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

**Held on Thursday 19th November 2015 at Rushock Village Hall at 7:30pm**

**Present:**

Cllrs. L. McCurrich, (Chairman) (LMc), T. Green, (Vice-chairman) (TG), J. Nicholls, T. Jennings, R. Hampshire (RH), G. Wilson (GW) and D. Cutler (DC).

**Also Present were:**

The clerk Mr. Marcus Hart (MJH), District Cllrs. I. Hardiman (IDH), the Lengthsman Mr. Bill Waldron (BW) and PCSO Niall Ryland (NR) ( NR left at 7:54pm).

**1.Apologies for Absence:**

None received.

**Apologies were also received from:**

County Cllr. Stephen Clee (SJC).

**2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:**

LMc and JN declared an interest in the financial report in respect of the payment to be made to the church in respect of the churchyard grant as they were both members of the PCC. This was not a DPI.

**3. Public Question Time:**

None as no members of the public were present other than the lengthsman and councilors.

**4. Minutes:**

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 3rd September were duly approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

**5. Progress Reports:**

There were none as everything else was covered on the agenda.

**6. County Councillors Report:**

None.

**7. District Councillors Report:**

IDH gave his on behalf of the Wyre Forest Rural (WFR) team and reported as follows:-

IDH reported that the Hoobrook Link Road is progressing well and is on schedule.

IDH reported that the new leisure centre was progressing well and is due to open in the summer of 2016.

IDH reported on devolution and that WFDC was not minded to join the West Midlands Combined Authority but is looking at a Worcestershire wide devolution deal.

IDH reported that due to the sad death of County Councillor Jim Parrish there was to be a by-election in Stourport on 17th December.

IDH indicated that the recycling handouts referred to in the last PC meeting will soon be available for distribution.

IDH reported that Kidderminster Town Council will commence on 1st December and that the present Charter Trustees will be the new town councilors until May when a full new town council will be elected.

IDH reported on WFDC amending their council tax reduction scheme so that all working age people would have to pay up to 20% of their council tax bill, it is being increased from the current 10% rate.

IDH reported on the Eastern Gateway work and advised that WFDC had appointed specialist consulants with planning and architecture expertise to create a master plan for redevelopment of the whole area to include mixed use, ie housing and retail.

SJW reported on the developments at the Silverwoods (former British Sugar) site, in particular that the leisure centre when finished will save WFDC £390,000 pa on what it currently pays to run its leisure centres.

SJW also referred to the master planning of the Eastern gateway.

**8. Police:**

MJH read out the email received from PCSO Becky Ruston regarding a police liaison representative. DC volunteered to do this. PSCO Niall Ryland advised the meeting that there had been no reported crimes in Rushock since the last meeting. TG referred to an experience he had when he had telephoned 101 when the operator indicated that they had to get off the line as they were expecting an urgent call. PCSO Ryland said that this should not have happened.

**9. Planning:**

The planning schedule was circulated and this was noted. The clerk confirmed that all councilors would receive an email if there was a planning application for the parish and that the sub-committee would meet to determine the council’s response. It was also agreed to circulate the completed PC pro forma response when done. There had been one application since the last meeting, Milton Cottage where the PC recommended approval. WFDC had not yet issued their decision notice.

**10. Highways:**

JN reported that the lengthsman had been busy with the normal autumn business of ensuring that all gullies were clear and asked how much was currently in the lengthsman fund. MJH reported that the 15-16 allocation was £1938.58 and we had nowhere near spent our allocation.

There was an area at the top of New Farm Lane that needed some scalpings and TJ and RH were going to look for a local contractor to do that work.

It was agreed that root cutting work needed to be undertaken at Lunnon Lane and that the PC had been successful in the past of receiving a grant from the watercourse officer at WFDC of £500 and it was agreed that the PC should apply again for this money and that MJH should action this.

TG reported the issue of tyres and fly tipping in Clattercut Lane. MJH and IDH indicated that WFDC was receiving approximately 30 fly tipping incidents a month across the District. MJH reported that the WFDC telephone number to report any fly tipping was 01562 732528.

LMc reported that there had been mud on Clattercut Lane and that he spoke to GW about this and the matter was resolved.

LMc also referred to the car spinning over in New Farm Lane and the photograph and report in the parish magazine.

JN said that a sign had been defaced on Bannutree Farm Shop and it was agreed that we should email the clerk to Elmley Lovett PC.

**11. Footpaths:**

It was reported that the lengthsman had done all of the strimming on the Monarch’s Way footpath. There was an issue with a Rape crop at Lunnon Lane and Park Lane which was discussed.

**12. Finance:**

The clerk circulated the financial spreadsheet and presented the latest bank statement which both agreed with each other.The balance on the Lloyds Bank Account was £7,654.69.

There was a brief discussion about the Llyods Bank shares as the PC had considered selling them on and off over the last couple of years. However, LMc said tha the share value has increased recently and it was therefore unanimously resolved to retain them for the time being.

LMc handed a cheque for 0.91p for MJH to pay in, which was the latest share dividend.

There was a discussion about the churchyard grant as the PC had received an invoice for £185 received from Rushock Parish Church. However, it was agreed that the PC should make a £100 contribution to the upkeep of the churchyard in addition to the grant received from WFDC of £185. Therefore it was unanimously resolved to pay Rushock Parish Church £285. It was noted that this was the last year that a churchyard grant would be received from WFDC.

The following were unanimously approved for payment:-

Clerk’s salary of £720.

HMRC of £480.

Bill Waldron for parish paths work of £162.

Lengthsman’s payment of £391.50.

**13. Clerk:**

The clerk and chairman reported on the pension and payroll position and reported that our staging date was 1st February, 2016. This meant that the clerk had to be offered the opportunity to enter the pension scheme. It was a right that continued and must be considered on an annual basis.

LMc updated the PC on the latest position and reported that he had spoken with Don Billington, Chairman of Broome PC and we were going to use the same payroll suppliers as them at an annual cost of £20. The NI was incorrect and MJH was awaiting a revised payslip. MJH and LMc are going to meet to do an on line registration which should exempt the PC from the scheme, which we are advised we can lawfully do, given the level of the clerk’s salary

**14. CALC and Other Meetings:**

TG reported on the CALC meeting on 21st September at 6:30pm at WFH. There was a local plans presentation and an update on the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership. Ian Miller, the Chief Executive at WFDC gave an update on Devolution.

**15. Minutes from Neighbouring Parish Councils:**

MJH reported that we had received minutes from Elmley Lovett PC and these were discussed briefly. MJH reported that he had received an email from Elmbridge PC who said that they would no longer be sending minutes. It was agreed that MJH should reply and say that we would be grateful if they did continue and point out that we would still be sending ours.

**16. Emergency Plan:**

DC reported that she had attended the last meeting on 21st October and met Rebecca Pritchett who is WFDC’s new emergency planning officer. DC reported that it was a very good meeting and it was advised that a parish should be able to survive for a 48 period without help. The next meeting is on 16th March, 2016 and DC will attend.

**17. Rushock Village Hall:**

LMc reported that Cllr. Marcus Hart had made a £200 allocation from his WFDC Locally Determined Funding scheme. LMc reported that the village hall committee were very grateful for this.

LMc also reported that David Hamilton was still the chairman of the management committee. JN raised the issue that the PC had a duty as trustees to ensure that the hall is maintained in good order.

There was a general discussion about this issue and it was agreed that MJH would look at the management agreement and any trust deed.

**18. Rushock PC ‘web site’:**

This was just to note that the PC had one hosted through the Worcestershire County Council website and that all of the minutes, agendas and annual accounts, together with the clerk’s details and councillor’s details were available. LMc said that there was a very useful digital map of the Parish on the website.

**19. Parish Localism Fund:**

MJH advised that the PC had been successful in their grant application. The PC were exceptionally grateful to WFDC for the grant of £750.

There was a discussion as to what this money should be spent on specifically, but of course would be spent on activity to ensure the Parish is clean and tidy. There was a discussion about possibly employing somebody to litter pick. There was also a discussion regarding a litter bin being purchased to be sited near the village bench. RH will investigate costs.

TG suggested a sign saying ‘Keep Rushock Tidy’. There was also a discussion about whether there could be a sign or village ‘gates’ on Clattercut Lane saying, ‘Rushock Wood’. It was agreed that MJH would liaise with David Hunter from WCC highways in respect of this.

**20. Correspondence:**

The clerk circulated the schedule of correspondence and presented the correspondence to the meeting.

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

The churchyard grant.

**22. To note the date of the next meetings:**

All at 7:30pm at Rushock Village Hall

Thursday, 28th January 2016

Thursday, 12th May 2016 (Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting)

Thursday 22nd September 2016

Thursday, 24th November 2016

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35pm.

Signed………………………………….. (Chairman)

Dated……………………………………