

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF
RUSHWICK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 12 JANUARY 2022 AT 7.30 PM
AT RUSHWICK VILLAGE HALL**

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

In Attendance: Sharon Baxter (Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer) plus 14 parishioners

1. To appoint councilor vacancy by co-option – One vacancy is currently available. No applications yet received.
2. Apologies: Cllr Wise (Personal) - Accepted
District Cllr Walton (Illness) and District Cllr Chambers (Personal) – Received.
3. 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 –
Cllr Haywood declared a Pecuniary Interest in respect of agenda item 12. As a section of this footpath is defined in the Deeds to her property.
 3. To declare any Other Disclosable Interests on items on the agenda and their nature - None
4. 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

The meeting was adjourned for Public Question Time, notes of which are appended to these minutes
County Councillor Report was received
District Councillor Report had been circulated in advance of this meeting.

5. Minutes: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 10.11.2021 having been previously circulated were agreed as a true and correct record.
6. Progress Reports: No matters arising from previous minutes. The Action Plan was reviewed.
Cllr Jenkins is pursuing Lloyd's Bank to obtain funds following the dissolution of Playscape.
Tim Hughes to assist with repairs to the milestone and noticeboard in Grange Lane.
OPT have been invoiced for football pitch hire.
Cllr Bryan is pursuing enquiries regarding the title deeds for the Village Hall.
7. Parish Lengthsman Scheme: An update was presented as per timesheet.
This month the Lengthsman has cut back verges along the Bransford Road and Claphill Lane.
He has cleared rubbish from the underpass and charged and changed the battery to the VAS sign at various locations.
8. Finance
 1. Payment of accounts as per schedule were authorised.
The Clerk had circulated the Notice of Variation summary of changes for HSBC UK Accounts and Services.
 2. Bank Reconciliation Statement – For Information Only
 3. The budget comparison to December 2021 was reviewed against budget 2021/22
 4. **RESOLVED:** The budget for 2022/2023 was reviewed and agreed.
RESOLVED: To trial a commercial bin for one year supplied by MHDC at an annual cost of £250.
This was factored into the budget for 2022/2023. Cllr Hemsworth to progress.

5. **RESOLVED:** To increase the precept by 3% from last year. The Clerk to liaise with MHDC to factor in any final adjustments, to include the Worcester Gate housing development and the significance this has on the band D rated properties equivalent.
 6. **RESOLVED:** The Risk Schedule and the Model Scheme of Delegation was reviewed and agreed.
 7. **RESOLVED:** The Asset Register 2021/2022 was reviewed and updated for insurance purposes. The pump track and four new litter bins had been added, generating an additional annual insurance increase of approximately £115. This will be waived by the insurance company until next renewal and factored into the budget for 2022/23.
9. Reports from representatives: To receive an update
1. Report from Village Hall Committee: Cllr Bryan - Please see attached.
 2. Footpath Officers report: Cllr Williams
 ‘This month I have inspected: -
 1. From Grove Farm to Claphill Lane : no issues except that where Path 509 (c) crosses the building sites there is seriously thick mud caused by the passage of construction machinery. I found a contractor's employee and after declaring my status as Footpath Officer, asked if some hardcore could be put down in that area. He said, " No Problem ". So, maybe.....
 2. From Claphill Lane across the fields to Broadmore Green and Summer Hollow. The mud and water is quite bad within the Claphill Lane kissing gate. I phoned Rick Gomm : he says the water table is very high in that area, and there is no point in dropping in some hard core, or other remedial measures.
 3. From Bransford Bridge layby to the level crossing, and on up to Brookfield's Farm in Grange Lane. Numerous minor bramble trims and a 1/4 bag of litter.
 4. Footpath from the Upper Wick Lane Cricket Ground to the Bypass footbridge- No issues.’
 3. Report of Play Area: Cllr Hemsworth
 ‘ 1. Pump track is still in good order & well used despite the inclement weather.
 2. Litter pretty much under control, I'm doing 1-2 litter picks per week.
 3. Graffiti has started to become an issue on some of the play equipment. This has been cleaned off with the help of Matt Halsey who is a Rushwick resident.
 4. The storage container is due to arrive sometime in January - I will chase for a date.
 Next steps
 It is quite clear from the number of cars in the park car park through the school holidays & on the weekends that with the installation of the new play equipment & especially the pump track that the number of visitors is increasing & I expect that come Spring/Summer this will peak. This is a good thing, however, it does bring associated challenges the most pertinent of which will be litter & increased incidences of dogs in the park from users coming from outside the village who either do not see the current signage or choose to ignore it. As such I will look into the following:
 1. Solutions to enable us to have litter bins inside the park (larger bins outside & using the storage container to keep bin bags cleaning equipment etc).
 2. Monitor the outcome of the recent proposal to reinstate PSPO covering Rushwick which makes dog fouling & having a dog in a no dog zone enforceable with a fixed penalty notice.
 3. Investigate cost to scrape back & top dress with 4mm-dust the current path around the park.
 4. Investigate cost & funding options to install new benches at the top of the park overlooking the Malverns.’
 4. School Representative report: Position Vacant
 Cllr Jenkins to make contact with the Headmaster.
 5. Social Media Update: Cllr Hughes
 The Parish website has been updated as per usual. Facebook followers have increased from 254 to 265, since October 2021. Issues raised via Facebook include speeding throughout the village, dog bin installation and a request for a school crossing

10. Update on the Parish Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr Jenkins
Cllr Hemsworth with the help of a volunteer to meet to decide on the next steps.
11. Planning: *Cllrs are reminded to view MHDC website for full details*
To consider any Planning Applications received before this meeting – None to discuss.
12. To discuss action regarding the poor state of public footpath 520 Upper Wick Lane with vehicular access.
The Parish Council wants to maintain the use of this footpath. It is the Chairman's intention is to write to the landowners in Christine Avenue , in the next 2/3 weeks, to ask if they would allow work on their land and also write to the houses to the north side of RW-520(B) to ask if they are willing to pay for such work.
The aim of the Parish Council is to try to understand the obligations and facilitate an agreement with everyone to try to reach a safe and sustainable solution.
13. Correspondence for Information: Circulated by the Clerk
 1. Parishioner correspondence received 10.12.2021 requesting clarification on dog waste bins and speeding issues - Cllr Jenkins to respond.
 2. Notification the play area is due to be inspected in March 2022.
14. Councillors' reports and items for future agendas
The Clerk confirmed enquiries had been made to confirm VAT can be reclaimed on the Pump Track
Cllr Jenkins to complain to the Head of Planning at MHDC regarding planning application approvals and the lack of preparation in respect of the recent appeal.
Cllr Williams raised the subject of MHDC Dog Consultation deadline 13.01.2022. Cllr Hemsworth confirmed he had submitted a response on behalf of the Parish Council.
Cllr Wigglesworth requested if the Queens Platinum Jubilee can be placed on the next agenda for discussion.

Meeting closed at 9.32 PM

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

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

COUNTY COUNCILLOR: Cllr Scott Richardson Brown

Funding is available to allocate by the end of February 2022. He has approximately £1000 available. The areas he has helped other Parishes with include play equipment and defibrillators.

In addition, there is also some Highways Funding available.

Cllr Wigglesworth suggested the reinstatement of some new white lines in the road in Upper Wick near the cricket club. She will liaise with Cllr Richardson Brown directly.

Cllr Williams requested if the footpath from the Bransford Road to the Fox could be attended to. The layby is encroached and needs clearance. Cllr Williams to identify the area on a map and refer to Cllr Richardson Brown.

To discuss action regarding the poor state of public footpath 520 Upper Wick Lane with vehicular access.

There was representation from 14 members of the public, to express views regarding the poor state of this public footpath FP520 (referred to locally as the Ashpath).

The Chairman led the discussion which centred largely on how the surface of Ash Path could be improved for vehicle use and the options available to try and achieve this i.e. WCC Highways funding, residents fund privately.

It was unclear from the comments whether the surface should be tarmacked or stoned; either option to have speed bumps as a traffic calming measure. However, there were several comments about needing to lower the surface level because the current level and vehicle use has caused a build-up of material against the fences on Christine Ave and is rotting them and creating flood issues.

A parishioner kindly supplied the Chairman with a quotation for £1500 he had obtained to make repairs to the footpath service, when making enquiries personally as a possible solution.

Another parishioner indicated that improving the surface is likely to increase vehicle speeds and thus reduce pedestrian safety, that the fundamental problem is that Ash Path is too narrow for both safe pedestrian and vehicle use, that WCC (Footpaths) is only responsible for pedestrian surface usage condition, as the track is not adopted WCC Highways apparently do not have a duty to maintain.

Comments included to encourage the District Council not to approve any more housing development in this area as it may increase the traffic, causing further damages.

Questions raised included at what stage is the footpath deemed to be unsafe and by whom? Can the area be examined after heavy rainfall?

NEXT STEPS

The Parish Council wants to maintain the use of this footpath. It is the Chairman's intention is to write to the landowners in Christine Avenue, in the next 2/3 weeks, to ask if they would allow work on their land and also write to the houses to the north side of RW-520(B) to ask if they are willing to pay for such work.

The aim of the Parish Council is to try to understand the obligations and facilitate an agreement with everyone to try to reach a safe and sustainable solution.