

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF
RUSHWICK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 11 OCTOBER 2023 AT 7.30 PM
AT RUSHWICK VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr Jenkins (Chair) ,Cllr Hemsworth, Cllr Lowe, Cllr Wise and Cllr Haywood
In Attendance: Sharon Baxter (Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer)
District Councillors Peter Whatley & Sarah Rouse plus 5 parishioners

1. Apologies: County Councillor Scott Richardson Brown (Personal) - 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 in 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

Public Question Time - Appendix to these minutes

County Councillor – No report available.

District Councillors Reports - Appendix to these minutes

4. Minutes: Having been previously circulated the minutes of The Parish Council meeting of 13.09.2023 were signed as a true and correct record.
5. Progress Reports: No matters arising from previous minutes. The Action Plan was reviewed.
6. Parish Lengthsman Scheme: An update was presented as per timesheet which included attending to the VAS sign, clearing litter from the underpass, cutting back verges to the footpaths along the Bransford Road and Claphill Lane and clearing out gulley grates around the whole Parish.
7. Finance
 1. Payment of accounts as per schedule were authorised.
 2. Monthly Bank Reconciliation Statement - For Information Only
 3. Budget Monitoring QTR 2 - To 30.09.2023
8. Update on Email Management – The Clerk and all councillors now have bespoke email addresses to comply with audit requirements.
9. Reports from representatives: To receive an update
 1. Report from Village Hall Committee: Cllr Jenkins
Cllr Jenkins to liaise with Kay Poole to get up to speed on matters concerning ownership and constitution.
A utility fixed charge of £1 per booking will apply from 1 October 2023 for hiring the Village Hall.
 2. Footpath Officers report: Cllr Williams – No report available
 3. Report of Play Area: Cllr Hemsworth
Two U13 Teams are now using the football pitch. The Clerk to raise additional invoices.
 - a. **RESOLVED:** To authorise the Clerk to sign the letter of consent from WCC re: Lease of Land at Upper Wick Lane, Rushwick confirming consent is granted to Rushwick Parish Council to carry out replacement of existing play equipment.
 - b. **RESOLVED:** To proceed with repairs to the gate, posts and zip wire to the value of up to £2K.
 4. School Representative report: Position Vacant - Nothing to report
 5. Speeding Issues & Crime Prevention Update: Cllr Wise – Awaiting vetting of the volunteers.
Cllr Wise will also try to establish the exact statistics from the traffic survey conducted.

10. Update on the Parish Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr Lowe
Cllr Lowe has completed the text to the Parish Neighbourhood Plan. A public consultation is to be arranged, Looking at a date possibly for the end of November 2023. Cllrs Lowe, Jenkins and Hemsworth to agree on a flyer for circulation. Consideration is to be given the format and presentation material is required.
11. WCC Highway Issues - Progress Update: Cllr Jenkins
A response had been received from WCC Highways.
One of the major issues is Claphill Lane junction which WCC state will be closed for construction works to go ahead. However, the Parish Council has concerns that it will not open again.
Cllr Jenkins to pursue the Traffic Modelling Assessment.
12. Planning: To consider any Planning Applications received before this meeting - None
13. The Whitehall Inn - Update on an Asset of Community Value – Nothing further to update.
14. Correspondence for Information: Circulated by the Clerk
 1. Annual General Meeting of Worcestershire CALC will be held on Tuesday 17 October 2023 at 7pm at John Corbett Room, Droitwich Spa Community Hall, Heritage Way, Droitwich Spa
Interested Councillors to notify the Clerk who will secure a booking.
 2. Polling district, polling place and polling station review - Deadline for receipt of comments Thursday 2 November 2023.
15. Councillors' reports and items for future agendas
Cllr Lowe questioned what was going to happen regarding the reinstatement of a litter bin outside the Whitehall Inn. Cllr Jenkins confirmed he would liaise directly with the parishioner who raised the query.

The meeting closed at 8.23 PM.

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

Standing Order were adjourned.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A parishioner reported an accident involving a speeding car which had damaged her garden fence. She asked for some speed prevention measures to be put in place as this was the third occurrence. She was advised to report the incident to the police and supply the Parish Council with as much information as possible. Cllr Wise offered to liaise directly with PC Dee Stanley as a speeding concern. Cllr Lowe also offered to investigate looking into the sponsorship for the provision of another mobile speed sign.

The new owners of the Whitehall Inn introduced themselves highlighting the proposed works they need to carry out so it can be reopened again to the public, hopefully by the end of this year.

District Councillors Peter Whatley & Sarah Rouse

The South Worcestershire Development Plan Review has been submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination in public and is now waiting for the Secretary of State to appoint an independent inspector to carry out the examination.

Any member of the public may attend the Inspector's examination proceedings and that those who have previously submitted comments as part of the consultation process also have the right to address the Inspector during those proceedings. (www.localplanservice/SWDP/preview).

It is expected Malvern Hills District, Worcester City and Wychavon District Councils will be in a position to adopt the Plan in late 2024, but the timing of this will be subject to the Planning Inspectorate's timetable for the examination.

A meeting took place on 20/09/2023 where the rail-based strategy was discussed. Parish Councillors confirmed they wished to continue to lobby with the local residents about these issues and Cllr Jenkins together with Cllr Hemsworth will help devise a flyer for circulation which hopefully will encourage MP Harriet Baldwin and Council Leaders to act.

An update on the Parish Neighbourhood Plan will also be included on the same flyer.

Coronation Avenue – The appeal ended yesterday and the inspector to collate a verdict in the next 6/8 weeks.

Adopted Economic Plan – Encouraging work in high tec areas.

Homelessness numbers have increased from 1 -12 over the last 12 month period.

Food /Energy Supplies – only applicable to people who have not applied previously.

Standing Order were reimposed.