr. J Nicholls (JN).

**Also Present were:** The clerk Mrs. B J Drew (BD), the Lengthsman Mr. Bill Waldron (BW), and local residents Malcolm Linney (ML) and Cyril Savage (CS).

**1.Apologies and Approve Reasons for Absence:** Rebecca Ruston, West Mercia Police

**2.Declarations of Interest:** None.

**3.Minutes of the last Meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2018:** These were duly approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

**4.Chairman's Report:** The Chairman reported as follows: -

My first task is to thank all councillors for their continuing help and support over the last year which has been invaluable. Their willingness to take on a range of projects is much appreciated and has allowed the parish council to continue to make improvements in the parish this year. Laurence McCurrich and Grenville Wilson have decided to stand down and I would like to thank them on behalf of the council for their many years of service. Marcus Hart also decided to stand down as clerk in August but was instrumental in helping us to recruit Bev Drew as a replacement. Bev has extensive experience as a Parish Clerk which has been very beneficial and I would like to thank her for her help and guidance.

## **Meetings**

The Council has held four Council meetings, six Planning Committee meetings and one Staffing Committee meeting. We have also been well represented at CALC meetings, WFDC Parish Forums and WCC meetings.

## **Planning**

There have been four planning applications, one of which was recommended for refusal, One Prior Notification of permitted development and one Certificate of Lawfulness relating to permitted development during the year.

## **Finance**

A modest increase in precept to cover increased costs was agreed unanimously by councillors. We have also received £500 from our County Councillor, £750 from WFDC Localism Fund along with our Lengthsman's scheme funding. No councillors have claimed personal expenses. There has been unplanned expenditure this year on legal fees to resolve issues identified with the Village Hall Trust Deed. I would like to thank Marcus Hart who has continued to provide free help and guidance on the Trust Deed even though he is no longer employed by the council.

## **Highways**

Our Lengthsman, Bill Waldron, has continued his sterling work and there have been no flooding issues this year. Effective gritting of the designated lanes was carried out by WCC during the winter weather. The

Parish Council has made some improvements to the verges in Park Lane. The long-awaited resurfacing of New Farm Lane was completed and improvements to the passing place were funded from the Lengthsman's budget. Direction signs for the church, funded from last year's Localism grant, were finally installed by WCC.

### **Footpaths**

These remain in good condition generally with footpaths through crops being sprayed off by the landowner. Six new finger post signs were installed by Worcestershire County Council. An application for Parish Paths Partnership funding for 2019-20 has been agreed.

### **Community**

Residents have been kept informed via the Four Square magazine and the parish website is well maintained with prompt updates. The Smart Water security system was rolled out at the Rushock Extravaganza in June where kits were available for purchase and, after some further door-to-door selling by councillors, sales reached the level of uptake required by West Mercia Police for supplying warning signs to be erected at the parish boundaries. The village hall, of which the Parish Council are custodian trustees, now has an effective and proactive management committee and the council is working with them to resolve trustee/ownership issues that have been raised.

The Parish Council sponsored the Annual Crib Service at the church with a donation of £300 as it is a well-attended community event.

**5.Community Policing:** There was no police representative available to attend the meeting. E Mail read out by Clerk.

**6.Lengthsman:** The clerk reported that the PC would receive the same grant for 2019-2020 as for 2018-2019, namely £1939.00. The Council were grateful to receive the Lengthsman's grant from WCC. The Council expressed its grateful thanks to the Lengthsman for all his hard work during the last year

**7.Residents Communications:** None

**8. Public Question Time:** None

Meeting Closed at 7.35pm