

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF
RUSHWICK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 14 JULY 2021 AT 7.30 PM IN RUSHWICK VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr Jenkins (Chairman), Cllr Bryan, Cllr Hemsworth, Cllr Khan, & Cllr Haywood

In Attendance: Sharon Baxter (Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer)

County Councillor Scott Richardson Brown and District Councillor Daniel Walton

Mr Tim Hughes – The Parish Lengthsman

1. Apologies: Cllr Hughes (Work), Cllr Williams (Personal) & Cllr Wigglesworth (Covid Isolation) - accepted
District Cllr Chambers (received)
2. 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
3. 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

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME - No Questions
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County & District Councillor Reports were received and circulated

4. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 09.06.2021 were agreed as a true and correct record.
5. Progress Reports: No Matters arising from previous minutes. The Action Plan was reviewed and updated. The football hire rental agreement has now been signed for the coming season for OPT U13. The provision of a storage container is to be discussed and the size required established. It was established the height of the hedge in Walpole Avenue is the responsibility of the landowner and WCC will only intervene if any overgrown vegetation causes an obstruction onto the footpath. Cllr Jenkins to contact the landowner to advise of the situation. The County Councillor advised that WCC try to encourage wildflowers by restricting cutting of the grass verges to one cut per year 1 metre swathe wide.
6. Parish Lengthsman Scheme: An update report was presented as per timesheet.
RESOLVED: To purchase two new batteries for the mobile speed sign from Westcotec at a cost of £80.00 each plus carriage of £7.50, Total £167.50 + VAT.
7. Finance
 1. **RESOLVED:** Payment of accounts were authorised as per schedule
 2. Bank Reconciliation Statement – For Information Only
 3. Monthly Budget Monitoring to 30.06.2021 – Reviewed
8. Following public consultation it was **RESOLVED** to use the Community Infrastructure Levy of £34,104.00 awarded for Development at The Gardens, Bransford Road, Rushwick, Worcester, WR2 5TA to purchase and install a Pump Track facility, this being the favoured option, subject to agreement from WCC. lease.
9. Proposal to accept contractor's quotation to supply and install a BMX/Pump Track – (Cllr Hemsworth) – **ITEM DEFERRED.**
Cllr Hemsworth had circulated a proposal regarding the proposed Pump Track, which included an illustration of where the track would be situated within the land and how it would make use of the pre-existing bike track, together with some estimated costs.
Cllr Hemsworth to obtain actual costs, as this may be dependent on procurement rules and criteria.
In the first instance permission is to be sought from WCC to use the leased land to proceed with this project.

10. Reports from representatives: The following updates were received: -

1. Report from Village Hall Committee: Cllr Bryan
Cllr Jenkins will introduce Cllr Bryan to Kay Poole the new Chairperson of the Village Hall Committee
2. Footpath Officers report: Cllr Williams
' In June I put in two sessions on the Himalayan Balsam along the Teme.
This week I have cut back the nettles along the path beside The Whitehall into the field.
I have also responded to a request for info from a resident of Callows Orchard who is a professional dog-walker, about the state of the stiles at Claphill Farm.
I visited the farmer, Rick Gomm, who informs me that as a result of meeting with Patrick White of Countryside Access, contractors will arrive to upgrade all three stiles between Claphill Lane and Broadmore Green , as soon as the fields have been mown, which given the improvement in the weather, could be as early as the end of this week !!
I will attend to the Brookfield's Farm path in the near future.'

Cllr Williams was thanked for all his efforts and will obtain some assistance from other members of the Parish Council, moving forward to try and help disperse the workload. Assistance will also be requested via Facebook seeking volunteers. Cllr Jenkins to liaise with Cllr Hughes regarding the social media communication.

3. Report from Playscape: Cllr Hemsworth
J S Garness contractors have been appointed to cut the grass on the playing field. It materialised, there was some to be conducted. This issue has now been clarified.
The Council agreed it was more cost effective for J S Garness to carry out the grass cutting and hedgerow contract but the Parish Lengthsman should trim/tidy the area around the play equipment of which he will invoice the Parish Council separately.
The Council expressed their thanks and appreciation to two young local lads who had kindly volunteered three hours of their time to carry out a litter pick on Playscape as part of their Scout badge.
The request from a parishioner to place a Bouncy Castle on playing field for a birthday party was declined due to legal implications.
4. School Representative report: Cllr Wigglesworth
'Mr. Jeffrey and all the staff have been totally focussed on keeping the school fully open and as normal as possible for the children.
The full curriculum is being taught in every class. Bubbles, social distancing, enhanced cleaning and hygiene measures remain in place. However, Year 2 have had to self-isolate due to a COVID case and will return to school on 13th July.
Sports Day took place on Friday 2nd July which the children participated in enthusiastically. The children remained in their bubbles and no parents could attend.
Most events can't take place; however, Year 6 will be able to enjoy a residential outing on 14/16th July.
The Years 5 and 6 are Bell-Boating on the River Severn on 19th July.
The Year 6 Leavers Service will be held outside with Year 6 parents present on Tuesday 20th July the day that school breaks up. Class visits for the new children in Reception have been deferred until September.
Sadly, both Mrs Edmondson and Mrs Platt are leaving after a number of years and their help with the children has been invaluable but we are welcoming a new class teacher Mrs Hattie Radburn, who will be sharing the Year 5 class with Mrs Booton.
The school will reopen on Monday 6th September following all the guidelines from the Government at the time.

Once again, we must thank Mr Geoffrey, Mrs Hulls and all the staff for the splendid work they have done to keep the school thriving and our children safe and happy. No mean task and a lot of hard work under such difficult circumstances. The children have risen to the pandemic crisis in epic style and have remained happy and eager to learn and be in each other's company.
The school is in a robust position to enable all our children to have a happy, successful 2021/22.'

5. Village Hall Development Committee: Cllr Khan
 ‘Kay Poole, as Chair of the Rushwick Village Hall Management Committee, has asked the Village Hall Development Committee to reconvene to continue investigating possible proposals for the redevelopment of the Village Hall. As part of that process, Malvern Hills District Council are being approached to find out the definitive amount of Section 106 money that has been allocated specifically for the Village Hall, as well as how the Committee can apply for funding through the CIL scheme. Possible designs already created will be revisited in light of the monies available. The Chair of the Committee, Keith Stokes Smith will be convening the next meeting shortly and an update on progress will be provided at the next Parish Council meeting.’

6. Social Media Update: Cllr Hughes
 The Parish Website - Continues to be updated with documents on request.
 Facebook – The period was relatively quiet with the top performing post describing the work carried out by the Lengthsman.

11. Update on the Parish Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr Jenkins
 A consultation document has now been produced, highlighting four key policies.
 Comments and views are now to be obtained from parishioners. It is anticipated an Open Day will take place in the Village Hall early September.

12. Planning: The following Planning Applications were considered for comment: -.

Planning Application No: 21/01022/S106
 Location: Land at (Os 8231 5370), Upper Wick Lane, Rushwick
 Proposal: Application under section 106A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to amend the requirements relating to affordable housing as set out in legal agreement dated 16 November 2016 associated with planning permission ref no. 15/00870/OUT
 Comment: No Objections

13. Correspondence for Information: Circulated by the Clerk
 District Cllr Walton confirmed the SWDPR had been delayed with the timeframe unspecified.
 This is to be discussed and a new timetable devised.

14. Councillors’ reports and items for future agendas
 Cllr Bryan confirmed the dog waste /litter bins are on order with a lead time of approximately 6-8 weeks.

 Cllr Haywood reported all residents in Christine Avenue had received a letter from a perspective landowner regarding the Ashpath. She highlighted the planning application had disappeared from the MHDC website. and a further planning application may follow.

Meeting closed at 9.38 PM

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

County Council Report – July 2021 - Scott Richardson Brown

Investigating the issues with the quality of the lane located behind Christine Avenue referred to locally as the Ashpath following reports of car damage due to the poor quality of the road surface.

Work is progressing to install a dropped kerb opposite Christine Avenue.

Speeding Issues – This is being looked at as a high priority where all data is to be analysed. Cllr Jenkins to forward some relevant information to assist with speeding issues and traffic calming measures.

The Parish Council were advised to try and resolve any issues regarding overgrown vegetation encroaching onto public footpaths amicably before WCC intervened and S154 notices issued. Councillors were asked if they could identify any overgrown areas in the village and advise Cllr Jenkins who will carry out a visit to the landowners to try to address these issues.

District Council Report – July 2021 – Daniel Walton

We have seen a rise in our infection rate, but this is to be expected. It follows the national trend.

The rise is mainly being driven by infections among young people who have not been vaccinated (over half of all cases) and some workplaces. There is some information suggesting that young males are most effected, and this appears to come from gatherings due to the football. The good news is it does not yet appear to be placing too much pressure on our local hospitals who are dealing with small numbers of Covid-19 patients. Another sign the vaccination programme is working. There has been no Covid related deaths in Worcestershire hospitals over the last month and last week I was told only 10 covid related patients across our Counties hospitals. Still 10 too many but obviously nowhere near the figures of January.

This doesn't mean the Covid-19 pandemic is 'over' and restrictions, including social distancing in some settings, may still remain in place – although the Government now believe that the majority of restrictions will be removed for 'Freedom Day' as reported yesterday.

Current figures show cases per 100,000 at 169 for Malvern Hills which is lower than the county average of 214 and the England average of 287.

Everyone over 18 is now eligible to book their Covid Vaccine.

<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/COVIDdashboard>

Within Malvern Hills we are looking to replace our Director of Economy and Environment (who is retiring) and our Director of Communities and Housing (who is moving on). We hope these two positions to be filled in September.

During the Covid recovery CPG we ran last year, and we restarted last Friday we highlighted the need to support vulnerable people post covid and business. In terms of the first of those - last Tuesday we held our first Tackling Poverty summit online. The aim was to bring groups together to agree practical actions and look at how we can better work together and create the change needed to further improve the support offered to people in poverty in our district.

This is particularly important due to the impact the pandemic has had on people's income levels.

The session heard from a lot of speakers from groups including Malvern Foodbank which revealed 3,600 people had been given support in the last year, twice as much as the previous 12 months.

The summit is the first of a series with the next set looking at connection crisis support to prevention services, overcoming barriers to unemployment and providing stable homes.

I spoke on the responsibility of employers and the support available to employers and employees to ensure good, safe careers.

The Covid recovery CPG, which is cross party and chaired by myself, restarted last Friday and we heard the measures put in place for our local economy through the plans we've put in place in Economic Development and the new ABCD approach from Communities – which essentially is about allowing communities to determine what they need (Asset Based Community Development). I am confident we have good measures in place for both business and the most vulnerable in society.

David and I met with Bloor Homes about the Oak View Way site beside Rushwick. There will be 875 dwellings and the reserved matters are due to be put in soon. They see it as a continuation of nearby Bloor sites.

I've also made visits to local traders within Malvern Hills and am hoping to visit Tenbury and Upton soon. Great Malvern was buoyant throughout with good footfall Malvern. Over the next month we will be initiated a Town Centre consultation, utilising an outside company to really get into what will shape our high streets in the future and what is needed for all of our centres.

Malvern Link and Barnards Green had localised issues that, as always, we're working with them on.

Finally, we had a very successful Great Malvern Food Festival this weekend which was a huge success. Taking place in Priory Park we had over 60 stands of local food and drink suppliers and in a safe environment held a great event which was very well visited and great for the wider town.

We are launching our bursaries for Employees this month too to support those who need extra funding to take on Apprenticeships- our levelling up fund for those businesses taking on apprentices and a new section of the website to support businesses taking on apprentices, to support apprentices and also for information for parents.

<https://www.malvernhills.gov.uk/business-support-and-jobs/skills-and-training>

A video will accompany the launch this week which explains why we want to support people continuing training in work through Apprenticeships. Finally, we had our first face to face meeting at Exec two weeks ago.