

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Rushock Parish Council held on Thursday 8th May, 2025, 7.00pm, Rushock Village Hall

Present: Cllrs. T. Green, (TG) (Chairman), D Cutler (DC), S Davies, (SD), R Hampshire (RH), T Jennings (TJ).

Also Present were: The clerk Mrs. B J Drew (BD), District Councillor R M Drew (RD).

1. **Welcome from Parish Council Chairman Cllr. Terry Green.** Chairman welcomed all to the Annual Parish Meeting.
2. **Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 9th May 2024.** These were duly approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.
3. **Chairman's Report.** The Chairman reported as follows: -

The most important part of this report is to thank all the councillors for their ongoing help and support and their willingness to take on the challenges that face us. As always Bev has provided excellent guidance and expertise in all aspects of the Parish Council's work. She always seems to know exactly the right person to contact for anything that crops up. Our District and County Councillors, Marcus Hart, Robin Drew and Ian Hardiman have again been very supportive and accessible in helping the Parish Council achieve its aims.

Meetings

The Council has held four ordinary Council meetings this year. We have also been represented at WFDC Parish Forums and Chairmans' meetings as well as WCC and CALC meetings.

Planning

We have had 4 planning applications this year and 2 Prior Notifications. Three of the applications were recommended for approval and subsequently passed by WFDC. One is still under consideration. There were concerns expressed regarding traffic issues with one PNR which was subsequently withdrawn by the applicant.

Finance

A small increase was made to the precept to cover increased costs. Marcus Hart has kindly donated £500 to our proposed Nature Walk and we have also received Lengthsman's Scheme payments. No councillors have claimed personal expenses.

Highways

Extensive improvement works were undertaken by WCC to restore the verges on Park Lane and install passing places and new drainage. This has made the lane a lot safer to use. A traffic survey has been carried out on the Rushock Wood section of Clattercut Lane in response to residents' concerns and we are waiting to see if a speed limit may be possible. After protests to WCC roadside verge cutting was delayed until Mid-June which has increased the variety of wild flowers present. Our new Lengthsman, Russell Peach, has provided good service and we have adapted to contacting him when work is required.

Footpaths

Over cropping was a problem on some paths during the summer. This is to be more vigorously tackled in the coming year. The Lengthsman did an excellent job at clearing stiles and putting signs back up.

Biodiversity Project

Delayed cutting of the orchard and triangle has increased the variety of wild plants in these areas. The Birdbox project should have improved the nesting prospects of local birdlife.

Community

The Parish Council sponsored the cost of providing Chocolate Santas for children taking part in the Crib Service.

4. Other Reports.

None Received.

5. Resident's Open Forum.

No residents present.

Meeting Closed at 7.02pm