

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF  
RUSHWICK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2024 AT 7.30 PM  
AT RUSHWICK VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr Jenkins (Chair) ,Cllr Hemsworth and. Cllr Williams.

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

1. Councillor Vacancies - Charlene Griffin- Blugher was successfully co-opted onto the parish council. She duly signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
2. Apologies: Cllr Lowe (Personal), Cllr Wise (Personal) and Cllr Haywood – All accepted  
District Councillor Peter Whatley (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 - None.
  3. To declare any Other Disclosable Interests in 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**

Comments appendix to these minutes.  
County Councillor - No report available.  
District Councillor Report - The report was noted.

5. Minutes: Having been previously circulated the minutes of The Parish Council meeting of 10.01.2024 were signed as a true and correct record.
6. Progress Reports: No matters arising from previous minutes. The Action Plan was reviewed and updated. The noticeboard located by the milestone has now been refurbished.
7. Parish Lengthsman Scheme: An update was presented as per timesheet which included clearing gully grates, verges and footpaths at various locations around the village including Claphill lane and along the Bransford Road. He had also cleared litter from the underpass and had attended to the VAS sign.
8. Finance
  1. **RESOLVED:** Payment of accounts as per schedule were authorised for payment.
  2. Monthly Bank Reconciliation Statement - For Information Only
  3. Agreed Budget for 2024/2025 and precept - For Information Only
  4. **RESOLVED:** The Risk Schedule and Model Scheme of Delegation were reviewed and adopted.
  5. **RESOLVED:** The Asset Register 2023/2024 was reviewed and adopted.
9. Reports from representatives: The following updates were received: -
  1. Report from Village Hall Committee: Cllr Jenkins  
Cllr Griffin-Blugher and Cllr Jenkins to meet with the Village Hall Committee to try to establish the legal status of ownership.
  2. Footpath Officers report: Cllr Williams  
'I have recently inspected the paths from the Village Hall to Bransford Layby, from there along the Teme to the Pedestrian level crossing, then along to Brookfields Farm and Grange Lane - trimming brambles and overhanging twigs where necessary.

The footbridge crossing the brook at Brookfields requires a replacement board : this is in hand. I have looked at the state of the ploughed field opposite the Bransford Road / A4103 junction + the boggy area in Oldbury Woods, and have reported these issues to Patrick White at Countryside Access.'

3. Report of Play Area: Cllr Hemsworth  
The planning application has been submitted. Please see below.  
All proposals from relevant parties have been received via Contracts Finder.  
Still need to obtain quotes for the path.  
Oldbury Park Tigers have only played 3 times recently due to the poor weather conditions.  
To attend a meeting with the FA to discuss pitches and funding opportunities.
4. School Representative report: Position Vacant - No report available
5. Speeding Issues & Crime Prevention Update: Cllr Wise  
'Currently I am waiting for the training day for the community speed watch and also dealing with Parking issues at the Worcester gate site.'  
Cllr Jenkins confirmed following several complaints regarding construction traffic he had spoken to Lioncourt regarding site access who have agreed they will only use Claphill Lane and will clean the road daily or more if required. They have agreed to meet up on a monthly basis.
10. Update on the Parish Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr Lowe - No update available
11. WCC Highway Issues - Progress Update: Cllr Jenkins  
Cllr Jenkins and Cllr Hemsworth meet with WCC Highways Officers on 13.02.2024.  
Regarding Claphill Lane junction and the long term after the construction of the new roundabout WCC will come back to us with a Junction Design.
12. Planning: To consider any Planning Applications received below or before this meeting.  
  
Application No: M/24/00060/FUL  
Location: Rushwick Village Green, Upper Wick Lane, Rushwick  
Proposal: Erection of children's play equipment to replace existing  
Comment: No comment as being progressed by the Parish Council.  
  
Planning Ref: 20/02000/RM – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION  
Location: Land at (Os 8202 5595 West of Worcester), Martley Road, Lower Broadheath  
Additional Information: Change of description relating to the phasing number being amended.  
Comment: No further comment to be made  
  
Notification from the Planning Inspectorate.  
Site Address: Land at (Os 8163 5361) Bransford Road, Rushwick  
The appeal is allowed and outline planning permission is granted for the erection of 8 dwellings together with vehicular / pedestrian access from Coronation Avenue  
The application for an award of costs has been refused.
13. Proposal to adopt the draft model Biodiversity Policy - In progress - Some modifications have been suggested. This will feature on the March agenda for consideration.
14. Correspondence for Information: Circulated by the Clerk
  - a. Hedgehogs R Us Highway Project - Whilst councillors expressed interest in this project it was felt donations from local organisations should be given priority due to limited parish council funds.

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

**RESOLVED:** For Cllr Jenkins to establish the position with the annual census increase applicable to the Guides unit and its impact before considering a donation up to the value of £100.

Should this donation made, consideration also to be given to the local Scouts Group for a donation of the same value.

The meeting closed at 8.25 PM.

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

*Standing Order were adjourned.*

## **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

A parishioner is seeking guidance/financial help from the Parish Council to help support the running of the local Guides unit. The Chairman to provide some funding information to help with the long-term sustainability.

### **District Councillor Peter Whatley**

I only have a limited number of items that are of note and I've already circulated you on two of them. Those are the successful application of Leigh & Bransford PC's neighbourhood plan in a planning appeal and the mass participation of Kempsey residents at last week's planning committee meeting: a highly effective way of putting pressure on councillors.

The only other item is to advise that MHDC's budget for 2024-25 is, as expected, proposing a £5 increase in Band D Council Tax, which equates to a 2.82% rise, slightly below the maximum permitted by law without a referendum. I have some issues with the detail of the budget, which includes an assumption charges at MHDC car parks will rise significantly. I'll report back to you on that topic when there is more detail available.

The application for the 8 houses off Coronation Avenue has been allowed at appeal, but application for costs against MHDC refused as the council's officers were considered to have acted reasonably.

### **County Councillor Scott Richardson Brown – No report available**

*Standing Order were reimposed.*