

## **Minutes of the Meeting of Rushock Parish Council**

**Held on Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2019 at Rushock Village Hall at 7.30pm**

### **Present:**

Cllr. T. Green (TG) (Chairman)  
Cllr. D Cutler (DC) (Vice Chairman)  
Cllr. S Davies (SD)  
Cllr. R. Hampshire (RH)  
Cllr. T. Jennings (TJ)  
Cllr. J. Nicholls (JN)

### **Also Present were:**

The clerk Mrs B J Drew (BD) District Cllr Mrs Lisa Jones (LJ) Mr. Malcolm Linney (local resident) and the Lengthsman, Mr. Bill Waldron (BW).

### **1. Apologies for Absence:**

District/County Councillor Mr. Marcus Hart (MH) and District Councillor Ian Hardiman (IH).

### **2. Co-option**

TG reported that Grenville Wilson Jnr does not wish to be considered for co-option and asked all Councillors to think of anyone that may be interested.

### **3. Public Question Time:**

None

### **4. Minutes:**

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2019 were duly approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

### **5. Progress Reports:**

TG reported that he and DC had completed and returned the Worcestershire Passenger Transport Consultation Form.

TG and BD have completed and returned a Localism Fund Evaluation Form.

### **6. County Councillor's Report:**

#### **Rushock Issues**

Further to the resurfacing of New Farm Lane as promised I did ask for action on the size of the gap between the highway and the verge and this was inspected and some work done on the worse parts to tackle this.

I am delighted to report that new speed limit on the A442 at Podmore is now in place, including the 40mph signage. Whilst this is technically in Stone Parish and indeed parts of Wychavon District it does affect Rushock residents.

I am very pleased that substantial resurfacing work has now been undertaken by Ringway on behalf of WCC highways in Park Lane and that as a result of my request on behalf of representations by the Parish Council that scalping's were put down to remove the dangerous drops from the even higher road surface to the grass verge. I did see the car that was stuck outside Park Cottage! I am sorry it took so long to get the traffic cones removed but we got there in the end after I kept chasing.

Regarding the two men sat all day for 4 days in the tipper truck at the Clattercut Lane junction with Park Lane I have pursued this with Paul Green and I predicted what the answer would be!

“This is actually part of Ringways H&S policy to man the gate.

Although in this case there were only a few deliveries, it is part of the company policy in order:

- To the movement/removal of the gates, allowing people to drive through unchecked.
- To allow access for residents during works – using radio communication with workers in order to keep safe.
- To allow access for works vehicles.
- To help advise people who have questions about the closure and the works/reasons.”

I have said that I hope that taxpayers were not paying for this.

I obviously deal with routine highways issues as and when I receive them.

### **Wyre Forest Issues**

The public realm work for Kidderminster Town Centre is progressing and should be completed by the autumn. Large parts of Worcester Street have now been completed and the work is focusing on the junction with Blackwell Street and Coventry Street now.

Work on Kidderminster Train Station continues and should be completed by the end of this year and again, progress is clearly visible.

### **Strategic Issues County Wide**

Full Council met on 16<sup>th</sup> May. The Chairman of the Council, Councillor Peter Tomlinson (who represents Ombersley our neighboring area) was appointed for the municipal year as were a number of other appointments.

Cabinet has approved to further look at its libraries strategy following the public consultation feedback and a peer review and is looking to approve its strategy in the autumn. This may involve more self-service and less physical staff members but does not involve in shutting libraries.

Work continues to set up the wholly owned company for Children’s Social Care. It will be October 2019 when the company is completely set up and it is now likely for economies of scale and to improve outcomes for children that Education and Special Needs and Disabilities (SEND) will go into the company as well. The Company goes live on 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2019.

The County Council’s 12 week public consultation on its County wide transport strategy, including home to school transport and bus services is still running and wants to hear the views of residents and Parish Councils. The consultation runs until 13<sup>th</sup> September.

The County Council is consulting on its waste and minerals plan and is running until 30<sup>th</sup> September. Your clerk will have the details and it is important Parish Councils feed in their views.

The County Council is also undertaking a number of Adult Social Care engagement events across the County. For more details contact Marina Johnson, [mjohnson2@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:mjohnson2@worcestershire.gov.uk)

Finally, I brought the whole of Worcestershire County Council’s cabinet, including the Leader of the Council to Rushock for an away day at Rushock Village Hall on 4<sup>th</sup> September and they were all impressed with the village hall and commented on how beautiful the Parish was.

DC asked what plans are in place following the demolition of Crown House, also the former Glades Arena. LJ advised that it was planned for regeneration but it is not known if this will change with a new administration at Wyre Forest.

## **7. District Councillor's Report:**

### **Rushock Issues**

We have been dealing with the usual routine casework, reporting litter on the main A roads and along the country lanes, fly tipping which has been quite prevalent, but this has slowed down more recently and dealing with planning issues.

Calc have distributed a new list of Councillor training through your clerk and we welcome parish councils to look at the list and enroll on any courses they would find useful, if you have any suggestions for future courses Calc would be grateful of any feedback.

### **Wyre Forest Issues**

#### **Kidderminster Train Station**

Work on the £4,000,000 transformation and redevelopment of Kidderminster train station continues.

#### **Worcester Street**

Work to enhance the public realm and improve the infrastructure on Worcester Street has now commenced. This is a £2 million capital investment between the GBSLEP and County and District Council working collaboratively to lead the way in attempting to get the land holdings in that area to act differently and redevelop the redundant empty shop units. We would like to see more accommodation and affordable housing in this area as it is a sustainable location.

We have made an application to the Chancellor's £675 million to support further regeneration in this area as this is exactly what we need to get this scheme off the ground from a Council perspective as these regeneration issues especially transforming brown field sites always come down to matters of viability. The initial bid has been successful, which is very good news.

#### **Crown House**

Demolition has finally commenced, and we are very pleased about this. Demolition is likely to take another 6 months to complete.

#### **Green Street Depot**

Work is progressing well on this £3 million capital scheme which will see a brand-new fit for purpose customer service centre and major investment in the depot site. This project will make a circa £20k revenue saving overall to the Council. The new customer service centre opened on Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> September at 10:00am.

At moment no buses to the depot but this will be addressed.

#### **Local Plan**

The consultation re-opens on 2<sup>nd</sup> September. If you have any additional comments to make, please do have your say. The household flyer should now have gone out to residents.

TG queried why the Chairman's Meetings have been stopped. LJ advised that this was a decision taken by the Leader, Councillor Graham Ballinger and suggested the Parish Council complain.

## **8. Police Report:**

No representative present. BD will invite the new Inspector, David King to the next meeting.

## **9. Rushock Village Hall:**

TG reported that the final version of the deed had been received from the Solicitors for signing by all parties. Six of the seven required have been obtained but one is still outstanding. TG advised that it was disappointing the matter has not yet been brought to a conclusion and MH had advised by e mail that if the signature is not obtained the whole thing fails, several thousand pounds of Parish Council money will have been wasted and the individual would be the sole property trustee with full responsibility for the building and it's running.

TJ commented that he doesn't think there will be a problem, the Parish Council just need to give enough time for the documents to be read and digested before signing and perhaps an end date should be given by which it needs completing.

TG advised that all necessary documents, including the original deed have been supplied. The Village Hall management committee may at some point be found to be acting illegally as the initial deed was not properly executed so, although the solicitors have not set a deadline, it cannot be delayed much longer.

JN said that the hall will have an AGM in October, so it needs concluding before then. It was agreed TG ascertain the date of the AGM and give a date prior to this for the outstanding signature.

JN asked for any updates on the Village Hall, RH advised locks had been recently changed and a very successful pub night had been held, which will become a regular social event.

## **10. Worcestershire Minerals Local Plan Publication Version Consultation:**

TG and BD had looked through the consultation document. No comments to be made.

## **11. Wyre Forest District Local Plan Review – Pre-submission Publication Consultation:**

TG and BD had looked through amendments and advised nothing affects Rushock therefore no comments to be made.

## **12. Planning:**

TG reported on planning since the last meeting;

WF/19/0410/Full: Alterations to form bedroom, shower room and store at Top Barn, Gabbs Farm, Rushock. Approved.

WF/19/0525/Full: Agricultural storage building at The Old Oak Barn, Rushock. Parish Council recommend refusal. The proposed building 18 x 12 is very large for the limited seasonal sheep grazing carried out at the premises and there is concern that it would be used for the car sales business based at Old Oak Barn. The large grey building would also be visually intrusive on the open countryside which is Green Belt.

## **13. Highways:**

JN reported on work undertaken by the Lengthsman. Park Lane has finally been completed to standard. All other work is up to date, thought needs to be given to spending of balance of Lengthsman money, 2 sites would benefit from draining jets, TG advised that this would need to be approved by the County Council before any work is undertaken. BD to speak to Paul Green.

#### **14. Footpaths:**

TG informed the Parish Council that the PPP grant application had been submitted for 2019-2020 and £180.00 been approved. The Grant must be reclaimed before 1<sup>st</sup> December 2019. TJ will undertake strimming and provide Clerk with an invoice prior to the deadline. Worcestershire County Council received a number of complaints relating to three footpaths that were impassable due to crop overgrowth. Remedial action was taken to restore access.

DC raised the wobbly and dangerous state of the stile in corner of Griffins field. TG advised stiles are landowners' responsibility, JN has mentioned this to him. TG will put them in contact with the County Council who will supply a gate but won't supply a stile.

#### **15. Management of Verges:**

TG queried whether it is worth looking at as a project the management of verges, planting of wildflower seeds and protection of pollinators. TG, DC and LJ have previously attended a Pollinators conference and gained valuable information on this. DC advised that County Highways would have to agree to ensure verges identified were not cut and it would need to be where there are wider verges to not affect safety.

All Councillors were happy to support this and will look at identification of sites then a consultation could take place. Management afterwards also needs to be considered.

#### **16. Finance:**

The financial spreadsheet was duly circulated, and it was in accordance with the bank statements. The current bank balance was £3680.02

The following were approved for payment:-

Already Paid;	
Mr Waldron (Lengthsman Work)	£261.25
Worcestershire CALC (Training)	£30.00

For Approval;	
Wyre Forest District Council	£26.20
(Election costs 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2019)	
Mr W Waldron	£68.75

BD advised VAT reclaim for 17/18 of £193.04 had finally been received.

#### **17. To discuss Divisional Funding Application:**

MH has kindly offered to provide funding upon satisfactory completion of the application form.

Councillors were asked for suggestions for a project to promote or improve the economic, social or environmental well-being of Rushock. These included a bench, a vehicular activated sign, map showing history of local houses, something around pollinators.

BD to ascertain deadline for completion of form.

#### **18. Councillor Training:**

SD has attended a training session on the 5Ps.

BD has circulated further CALC training dates.

Planning Training 26<sup>th</sup> September 2019, 5.30 – 7.00pm, Wyre Forest House, TG, SD and BD to attend.

**19. CALC and Other Meetings:**

TG reported date of next Parish Forum Meeting Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2019.

Chairman's meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> September was cancelled and so are any further Chairman's meetings.

TG, SD and BD attended the last CALC meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> June where various matters were discussed and we met the new Worcestershire CALC Executive Officer, Christopher Wayman.

**20. Minutes from Neighboring Parish Councils:**

Elmbridge agenda and minutes have been received. BD to contact Elmley Lovett and exchange agenda's and minutes.

**21. Correspondence:**

The clerk circulated the schedule of correspondence and presented the correspondence to the meeting. Several items had already been discussed and the schedule was duly noted.

**22. Agenda items for future meetings:**

Management of verges  
Divisional Funding Form

**23: To note the dates of the next meetings:**

All at 7:30pm at Rushock Village Hall.

Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2019

2020:

Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2020

Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2020

Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2020

Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2020

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.35pm

Signed..... (Chairman)

Dated.....