

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF
RUSHWICK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2023 AT 7.30 PM
AT RUSHWICK VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr Jenkins (Chair) ,Cllr Hemsworth (arrived 7.43pm), Cllr Williams and Cllr Haywood

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

County Cllr Scot Richardson Brown (arrived 7.37 pm)

District Councillors Peter Whatley

1. Apologies: Cllr Lowe (Personal) and Cllr Wise (Work Commitments) – Accepted
Cllr Hemsworth had given advance notice that he would be joining this meeting later this evening.
District Councillor Sarah Rouse (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

No Questions for Public Question Time

County Councillor - Appendix to these minutes.

District Councillors Reports - Appendix to these minutes

4. Minutes: Having been previously circulated the minutes of The Parish Council meeting of 11.10.2023 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 cutting back the verges along the Bransford Road, Claphill Lane and Upper Wick Lane, attending to the VAS sign, tidying and clearing litter from the underpass.
7. Finance
 1. **RESOLVED:** Payment of accounts as per schedule were authorised for payment.
Please note the new pay scales for 2023-24 have been agreed by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) to be implemented immediately , backdated to 1 April 2023.
 2. Monthly Bank Reconciliation Statement - For Information Only
 3. A preliminary budget for 2024/2025 was reviewed and discussed.
 4. Proposal to agree and request precept for 2024/2025 - To be finalised in January 2024 when the Band D Tax Base has been established by MHDC.
8. Reports from representatives: The following updates were received: -
 1. Report from Village Hall Committee: Cllr Jenkins to meet with Kay Poole.
 2. Footpath Officers report: Cllr Williams reported he had trimmed nettles and brambles at the entrance to Oldbury Woods, Crown East, Summer Hollow and the Bransford Road/A4103 junction.
He had identified that the brook located at the northern boundary needs dredging out to improve the area. He will speak to the landowner. Cllr Jenkins agreed to check the Land Registry. Item to be placed on the action list for follow up.

3. Report of Play Area: Cllr Hemsworth
 - The park continues to be very busy & popular with visitors from within the Parish & further afield.
 - Litter picking, changing od bins & sweeping of the stones for the drainage pits at the pump track continues to be a regular duty although installing the bins has had a positive impact on the amount of litter within the park.
 - Repairs have been carried out as follow by Reids:
New gate posts - £790 + VAT
New zip wire carriage, chain & seat - £845 + VAT
 - Oldbury Tigers U13s played the following matches that need invoicing: 14/10/2023, 28/10/2023 and 05/11/2023.
 - Top Cut continue to cut the grass bi-weekly for £80+VAT per cut on either a Thursday or Friday - One cut carried out in October - Invoice to pay £80 + VAT.
 - Section 106 application for new tower play unit & improvements to the football pitch & perimeter path has been submitted. Initial feedback is that it will be supported but awaiting final confirmation.

4. School Representative report: Position Vacant - Nothing to report.

5. Speeding Issues & Crime Prevention Update: Cllr Wise - No report available

9. Update on the Parish Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr Lowe
A flyer had been prepared by Cllr Jenkins. It was agreed the flyer will be presented as a newsletter to highlight the three current issues that affect Rushwick.
 1. The Parish Neighbourhood Plan,
 2. The SWDPR
 3. Claphill Lane/A44 junction closure.

The intention is to hold a formal village consultation on 6.12.2023 at the Village Hall at 7.30pm (the date is only provisional, subject to confirmation of village hall availability). Cllr Jenkins is seeking views/typo errors on the draft flyer/newsletter from councillors before distribution. Clerk to check hall availability.

10. WCC Highway Issues - Cllr Jenkins reported an acknowledgement had been received confirming that WCC could not provide a comprehensive response ahead of this evening but will endeavour to write back as soon as possible.

11. **RESOLVED:** To appoint transport planning consultants at a cost of £1650.00 (exclusive of VAT & expenses) to aid in discussions with WCC Highways re: The proposed alteration to the junction of the A44 and Claphill Lane, associated with the development known as Land West of Worcester

12. Planning: No Planning Applications to discuss

13. The Whitehall Inn - Update on an Asset of Community Value.
The nomination in respect of the Whitehall Inn, following the Determination Panel's recommendation and the Deputy Chief Executive's decision was unsuccessful due to insufficient evidence submitted to show regular current or recent use which furthered the social wellbeing and/or social interests of the local community.

14. Correspondence for Information: Circulated by the Clerk
Cllr Haywood volunteered to lay the poppy wreath for Remembrance Day

15. Councillors' reports and items for future agendas - None

The meeting closed at 8.37 PM.

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

Standing Order were adjourned.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

County Councillor Scott Richardson Brown

It was reported there is a missing bus stop opposite Worcester Gate.

Cllr Richardson Brown confirmed it would cost in the region of £6K to replace this, confirming he could use his funding as a partial contribution if the Parish Council were in agreement that this contribution would be a good use of public money. The consensus from the Parish Council was to leave as a bus stop sign as opposed to replacing with a shelter, due to its limited use.

Cllr Jenkins agreed to send the report prepared by the Transport Consultants directly to Cllr Richardson Brown.

A request for dual signage along Upper Wick Lane for shared space / pedestrians is in progress.

District Councillor Peter Whatley

Confirmed the barriers heading into Worcester (by the doctor's surgery) have been removed in their entirety.

Standing Order were reimposed.