

Minutes of the Meeting of Rushock Parish Council

Held on Thursday, 24th January, 2019 at Rushock Village Hall, Rushock at 7.30pm

Present:

Cllr. T. Green (TG) (Chairman)
Cllr. L. McCurrich (LMc)
Cllr. R. Hampshire (RH)
Cllr. T. Jennings (TJ)
Cllr. J. Nicholls (JN)

Also Present were:

The clerk, Mrs. B J Drew (BD), Lengthsman, Mr. Bill Waldron (BW), Mr. Nigel Cameron, PCSO Becky Ruston, District Councillor Ian Hardiman (IH), Mrs. Lisa Jones.

1. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr. D. Cutler (DC)
Absent – Cllr. G. Wilson (GW)

Apologies were also received from:

County Cllr. Marcus Hart (MJH), District Councillor. Stephen Williams (SJW)

2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

None

3. Public Question Time:

Mr. Nigel Cameron made the Council aware of a recent dwelling burglary in the Parish.

4. Minutes:

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 29th November, 2018, were duly approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

LMc queried whether the full County Councillor and District Councillor Report should be recorded in the minutes as it is circulated. It was agreed in future the Clerk would only include local Rushock issues.

5. Progress Reports:

TG reported as follows;

Speed survey – Worcestershire County Council had put the wires in the wrong place but these have now been moved correctly on to Clattercut Lane.

The Police forwarded articles on crime prevention, these will be in the next edition of the magazine.

Superfast Broadband – this is ongoing and should be coming early 2019 after completion in Belbroughton.

Church Funding - LMc will send invoice to Clerk.

6. County Councillor's Report:

Rushock Issues:

Further to the resurfacing of New Farm Lane I have pressed for action on the size of the gap between the highway and the verge. This has been inspected and some work will be done on the worse parts to tackle this. I have asked if your Lengthsman funding can be used to deal with this.

As reported in my November report, whilst technically in Stone Parish and indeed parts of Wychavon District, WCC highways have gone out to statutory public consultation and this closed on 3rd January, 2019 in order to reduce the speed limit at Podmore on the A442 from 50 mph to 40mph. I know many local residents wrote in to support the proposals and I am awaiting a final report following the public consultation.

Regarding the Rushock Wood speed limit and the request to reduce to 30 mph between the gateways, WCC are still looking into this, rest assured I raised this at my last 1:1 with Paul Green our highways liaison engineer on 11th January and he assured me it will be installed. It was in fact, completely in the wrong place and thanks to Terry for alerting me and hopefully it has now been moved to where I have requested which is between Park Lane and the Rushock Wood sign in the straight part of Clattercut Lane and I'll let you have the speed data as soon as I have it.

I should have reported last time that I had now had a meeting with Phil Coulson from the countryside service regarding the issue of footpath finger posts etc....

He has given me some reassurance on costs and also that there has not been any change in policy recently. He advises me that they will be doing signs on footpaths, 505, 515, 512, 520 and 514, imminently; if indeed they have not been done by the time you read this report! If there are footpath signs that need doing and aren't done, please let me know as I will chase these and it may be, with countryside service approval, that the lengthsman or volunteers can do these as a couple of months ago, a team of volunteers with supervision from the countryside service did deal with a project in Chaddesley Corbett Parish.

I obviously deal with routine highways issues as and when I receive them.

If you have any issues that you need me to address then please do not hesitate to get in touch.

LMc enquired why Worcestershire gets the worst education grant in the Country. IH will take this back to MJH for a response.

7. District Councillor's Report:

IH gave his report on Wyre Forest and Strategic Issues.

The County Council are asking District Council's to accept some cost towards Verge Maintenance. Wyre Forest District Council are allocating £30,000 to preserve service standards of Highways Verge Maintenance. JN queried whether in future Parish Councils will be expected to cut verges. IH confirmed that Wyre Forest District Council or private contractors will still do the work on behalf of the County Council but now Wyre Forest District Council will contribute towards the cost.

8. Police Report:

Becky Ruston reported on a burglary dwelling on 18th January. The occupier was away on holiday and a window was forced open to gain entry.

9. Rushock Village Hall

RH advised that a key safe is going outside, curtain poles are now up and curtains will soon follow. The heating is currently an issue as more gas is being used than was anticipated. This is being investigated.

JN advised supplementary heating may be needed in winter months. The prices for bottled gas fluctuate but a better deal on price has now been obtained. The Insurance company have confirmed insurance would be null and void if the open fire is used so a notice has been placed on it.

TG updated on the legal aspect. A quotation has been received from Thursfield Solicitors for £1500.00 which should conclude the matter. The Solicitor has been advised no more money can be spent on this. LMc expressed how disillusioned he is with the whole issue and feels there are professional legal documents that would have been available and the village hall did also do an annual report to the charities committee. TG explained that Thursfields were not happy with an unsigned and undated trust deed and the Charity Commission did not check this as they had system problems. The Charity Commission are now saying they don't accept the deed and that's why this work has been necessary. TG advised that we can try to reclaim some money from the Charity Commission once everything is finalised.

10. May 2019 Parish Council Elections:

TG advised that all Councillors retire this year and are up for re-election. No nomination packs have yet been received. TG will speak individually to all existing Councillors on this matter.

11. EnviRecover, Severn Waste Services:

TG reported that DC had prepared a response to EnviRecover application for Planning and Environmental Permit Variations and this has been submitted

12. Dementia Friendly Communities:

TG advised of a letter received from Diane Dolley with future dates for the Dementia Care café in Chaddesley which is open to adjoining parishes.

13. Planning:

One Planning Application since the last meeting for proposed new industrial unit at Plot 7, Rushock Trading Estate, Rushock, application number 18/0778/Full, which the PC recommended for approval.

LMC complained about the poor quality of the site location map. IH will report this to Paul Round, Wyre Forest District Council Planning Manager,

14. Highways:

JN reported the Lengthsman has been quiet, all maintenance works are done. More verge work will be done starting with New Farm Lane and carry on down Park Lane.

TG requested Clerk contact MH to ask Highways to look at the bottom section of Park Lane from its junction with Clattercut Lane to the first bend as the surface is very poor.

LMc commented on excellent gritting undertaken yesterday.

15. Footpaths:

TG advised all signs have now been erected in Rushock and Elmbridge. Footpaths are all fine, crops have not grown yet.

16. Finance:

The financial spreadsheet was duly circulated and it was in accordance with the bank statements. The current bank balance was £5688.50. BD advised that £500.00 divisional funding from MJH had been gratefully received.

The following were approved for payment:-

£756.00 Thursfields Solicitors (further payment Rushock Village Hall)

BD advised £108.04 Chq still unrepresented (17/4)

The Parish Council considered the draft budget and precept proposal. Our precept in 2018/19 was £2750 and £35.71 per Band D property. It was proposed that we increase our precept to £3025, an increase of 10%. Our tax base for 2019/20 has decreased by 1 property from 77 to 76 and therefore, this would now equate to £39.80 per Band D property, an increase of £4.09 per year, 8 pence per week. Due to the reduction in tax base this will show as an 11.5% increase on the Council Tax Bill. It was noted that this would still use £730 from reserves but it was felt that this was a sustainable position and the Parish Council could continue to incrementally increase their precept to ensure a balanced budget over the next 3 years.

It was unanimously resolved to increase the precept from £2750 to £3025, an increase of 10%.

17. CALC and Other Meetings:

Nothing to report

18. Minutes from Neighboring Parish Councils:

Minutes received from Elmbridge Parish Council.

19. Correspondence:

The clerk circulated the schedule of correspondence and presented the correspondence to the meeting. A number of items had already been discussed and the schedule was duly noted. The Parish Council do not wish to enter a team in the Parish Games.

20. Agenda items for future meetings:

Dates for 2020 meetings.

TG asked for Clerk to be advised of any other items.

21: To note the dates of the next meetings:

All at 7:30pm at Rushock Village Hall.

Thursday, 16th May, 2019

Thursday, 19th September, 2019

Thursday, 21st November, 2019

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm

Signed..... (Chairman)

Dated.....