

**MINUTES OF THE REMOTE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF
RUSHWICK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 7.30 PM**

Present: Cllr Jenkins (Chairman), Cllr Khan, Cllr Williams, Cllr Bryan, Cllr Wigglesworth, Cllr Rowley & Cllr Haywood

In Attendance: Sharon Baxter (Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer)
District Councillors Walton & Chambers plus 3 members of the public

1. Councillor Vacancy: One vacancy is available. Please contact the Clerk if you wish to apply for this vacancy.
3. Apologies: Cllr Parker (Work commitments) - Accepted.
4. Declarations of Interest
 1. Register of Interests: Councillors were reminded of the need to update their register of interests.
 2. To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature – None
 3. To declare any Other Disclosable Interests on items on the agenda and their nature - None
5. To Consider written requests from Councillors for the Council to Grant a Dispensation (S33 of The Localism Act 2011) written requests to be with the clerk prior to the meeting – None

The meeting was adjourned for Public Question Time, notes of which are appended to these minutes.

Reports were received from County and District Councillors – Available to view on the Parish Council website
In addition, Cllr Chambers confirmed Development Control use to issue a monthly time validation, decision and enforcement report . This had lapsed over the last 18 months. A request has been made to reintroduce it.
Cllr Walton to provide a SWDP update under agenda item 11.

6. Minutes: Having been previously circulated the minutes of The Parish Council meeting of 08.07.2020 were agreed as a true and correct record.
7. Progress Reports: No Matters arising from previous minutes. The Action Plan was reviewed and updated.
8. Parish Lengthsman Scheme: Update presented as per worksheet.
Parishioner request – To ask the Lengthsman to trim the hedge and brambles overhanging the pavement along the upper part of Claphill Lane, from October Cottage to where the pavement runs out by the open field opposite Three Quarter Mile Cottage.
9. Finance
 1. Payment of accounts were authorised as per schedule.
Worcestershire CALC 2020/21 Pay Award – Increase by 2.75% backdated to April 2020 has been applied to the Clerk’s salary
Please note the Clerk had to replace her printer as her old printer no longer functioned and was faulty.
 2. Monthly Bank Reconciliation Statement– For Information Only
 3. Conclusion of Audit year ended 31 March 2020 – Item deferred as not yet received.
9. Planning:
Planning Application No: 20/01038/OUT
Location: Land at (Os 8209 5440), Bromyard Road, Crown East
Proposal: Outline application for a residential development of up to 150 dwellings with all matters reserved except for access. Removal of condition 9 and variation of conditions 1, 10 & 15 of planning permission 16/00972/OUT
Comments: No Objections

10. Reports from representatives: To receive an update
 1. Report from Village Hall Committee: Cllr Rowley
'The Village Hall will be opening on the 1st September for all regular users. The Committee will monitor how it works out before opening the village hall to other users.'
 - a. Update on the Gift of Land from Kier – The solicitor has advised that HM Land Registry have a work back log due to the Covid 19 national medical emergency, therefore it will be several months before we have a registered title.
 2. Footpath Officers report: Cllr Williams
'Since July I have attended to the following: -
 1. Two stiles below Edmonds' orchard. I have secured the timbers with screws and installed a second handrail on the first and replaced the lower stepping board on the other.
 2. I have removed a large quantity of empty cans and bottles from the pedestrian passage below the Hams Way underpass.
 3. I have monitored the removal and rebuild of the footbridge at the layby near Bransford Bridge, and salvaged some of the timbers for fence or stile repairs in Rushwick.
 4. I have submitted two possibilities for the countywide Walk/Run routes programme to Rachel Nicholls, at Malvern Hills Strategic Support Services.
 5. I have removed nettles and overhanging foliage from the Ash Path to Grange Lane railway bridge, and inspected Brookfield's footbridge for nettles.'
 3. Report from Playscape: Cllr Parker
Cllr Parker confirmed he would like to relinquish all duties associated with Playscape and gate opening duties having reported that people are not adhering to social distancing measures and are being irresponsible regarding the litter being left behind in the play area.
He was thanked for his dedication and efforts over the years in carrying out these responsibilities.
A rota of Playscape volunteers is to be organised to help with these duties moving forward.
 - a. **RESOLVED:** To agree grant conditions and complete/sign the grant agreement from MHDC to release approved S106 grant funding of £37,506.58 to be used solely to deliver play area improvements on land at Upper Wick Lane, Rushwick
 - b. **RESOLVED:** To authorise the Clerk to sign and date letter authorising written consent from WCC to Rushwick Parish Council to carry out proposed works (to install new play equipment and to install a new storage facility to be used in conjunction with the permitted use as a playing field and recreation) on leased land at Upper Wick, Rushwick.
 - c. **RESOLVED:** To devise football pitch hire agreement for implementation in accordance with the WCC lease for management and use of this site.
The Chairman and Cllr Bryan to progress this item using the MHDC hire agreement as a template.
 - d. **ITEM DEFERRED:** To agree a start date with Produlic to commence works to develop play area (Please note supplier quotation from Produlic already accepted on 12.02.2020).
Once grant monies have reached the Parish Council's bank account a start date can be confirmed.
The Chairman is providing regular updates to Produlic.
 - e. To discuss repairs required to the surface of the car park and obtain quotations.
WCC have confirmed the car park located at Playscape is for use of the play area and not for the use of the school. This message is to be relayed to the school.
Quotes will be obtained for some remedial repairs to be carried out using hardcore and the relevant machinery.

f. To discuss bicycle trail for Playscape

In the first instance a small group (people who helped with S106 Playscape proposals) to conduct some research and form a synopsis regarding the bike trail requirements . Once we have established this, we can then reach out via Rushwick Village News and make some progression to formulate a specification and proposal to go out to tender and draft a further S106 application for funding.

g. Update on present position of Playscape – We need to look at the protocol to dissolve Playscape. Clerk to circulate a copy of the constitution to councillors.

4. School Representative report: Cllr Wigglesworth

‘All children returned to Rushwick Primary School on Thursday 3rd September with the exception of the Reception Class which returns on Monday 14th September.

Mr Jeffrey, Mrs Hulls and all the staff have worked exceptionally hard to get the school as COVID safe as possible. There are staggered start and finishing times for each ‘bubble’.

So far the children have coped superbly and each and everyone is a credit to the Rushwick Community.’

5. Village Hall Development Committee: Cllr Khan – Nothing to report.

11. Update on the Parish Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr Jenkins

The Chairman presented an update on the Parish Neighbourhood plan.

Work is in progress based on the housing requirement in the current SWDP, communicating the views from residents to various aspects of the plan.

There is a South Worcestershire Development Plan Review – Parish and Town Council Briefing, Wednesday 7 October 2020 6:00pm-7:30pm inviting councillors to a briefing to provide an update on the SWDP Review timetable and the Governments proposed reforms to the planning system as set out in the White Paper ‘Planning for the Future’ and ‘Changes to the Current Planning System consultation’ .

District Cllr Walton gave an update on the SWDPR referencing changes to the current planning system ‘Planning for the Future’, reviewing the impact of this and emphasizing the importance of progressing with the Parish Neighbourhood Plan.

12. Correspondence for Information: Circulated by the Clerk

- Rushwick Housing Needs Survey is being conducted by Wychavon/MHDC – District Cllr Walton to obtain further information.
- Nora Parsons Day Centre AGM – Tuesday 13th October 2020 at 10.30am – For Information.

13. Councillors’ reports and items for future agendas

It was reported that Stansfield Nursing Home located in Upper Wick Lane has an addition of a large porch/conservatory. Unsure if this is a temporary measure as a result of Covid19 or if planning permission is required. District Cllr Walton to refer to Enforcement.

Cllr Bryan requested if the subject of Dog Waste Bins could be placed on the next agenda.

The Clerk confirmed she had delivered a bench to Andrew Deakin who was delighted to receive such a wonderful, memorable leaving gift. Words of thanks and gratitude were expressed.

Meeting closed at 9.07 PM

Signed Chairman..... Date.....

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A parishioner expressed his dissatisfaction that he had received no reply to his complaint submitted in July 2020. He received an apology for this oversight and was advised that a response would be submitted shortly by the Chairman.

The same parishioner asked if the Clerk could circulate and advertise the District Councillors monthly report on the Parish website. This was agreed.

A parishioner highlighted that she had collected a black sack full of bottles from Playscape and asked what could be done to highlight the fact that people need to act more responsibility.

Some large notices will be displayed to raise awareness and a notice placed on Rushwick Village News Facebook page.

The Clerk will also ask the police to vet Playscape.

A parishioner asked if Playscape could be used for a Remembrance Service. The Parish Council confirmed they wished to support this as a mark of respect, however, they await Government guidelines nearer to the time.

The Parish Council can provide costs for a poppy wreath.