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

**Held on Thursday 12th May 2016 at Rushock Village Hall at 8:22pm**

**Present:**

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

**Also Present were:**

The clerk Mr. Marcus Hart (MJH), District Cllr. I. Hardiman (IDH), the Lengthsman Mr. Bill Waldron (BW), and a member of the public Mr. Nigel Cameron.

**1.Apologies for Absence:**

None.

**Apologies were also received from:**

District Councillor Stephen Williams (SJW) and PC Andy Wallace (as he had given his report at the Annual Parish Meeting).

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

None.

**3. Public Question Time:**

Mr. Nigel Cameron attended the meeting and spoke about his concerns about the size of the visibility splays and new entrance opposite his house at The Old Rectory. There was a discussion about this matter and MJH confirmed that WFDC had confirmed that planning permission is not required and the entrance can be built under the permitted development rules. However, MJH confirmed that he had spoken with David Hunter from WCC highways and he had produced a map of highway owned land and it appears that the verge is highway verge and therefore consent from WCC is required. LMc questioned why WFDC did not refer this to WCC and MJH advised that WFDC would not know who owned the verge and would not involve themselves in a land ownership matter.

After much discussion, it was unanimously resolved to go back to David Hunter and ask him to formally investigate this matter and to contact the owner of the Old Rectory to resolve the matter and when David Hunter had done this, he would report back to MJH who would report back to Mr. Cameron.

**4. Minutes:**

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 28th January, 2016 were duly approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

**5. 12th June Street Party:**

LMc reported on this on behalf of the PCC who are organizing a street party from outside the church along the road to towards Court Barn and a road closure order is to be applied for. A budget of £200 had already been approved at the meeting on 28th January, 2016.

**6. Progress Reports:**

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

**7. Fly tipping issues:**

LMc reported on this matter and his interaction with WFDC. WFDC had changed the way they dealt with fly-tipping in so far as the materials were checked by an enforcement officer first to look for evidence for any potential prosecution before the material is then removed.

**8. County Councillors Report:**

None. It was noted that County Councillor Clee had not attended the meeting for a long time and the PC stated that his absence had been noted.

**9. District Councillors Report:**

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

Election results – Ian advised the PC that the new make up of the Council following the WFDC elections was 22 Conservative, 4 Labour, 3 Independent, 2 Liberal Democrat and 2 Health Concern.

IDH reported that Councillor Stephen Williams had successfully been re-elected to the Wyre Forest Rural ward and that John Campion had been elected to PCC for West Mercia Police.

Ian reported that the new Wyre Forest Leisure Centre was on time and on budget and would save the tax payers £500,000 per year in subsidy and was due to open on 6th July, 2016.

Ian reported on Drones and that these were becoming more prevalent and that WFDC was currently looking into a policy for this.

Ian also reported on Fly tipping and confirmed that what LMc had said earlier regarding the need to look for evidence for prosecution but that we would still be dealing with removing the material as promptly as possible.

**10. Police:**

The police were not present as they gave their report in the annual parish meeting and was the same.

**11. Rushock Wood Project:** TG updated the PC on this project and confirmed that a letter had gone to the 18 properties in Clattercut Lane that were affected seeking their views and that to date a number of replies had been received which were all positive. It was agreed that TG and MJH would request a meeting with David Hunter from WCC highways to progress this project. MJH also reported on the VAS sign theft and that he had raised the issue of ownership with DH and he said that when the sign was handed over to the PC it became theirs at that point and it was not insured through WCC. In any event DH would not be looking to replace it at this stage and would want to see how the gating of Clattercut Lane goes first in its quest to reduce the speed of traffic.

MJH reported that he was not aware of the sign when he took over as clerk and could not see that this had ever been insured by the PC.

**12. Leader’s rural grants:**

There was nothing to discuss under this item at this stage.

**13. Emergency Planning:**

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on 26th October, 2016. It was unanimously resolved to appoint DC to represent the PC. MJH would email DC the details of the next meeting.

**14. Planning:**

The planning schedule was circulated and this was duly noted. It was unanimously resolved to appoint DC, JN and TG to be the planning sub-committee for 2016-2017 and that all PC members on email would be circulated if there was an application within the Parish and with the PC’s response to the application.

**15. Flag Flying Ceremony:**

It was unanimously resolved that Mr. Cyril Savage represent the PC at this event on 20th June, 2016.

**16. Highways:**

JN reported that the lengthsman had been busy with the normal business.

JN stated as he did so at the last meeting that the verges at Park Lane are getting particularly dangerous. This was a call on the lengthsman funds.

JN reported back on the tree opposite Tudor Cottage which is troubling the drains on Simon Jenning’s land as he had now spoken to the landowner. JN had said that it would be better if this tree was felled, however the landowner is not prepared to fell the tree but would have it pruned.

JN reported that the drains were breaking up and collapsing near ‘Three Willows’. A camera had gone down and shown root damage and JN had the DVD and would pass it to MJH.

JN reported that there had been flooding outside the Kendricks.

MJH reported that we had received the 2016-2017 contract from WCC which he had signed and sent back on behalf of the PC. He had prepared the contract for our lengthsman and would send to JN to get two copies signed by BW.

MJH reported that the annual figure for 2016-2017 was £1939, the same as last year.

**17. Footpaths:**

TG reported that an application had gone in for the scheme for 2016-2017. TG gave a general update as to what had been happening in the Parish.

**18. Finance:**

The clerk circulated the financial spreadsheet and bank statements and they were duly noted and both agreed with each other. The annual return and governance statement had been dealt with in the Annual Meeting. MJH reported that the balance on the Lloyds Bank Account as of 1st April, 2016 was £5,629.10.

MJH advised that the following payments needed to be made and approved:-

Internal Auditor Fee for Diane Malley £55

Worcestershire CALC and NALC Annual Subscription £78.69

Zurich Annual Insurance Premium £251.85

These were all unanimously approved for payment.

**19. CALC and Other Meetings:**

MJH reported that the next Area CALC meeting would be on 22nd June and that he would be attending. TJ and RH agreed to attend. The next Parish Forum meeting would be on 19th September, 2016. LMc reported that he had attended the Parish Conference on 24th February and there was an important presentation on emergency planning.

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

MJH reported that we had received minutes from Elmbridge PC dated 21.01.16 and Elmley Lovett PC dated 09.02.16 and these were discussed briefly.

**21. Correspondence:**

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

There was a discussion about the WFDC consultation on sinking the PC elections to the same date as the WFDC all out election on the first Thursday in May 2019. As Rushock PC would be up for election in 2018 it would mean Parish Councillors having their term of office extended by 1 year, from 4 years to 5 years as a one off. The PC would then have elections every 4 years in line with WFDC, ie in 2023, 2027 and so on. If this wasn’t supported there would be no DC election in 2018 and if there were a PC election, the full cost would fall to the PC to meet this and therefore for financial reasons the PC unanimously resolved to send a response back strongly supporting the proposal to sink the elections to the same date as WFDC all out elections.

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

A letter to the cycling clubs.

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

All at 7:30pm at Rushock Village Hall.

Thursday 22nd September 2016

Thursday, 24th November 2016

Thursday, 26th January, 2017

Thursday, 18th May, 2017

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.31pm.

Signed………………………………….. (Chairman)

Dated……………………………………