

Minutes of the Meeting of Rushock Parish Council

held on Thursday 11th May, 2023, 8.15pm, Rushock Village Hall

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. D. Pugh (DP)

Also Present were:

The clerk Mrs. B J Drew (BD), Parish Lengthsman Mr. Bill Waldron (BW).

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Cllr M Hart (County / District Councillor), Cllr Mr R Drew (District Councillor), Cllr I Hardiman (District Councillor) and West Mercia Police.
- 2. Declarations of Councillors Interests:**
None declared.
- 3. Public Question Time:**
No Public Questions.
- 4. Minutes:**
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19th January 2023 and Extraordinary meeting held on 9th March 2023 were duly approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.
- 5. Progress Reports:**
TG/BD attended the last CALC meeting via ZOOM.
- 6. County Councillor's Report:** *Report previously circulated*

Rushock Issues

The gully connection long Well Lane from the junction of the A442 has been inspected at last and there are no connection issues. All connections were jetted and emptied.

The blocked gully by the gateway on Clattercut Lane has finally been addressed.

As you are aware as you have now had the work done, the approval was given to use lengthsman's funding to support scalplings being put down by a contractor on Park Lane.

Wyre Forest Issues

I am delighted to say that the planning inspector in respect of the planning application in respect of the Quarry at Lea Castle, Wolverley, which was refused by the WCC planning committee delivered his appeal decision on 5th May and he has dismissed the appeal which is a great result for all local residents.

Strategic Issues County Wide

Worcestershire has a fantastic website Here2Help which is a community action response to Coronavirus. There is also a dedicated phone number 01905 768053 for those without access to the

internet. There is now a Here2Helpbusiness scheme as well. (simply google Here 2 Help Worcestershire and it comes straight up.)

Here2Help is now also co-ordinating our Ukranian Refugee programme working with the 6 District Councils. We now have several hundred refugees in the County and a number of families have now come to the Wyre Forest and young people are taking up places in local schools.

OFSTED are in WCC this week inspecting our children's social care. We were rated inadequate in 2017. We were removed from being inadequate in 2019 and from intervention from the DfE last year as a result of our progress and are hoping to be rated 'good'.

WCC are undertaking a raft of lining updating on the roads now the milder weather is here and we are undertaking carriageway resurfacing and pavement resurfacing now over the spring and summer months.

7. **District Councillor's Report:** *Report previously circulated*

Please find herewith our District Councillor's report to the Parish Council. We would be grateful if you could circulate this report to the Parish Councillors and that it is read out at the meeting as none of us may be able to be present due to a meeting clash so potentially please accept our apologies. Moving forwards, as always, you can expect us to continue with our regime where there is always one of the three of us to represent the team. We are pleased to welcome Cllr. Robin Drew to our team, Lisa having stepped down.

Local Issues

We have been dealing with the usual routine casework, reporting litter and fly tipping on the main A roads and along the country lanes.

Wyre Forest Issues

I am delighted to report that the planning inspector announced his decision on the Lea Castle Quarry appeal on 5th May and am delighted that he dismissed the appeal. This is great news for the residents of the Wyre Forest Rural ward.

There were 'all out' elections on 4th May for all 33 seats, plus elections for all Town and Parish Councils save for Kidderminster. Congratulations for all new councillors in Stone who have been elected unopposed.

The make up of the new Council is as follows:-

Conservative	20	+6
Independent	6	-7
Labour	4	+2
Liberal Democrat	2	-1
Green	1	No change

The Annual Meeting of WFDC will be held on Wednesday, 17th May at 6pm at Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster.

8. **Police Report:**

We are pleased to say there have been no incidents to make you aware of this month however the team have successfully executed a warrant at Rushock Trading Estate where hundreds of Cannabis plants were located. Three males were arrested on suspicion of cultivation of Cannabis.

DC made the comment that in view of the cannabis haul possibly if any planning applications come in the future the Parish Council ask for a condition that the premises are regularly checked.

TG advised that at the last CALC meeting a Commander was present and he raised the difficulties with the split policing of Rushock along Clattercut Lane between Droitwich and Kidderminster.

9. Finance:

The financial spreadsheet was duly circulated and it was in accordance with the bank statements. The bank balance as at 31st March 2023 was £7237.49 with 5 unpresented cheques making it £4338.89. As at 29th April 2023 the balance was £10,766.89 with 2 unpresented cheques making it £8336.89.

The following were unanimously approved for payment:-

Already Paid;	
Rushock PCC (Flag)	£85.00
Rushock Village Hall (Hire of Hall – 5 meetings)	£150.00
Mr W Waldron (Lengthsman March 23)	£304.00
Green Waste Recycling Services Ltd (Park Lane Verge Repairs)	£2,280.00
Mrs B J Drew (Expenses to 31st March 23)	£56.60
To Be Paid;	
Worcestershire CALC (Annual Subs)	£107.59
Zurich Municipal (Insurance)	£214.00
DM Payroll Services Ltd (Internal Audit)	£60.00
Mrs B J Drew (Coronation Scones / Gift)	£150.15
Mrs S Davies (Coronation Expenses)	£227.16
Mrs C Jennings (Coronation Expenses)	£86.50

10. To discuss training requirements:

TG encouraged attendance at Training events. Cllr D Pugh will attend “Off to a Flying Start” as a new Councillor. DP to advise clerk of preferred date.

11. Update on bench and memorial post:

SD reported that the wood for the bench is currently being engraved. The area outside the village hall for the memorial post has been cleared. DP may have a suitable post. The plaques to go on the memorial post will be standardized.

12. To discuss Biodiversity Project:

TG reported on a good display of bulbs and the replacement black pear tree is looking good. Bannutree will undertake the first cut at the end of June/early July. There is approximately £100 left in the coronation fund which will be used for tree planting in the Autumn.

DC reported on an event attended at County Hall to mark five years of the Natural Networks programme. It is great news that funding will still be available for parts of Worcestershire including Wyre Forest. Existing team members are remaining and will give advice, they have supported hundreds of projects and have increased public perception of the need for biodiversity.

SD suggested possibly a wildflower bed but these can be difficult to make successful.

DC advised that lady smock is a wonderful butterfly attractor and hedge garlic. She was disappointed with the tulips.

TJ advised that he had seen verge cutting around Chaddesley Woods and asked if we knew when they are in Rushock. As we don't it was agreed to ask County Councillor Marcus Hart to urge WCC to do as Gloucester County Council do and leave the verge cutting on lanes until the end of June if possible, with splays will be cleared by Bill. The verges are looking beautiful at the moment and attracting lots of birds, insects etc. Also can we pursue the Parish Council taking over verge maintenance on the lanes with the A442 to be covered by contractors,

13. Planning:

TG reported on Planning since the last meeting; still awaiting a decision on Callimore application.

14. Highways and Verges:

The damage to Park Lane over the winter with tractors and HGVs was discussed and although some repairs have been carried out recently, it was suggested the Parish Council ask for a site meeting with Hayley Steele (Highways) and County Councillor Marcus Hart to look at the dangerous drops from the carriageway to the verge due to re-surfacing and erosion by vehicles. Clerk to arrange.

Ride the Reservoir Cycle Race – TG to email asking for them to collect signs and also highlighting the amount of litter that was left.

DC queried Curtilage - Is there any guidance on what is allowed to be put in the grass verges in front of properties, eg stones, posts, sticks to stop parking/delivery drivers destroying verges? BD will seek clarification from Councillor Marcus Hart.

15. Footpaths:

TG advised that rules state there is no obligation if you have a stile to leave a gap for a dog to get through, a query had been received about this. Dogs on footpaths should be under control.

TG reported on the stile at the bottom of Court Farm drive, this has been mentioned to Mr S Jennings and Countryside Services. The stile has now been repaired but is not a kissing gate. We await whether Countryside Services pursue a gate. The stile is very high and would benefit from a crossstep.

TG also reported on the field off Elmbridge Lane where fencing work has been done and fenced across two rights of way which is illegal. The Countryside Officer has been out and the landowners have agreed to upgrade to a kissing gate.

DC expressed concern that the stile next to hers was rather flimsy and may break causing an accident.

16. Rushock Village Hall:

TG thanked SD, Claire Jennings, Dr Clare Jennings and all involved with the King's Coronation celebrations which were a huge success.

17. Correspondence:

Noted.

18. Agenda items for future meetings:

Please advise Clerk.

19. To note the date of the next meetings.

Thursday 7th September 23

Thursday 23rd November 23

Thursday 18th January 24 – to be confirmed

Clerk/Chairman to agree further dates for 2024 meetings.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00pm

Signed..... (Chairman)

Dated.....