

**MINUTES OF THE REMOTE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF
RUSHWICK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2020 AT 7.30 PM**

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

In Attendance: Sharon Baxter (Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer)
District Councillors Walton and Chambers plus 2 members of the public

1. Two Councillor Vacancies – To appoint by co-option - Please contact the Clerk if you are interested.
2. To appoint a new Vice-Chairman following the resignation of Cllr Parker – Position still vacant
3. Apologies: Cllr Khan (Personal) – Accepted and County Cllr Grove – Received
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-Brief notes of which are appended to these minutes.

A report was received from District Councillors – Available to view on the Parish Council website.

6. Minutes: Having been previously circulated the minutes of The Parish Council meeting of 14.10.20200 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
 1. Thanks and best wishes were expressed to Mr. William Napier on his retirement.
As a suitable replacement had been identified the Parish Council agreed not to advertise this position.
 2. **RESOLVED:** To appoint Tim Hughes to the position of Lengthsman following Mr. Napier’s retirement.
9. Finance
 1. The payment of accounts as per schedule were authorised.
 2. Monthly Bank Reconciliation Statement– For Information Only
 3. **RESOLVED:** Following the resignation of Cllr Parker that the authorised bank signatories on the
HSBC Bank Accounts will be Cllr Rowley (existing bank signatory), Cllr Jenkins (new), Cllr Williams
(new) and Cllr Haywood (new). Clerk to arrange a new updated bank mandate form.
 4. A preliminary budget was reviewed for 2021/2022. This will be finalised in January 2021.
 5. Proposal to agree and request precept for 2021/2022. To be agreed once budget is finalised.
10. To discuss expenditure of Community Infrastructure Levy – Neighbourhood Fund following receipt of £34,104.00 awarded for Development at The Gardens, Bransford Road,

Rushwick, Worcester, WR2 5TA- A village consultation is to take place to try and establish how to spend this money. Progress update on the January agenda.

Clerk to look make enquiries as to whether community groups that are eligible for S106 funding can also receive CIL funding.

11. Planning: The following planning application were reviewed: -

Planning Application no: 20/01623/HP

Location: 119 Christine Avenue, Rushwick, WR2 5ST

Proposal: Two storey side extension and single storey rear extension of a single dwelling house.

Consultation Ends 27.11.2020

Comments: No Objections

Planning Application No: 20/01690/OUT

Location: Westways, Claphill Lane, Rushwick, WR2 5TP

Proposal: Outline Application for 2 No. Detached Dwellings and Access with all Other Matters Reserved.

Consultation Ends: 27.11.2020

Comments: Chairman to devise the response to include issues surrounding access and the application being outside the settlement boundary. Comments to be circulated to all councillors, for agreement, prior to submission to MHDC.

Planning Application No: 20/01646/HP

Location: Kestrel Cottage, Crown East Lane, Lower Broadheath, WR2 6RH

Proposal: Single storey rear extension

Consultation Ends: 27.11.2020

Comments: No Objections

12. Reports from representatives: To receive an update

1. Report from Village Hall Committee: Cllr Rowley – Report from 21.10.2020

‘The re-opening of the Village Hall to regular users was going well. We only had 4 hirers, but all legal requirements due to Covid were in place, and everyone seemed happy. Because of the latest Government restrictions on Covid, I expect the Village Hall will have to close again, although the classes for very young children may be able to continue, subject to guidelines.’
General maintenance of the Village Hall is still being maintained and sorted as appropriate.’

- a. Update on the Gift of Land from Kier – Confirmation from the solicitor that we can own and use this land. Still awaiting HM Land Registry to register this land.
- b. Request from Rushwick Pre-School to use the Village Hall during building works – The Village Hall are in discussions regarding this request.

2. Footpath Officers report: Cllr Williams

‘ In the last month I have :

1. Affixed a new direction sign to the stile north of Colonel Drive.
2. Notified Countryside Access that a Dog-gate is required for the stile west of Claphill Lane.
3. Done a much-needed litter-pick around the two field gates in Claphill Lane.
4. Cleared vegetation and tree branches which were obscuring two of the 30 mph signs in Claphill Lane.
5. Mowed the verges and cleared branches on both sides of Claphill Lane between the houses and the bridge for the convenience and safety of pedestrians.

6. Investigated information about possible marijuana plants to the side of the path beyond the Rushwick Cricket Club and reported it to PCSO Martin Butcher.
 7. Investigated a report that the path across the fields from Grove Way down to University Drive (where St John's House Medical Centre is) was closed. In fact, this seems to have been only temporary while a bund was being constructed. It is now open again.'
- a. Rushwick Footpaths Development Report: Cllr Williams
- 'Development of Rushwick's footpath network, in the light of the new housing being built at Worcester Gate and West of Grove Farm.
1. The crossing of Grove Way between the two stiles/ flights of steps which currently connect two paths across fields, and will soon be built on, is just as dangerous as the crossing of Hams Way lower down which has for some time been served by the foot bridge which links Rushwick to the Golf Course. A new foot bridge over Grove Way is essential for the safety of new Rushwick residents.
 2. The aforesaid Hams Way bridge is cycle-friendly, but only leads on to the Golf Course, which I would suggest is not suited to crossing by bike. and pedestrians would have to walk a mile to return to Rushwick along the road from the Golf Club entrance.
There is a rather pleasant track which runs north from the Hams Way bridge up to the roundabout adjacent to Worcester Gate, which currently ends in large gate which is padlocked. Could we negotiate to have a pedestrian access here ?
 3. For the future: the continuation of the path along the Teme from where it currently ends near the pedestrian railway crossing, all the way to Powick Mill. This would be a valuable new recreational amenity.
Clerk to refer these requests to County Cllr Grove.
3. Report from Playscape:
- A parishioner offered to seek any volunteers, interested in helping to manage the play area, to submit their details to the Clerk.
- a. Progress update on development of new play area
The contractor has been appointed and a site meeting is due to take place.
Prior to the commencement of works, the undergrowth beneath the zip wire needs clearing out.
Cllr Jenkins to progress.
 - b. Progress update on football pitch hire agreement.
Unfortunately, Oldbury Park Tigers have had to reduce the capacity of the club and will not require the pitch this season. A hire agreement will be progressed in the future.
 - c. Progress update on Playscape bank account with a view to transferring funds to Rushwick Parish Council for ongoing maintenance costs of the play area. Cllr Jenkins had obtained some free solicitors' advice on how to proceed with this matter. This is as follows: -
RESOLVED: Due to inactivity of Playscape, it was agreed to formally dissolve Playscape and close any/all bank accounts, transferring funds to Rushwick Parish Council.
4. School Representative report: Cllr Wigglesworth
- 'The school returned after the half term break with the same restrictions as the first half of term. As, sadly, there will be no Nativity play this term the school is working on sharing Christmas through recorded plays and carols.
The children participated in the 'Wednesday Wave' at Stansfield Nursing Home in Upper Wick. The staff and children walked through the drive and waved at the patients looking out of their windows. It was recorded on Midlands television.
The children are happy in school and recovering their confidence and academic ability. The first half term's attendance figures have been quite remarkable far above the national average.
A huge thank you must go out to Mr Jeffrey and all the staff for their hard work and commitment in keeping the children safe and happy.

School breaks up on 18th December and returns on 5th January 2021'

5. Village Hall Development Committee: Cllr Khan

'The Committee has not met and there is nothing to report at this time.'

13. Update on the Parish Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr Jenkins

'Following the discussion at last month's meeting I have summarised below the actions required to complete the NDP:-

1. Prepare a simple summary document based on the 2019 survey results and consultations to include policies under following four headings
 - a. Housing Requirements and Needs,
 - b. Green Spaces and footpaths,
 - c. Significant views, and
 - d. Design requirements.

A meeting has been set up with RCA, the planning consultants, next Monday for them to draft the summary and assist with consultation.

2. Distribute a flyer to all households either containing the summary or notice of where to find it on the website
3. Organise an open zoom meeting to receive comments and/or give an address where comments can be sent
4. Incorporate the comments from point 3 above into the policy document
5. Update the introduction and procedure sections written at the beginning of the year
6. Produce, with evidence the compliance and consultation statements
7. Submit draft document'

14. Progress update on installation of additional dog waste bins

Cllr Bryan presented a very informative slide presentation on his progress regarding the installation of additional dog waste bins, identifying suggested locations and cost. The next step is to liaise with MHDC to enquire if the bins can be adopted on their refuse collection rota. Enquiries are also to be made regarding fixing them to street furniture. Further update to follow.

15. **RESOLVED:** To donate £200 to support Nora Parsons Day Centre, Wichenford

16. Correspondence for Information: Circulated by the Clerk

- a. Parishioner Email dated 23.10.2020 - Sculpture, Bransford Road – Remedial repairs to be carried out by Cllr Jenkins and Cllr Williams who will re-cement the base of the milestone.
- b. Parishioner Email dated 21.10.2020 – Claphill Lane, Traffic Issues – The parishioner suggested to purchase an additional traffic speed camera. It was confirmed the existing mobile activated speed sign needs some attention to make operational again, which will help address speeding issues. Cllr Jenkins to liaise with Mr. Deakin to obtain charging kit and instructions.
- c. Cllr Jenkins attended a meeting with Bloor Homes – Land West of Grove Farm confirming we will be asked if the Parish Council would like to adopt the Green Open Spaces. The general consensus being this was not something that the Parish Council wished to pursue due to ongoing maintenance costs.
- d. SWDPR – A new timescale has been devised. The Parish Council has been approached to participate in an informal discussion, regarding the proposed additional 1000 houses in Rushwick. After much discussion, and the support given by our District Councillors to fight the stop of these houses, the Parish Council believed the views from the residents were vitally important and not just those from the Parish Council, to oppose to the additional housing to help retain Rushwick's identity as a village. A public consultation is to take place.
A parishioner kindly offered to help to work with the Parish Council , to increase publicity via Social Media on the SWDPR proposals.

17. Councillors' reports and items for future agenda

Cllr Jenkins reported a parishioner raised concerns of a blocked drain in Grange Lane which floods their front garden when it rains. Clerk advised this should be reported via the WCC online reporting tool.

Cllr Rowley highlighted the perspex needs replacing in the noticeboard located in Grange Lane to make

visible. Cllr Jenkins to inspect.

Cllr Wigglesworth reported that a large branch had fallen off the oak tree located opposite Bedwardine

House. This was lying in the hedge. Cllr Williams to inspect.

Meeting closed at 9.15 PM

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

Standing Orders were adjourned

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A parishioner expressed his disappointment that there appears to be no written structured approach or strategic plan to support the complexity of the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Cllr Jenkins confirmed a report update would be presented on the agenda later this evening.

Standing Orders were reimposed