**Minutes of the Meeting of Rushock Parish Council held on Thursday 26th March 2015 in Rushock Village Hall at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllrs. L. McCurrich (Chairman), J. Nicholls (Vice Chairman), D. Cutler, T. Green, T. Jennings and G. Wilson, County Cllrs S. Clee and M. Hart, Mr. W. Waldron and the Clerk.

**To Receive Apologies and Approve Reasons for Absence:** Apologies were received from District Cllr S. Williams, Mr. I. Hardiman and the Police. It was agreed that Cllr J. Cutress may miss occasional meetings due to work pressures.

**Declarations of Interest:** There were no declarations of interest

**Minutes:** Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 14.1.15 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true

record.

**Appointment of the Clerk:** Cllr McCurrich welcomed Cllr Hart to the meeting and it was **Proposed** Cllr McCurrich and **Seconded** Cllr Nicholls and unanimously agreed that Cllr Hart would become Clerk to Rushock Parish Council as from 1st April 2015. Cllr Hart is a County and District Councilor and already Clerk to Broome.

**Progress Reports not Covered Elsewhere:** The new bus timetable had now been received and displayed.

**Reports from District and County Councilors if Present**: Cllr Clee reported that the new financial year commenced on 1st April and he hoped that the Government grant would last the twelve months. The council were still looking at ways of making savings such as combining services. Cllr Hart advised that the pooling of budgets would make the money go further. The Stourport Kidderminster link road should be open 2016/2017.

**Police:**  There was no police presence. There had been one commercial break in in Rushock. A request had been received for a representative to attend Independent Advisory Groups. No interest was expressed. No-one had attended the Police and Partners Community Forum.

**Planning:** Development of the energy from waste plant at Hartlebury was well under way. (See CALC item below).

**Highways:** Cllr Nicholls reported that we were to get the same Lengthsman grant as last year. The Lengthsman had been carrying out Spring maintenance of all grips and gullies. Considerable damage was being caused by lorries coming into Rushock. Cllr McCurrich had been in touch with David Hunter to get further pictorial signs erected. The verges of Park Lane had been very badly trenched again this winter. Cllr Clee offered to arrange a site meeting with David Hunter. Drain Jet Surveys to be asked to undertake clearing the drain at the bottom Rushock Bank. Severn Trent had advised that New Farm Lane did not meet the criteria for a new water main.

**Footpaths:** Cllr Green reported that an application had been submitted for funding for 2015/2016 from the Parish Paths Partnership. Crops were growing on the footpaths but were not too high at present. Poppies had been scattered around the bench to commemorate the centenary of the First World War.

**Finance:** The balance on the Lloyds Bank Account was £5040.41 and the 121 Lloyds Bank shares were currently 79.67p. Lloyds Bank were sending new mandate variation forms and it was **Proposed** Cllr Cutler and **Seconded** Cllr Green and unanimously agreed that Marcus Hart should replace Pauline Trimble as a signatory. Cllr McCurrich had registered for staging data with the Pension Regulator. Anyone earning £481 per month and below has a right to join a pension scheme but it is not compulsory. Marcus Hart indicated that he would opt out. The Clerk had submitted a VAT reclaim for £202.59.

**Cheques:**  Cheques had already been raised for CPC (screen) £71.98, Pace Print £107.60, Drain Jet Surveys £384.00 and Mr. W. Waldron £112.50. Cheque signed for Mr. W. Waldron £438.75.

**CALC and Other Meetings:** Cllr McCurrich reported on the Parish Chairmens meeting 9.3.15 where Cllr Hart had given a good presentation on the Eastern Gateway and the Leisure Centre. There was some concern about planning issues where development can take place without the Parish Council’s knowledge. It was agreed that the Clerk would circulate the weekly planning applications. Councilors must read the Rushock applications in these as for permitted consent it is the only point of publication. In Rushock there is a sub-committee to consider any small applications. Cllr Wilson said he had not known about the planning application for change of use for an outbuilding at New Farm. This planning application 14/0680/FULL had been submitted by WFDC to the Parish Council in the usual way and had been considered by the sub-committee and their comments reported (Minutes 11th December 2014). It would appear that lack of e-mail meant that some of the communications on this application had accidentally not been copied to Cllr Wilson. Cllr Green gave a detailed report on the CALC Area Meeting-Joint Forum 19th March 2015 where Healthwatch Worcestershire (to be inserted in the Magazine), the new Severn Trent pipeline, localism and the Transparency Code had been discussed. Next CALC Area Meeting 18.6.15. Cllr Jennings reported on the WCC Budget Consultation meeting 22.1.15.

**Minutes from Neighbouring Parish Councils:**  Elmbridge Minutes 15.1.15 had been received and circulated.

**Emergency Plan:** The Rushock up to date Emergency Plan had been sent to the new Clerk.

**Communications with residents:** The new version of the Rushock Parish Council Information and Community Emergency Plan had been printed. Cllr McCurrich to draft a letter to be circulated with it to all residents. It would be delivered by the Parish Councilors.

**Training:** The Council would be pleased to support any training.

**Correspondence:** Clerks Direct to be given the address of the new Clerk. A request had been received for a charity clothing bank to be placed on the village hall car park. A response to be sent that it was not appropriate and the Council did not own the car park. A letter had been forwarded from Sir Peter Luff concerning ringing the bells at 3pm and organizing a tea party on Sunday 14th June to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the sealing of Magna Carta. The church bells will be rung and Cllr McCurrich to speak to Vicky Jennings about a possible tea party.

**Points for Information and Items for Future Agenda:** No comments had been received on the increase in the Precept

**Dates of Next Meetings:** Annual Parish Meeting, Annual Meeting and Parish Council Meeting 28th May, Parish Council Meetings 3rd September and 19th November 2015 at 7.30pm in Rushock Village Hall

Cllr McCurrich presented a bouquet of flowers and a gift to the Clerk upon her retirement and thanked her for her work over the past ten years.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm

Pauline Trimble – Clerk