

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF  
RUSHWICK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH 2024 AT 7.30 PM  
AT RUSHWICK VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr Jenkins (Chair) ,Cllr Hemsworth, Cllr Lowe, Cllr Wise, Cllr Haywood and Cllr Griffin-Blugher

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

District Councillor Peter Whatley

1. Apologies: Cllr Williams (Personal) - Accepted  
County Councillor Scott Richardson Brown (Personal) & 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

District Councillor Report - The report was noted.

4. Minutes: Having been previously circulated the minutes of The Parish Council meeting of 14.02.2024 were signed as a true and correct record.
5. Progress Reports: The Action Plan was reviewed and updated.  
Matters Arising: Cllr Jenkins had established the position with the annual census increase applicable to the local Guides unit resulting in a one-off donation of £100 paid being made.
6. Parish Lengthsman Scheme: This month the Lengthsman has been busy cutting back verges and footpaths along the Bransford Road, Upper Wick and Claphill Lane including attending to the VAS sign and tidying up the area at the underpass.
  - a. **RESOLVED:** The Contract of Services for the Lengthsman from 1.4.2024 to 31.03.2025 is to be renewed, offering a £1.50 per hour increase on his existing rate (to bring in line with Lengthsman pay recommendations of £18.00 - £20.00 per hour).
7. Finance
  1. **RESOLVED:** Payment of accounts as per schedule were authorised for payment.
  2. Monthly Bank Reconciliation Statement - For Information Only
8. Reports from representatives: The following updates were received: -
  1. Report from Village Hall Committee: Cllr Jenkins  
Cllr Jenkins and Cllr Griffin-Blugher had arranged to meet with Kay Poole Chairperson of the Village Hall committee next Wednesday to make progress.
  2. Footpath Officers report: Cllr Williams  
'This month I have
    1. Emailed The Worcestershire Wildlife Trust to ask for guidance on preserving / encouraging wildlife in view of the continuing housing developments taking place.
    2. Asked round about the ownership of Oldbury Woods.
    3. Inspected the Broadmore Green to Claphill Lane footpath.'

3. Report of Play Area: Cllr Hemsworth  
The Planning application is being progressed.  
Clerk to invoice OPT for the recent matches played.  
The Football Association are going to inspect the pitch with a view for funding.  
Awaiting the ROSPA report - due in March/April.
4. School Representative report: Position Vacant - No report available  
Cllr Jenkins to progress a meeting with the new Headmaster.
5. Speeding Issues & Crime Prevention Update: Cllr Wise  
Cllr Wise confirmed PC Jon Hand is dealing with these matters.  
Parking issues reported at the Worcester Gate housing development, specifically with vehicles parking too close to the junctions.  
Two volunteers have dropped out from the group required for the community speed watch so now seeking replacements.
9. Update on the Parish Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr Lowe - Seeking a point of clarification with a parishioner before submission to MHDC.
10. WCC Highway Issues - Progress Update: Cllr Jenkins  
A response has been received concerning the Transport Model. A request has been made for the Virtual Survey/Traffic flow.  
The S278 agreement includes Claphill Lane, which shouldn't be. Cllr Jenkins to follow up with the transport consultant.
11. Planning:

**For Information Only**

Planning ref: M/23/01504/FUL

Proposal: Erection of a single detached dwelling

Location: Whitehall Inn, Bransford Road, Rushwick, Worcester, WR2 5TA

Application Refused

**WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - PUBLIC NOTICE**

Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984

(C2226 Claphill Lane, Rushwick) (Temporary Closure) Order 2024

Proposed Order: to close that part of C2226 Claphill Lane from its junction with A44 Bromyard Road to its junction with Callows Orchard (NSG ref 24411959).

Reason: Sewer works on new development by Shannonside Civil Engineering

Exemptions: to permit access to any land or premises fronting the highway affected where there is no other form of access; and to allow the works to be undertaken.

Alternative route: A44 Bromyard Road, A4440 Grove Way, C2298 Bransford Road, C2226 Claphill Lane and vice versa. Maximum duration: 18 Months. Anticipated duration: 6 days (24hrs). Commencing: 7 April 2024

12. **RESOLVED:** To adopt the draft model Biodiversity Policy with modifications.
13. Correspondence for Information: Circulated by the Clerk throughout the month.
14. The Annual Parish Meeting is due to take place on Wednesday 8 May 2024 at 8.00pm at Rushwick Village Hall. It was agreed to invite Ian MacLeod Director of Planning and Infrastructure from MHDC as a guest speaker.

15. Councillors' reports and items for future agendas

Cllr Hemsworth asked at what stage do CIL/S106 agreements get devised requested the importance that the Parish Council should be consulted. Action - Cllr Jenkins to make a request to the Head of Planning.

Cllr Wise agreed to circulate contact details of PC Hand for future reference.

He also requested if a litter bin could be installed at Worcester Gate. He was advised that the Parish Council dd have a spare one, but the installation would be dependent on MHDC agreeing to emptying it.

Clerk to provide contact details.

Cllr Jenkins confirmed he had been in contact with the Trading Standards Service following a costly experience a local parishioner had encountered. He had circulated various Rogue Trader Leaflets to raise awareness. Some of which will be placed in the Whitehall Inn.

The meeting closed at 8.23 PM.

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

*Standing Order were adjourned.*

## **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

### **District Councillor Peter Whatley**

MHDC is raising its part of the Council Tax by £5.00 for a band D property, 2.82%

Cllr Whatley confirmed both he and Cllr Rousse felt they could not vote due to insufficient supporting information of how this money was going to be spent including car park proposals and the validation of car park numbers.

Cllr Hemsworth was thanked for his public participation at the Council meeting on 20 February 2024 of which a written response had provided by Ian Macleod, Director of Planning and Infrastructure. The next Northern area meeting is to take place in May 2024.

Cllr Jenkins asked if the S278 agreement could be checked concerning the A44 roundabout.

*Standing Order were reimposed.*