



## Rous Lench Parish Council

**DRAFT Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 18th March 2024**

**at 7pm at Rous Lench Village Hall.**

<b>Present</b>	Cllrs D Browne (Chair), G Hughes, S Davis & L Newton <b>In attendance:</b> Kerry Williamson (Clerk) <b>Public:</b> 0 <b>Meeting opened at 7pm</b>
17/24	<b>Chairman's Welcome:</b> Cllr Browne opened the meeting and welcomed the Councillors.
18/24	<b>Apologies for Absence:</b> Cllr Harrison, Cllr Hicken & Cllr Hurdman (District) sent apologies.
19/24	<b>Declarations of Interest:</b> None
20/24	<b>Dispensations:</b> No requests received.
21/24	<b>To receive reports from District, County Council, Police and Public Question Time (PQT):</b> <b>Wychavon Dist. Council (WDC):</b> Cllr Ben Hurdman provided the following report to share at the meeting: <i>I haven't heard any more from the officer about the application on Radford Road. As soon as I do I will let you know.</i> <i>Wychavon have appointed a new head of planning. Mr Ian Macleod who has joined from Birmingham City Council.</i> <i>At the meeting with John Champion the PCC I have mentioned the fly tipping incidents that have occurred in the area recently. Also, the lack of communication and the lack of action when the police are called, especially in rural areas.</i> <i>Regarding the SWDPR the inspectors for this plan have now been appointed.</i> <b>Worcs County Council (WCC):</b> No report provided. <b>Police:</b> Nothing to report. <b>PQT:</b> No public present.
22/24	<b>To approve minutes of previous meeting.</b> The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on January 29th 2024, were <b>agreed</b> as a true record and approved.
23/24	<b>Planning Applications and Appeals:</b> <b>The following applications were noted and/or discussed:</b> a) <b>SWDP Review consultation</b> – response provided by RLPC. Any updates to be provided. <b>Update provided in Cllr Hurdman's report.</b> b) <b>W/23/00321/FUL</b> , The Caravan At, Radford Road, Rous Lench, Evesham, WR11 4UL – amended to part change of use of land (retrospective) from agricultural land to provide extension to existing gypsy site approved under reference W/15/01159 together with the siting of 3 no. mobile homes, 3 no. day rooms



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	<p>and 3 no. touring caravans to provide three gypsy pitches for members of the same family. <b>No updates.</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> Clerk to contact Cllr Ben Hurdman to ask when this application will be decided by (specific date). Parishioners have asked for an update.</p> <p>c) <b>W/23/02236/FUL</b>, Land On, Little Ashdene Farm, Kington Lane, Kington - Change of use of land to residential for the erection of 3 dwellings. Comment provided by RLPC, currently pending decision. <b>Noted.</b></p> <p>d) <b>W/23/02521/HP</b>, The Thatch, Alcester Road, Radford, Worcester, WR7 4LR – single storey detached garage. Application approved by Wychavon District Council. <b>Noted.</b></p> <p>e) <b>W/24/00175/FUL (Clerk’s delegation)</b> To note comments submitted between scheduled meetings: Westol Hall Farm, Alcester Road, Radford, Worcester, WR7 4LW - Change of use of land to residential garden land within the curtilage of Westol Hall Farmhouse. <b>Noted.</b></p> <p>f) <b>W/24/00253/FUL (Clerk’s delegation)</b> To note comments submitted between scheduled meetings: Land at (OS 0113 5403), Radford Road, Rous Lench - Erection of agricultural grain store. <b>Noted.</b></p>
24/24	<p><b>Public Rights of Way and Highways</b> - Clerk reported:</p> <p>a) <b>PROW maintenance and obstruction issues</b> – litter pick was carried out by residents on 17th March. Flytipping was noted.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Clerk to report flytipping.</p> <p>b) <b>Lengthsman Scheme</b> – No items for work schedule.</p> <p>c) <b>Flooding</b> – Flooding in Radford and resident’s reports of full ditches was discussed. Cllr Hughes reported that whilst there have been no issues with the recent wet weather residents are concerned about future flooding and the effect on their homes due to overgrowth in the ditches.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Cllr Browne to write to Mr Cunnock (ditch owner) to express resident’s concerns about the overgrowth in the ditches and the potential of the ditches becoming full, and to ask if he could clear the ditches.</p>
25/24	<p><b>Progress Reports</b> - Clerk reported:</p> <p>d) <b>Update on Actions since Previous Meeting</b> – routine work and funding applications to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and Wychavon Rural Fund for a new VAS unit with solar panels and data capture.</p>
26/24	<p><b>Community Orchard/garden &amp; allotments</b> – Cllr Newton reported that the community planting day on 25th February was a success and 4th May will be the grand opening. Cllr Newton reported that the Rous Lench &amp; Radford Community Garden (Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)) would like to approach RLPC for a grant to support phase 2 of the project - a clubhouse, some additional play equipment, a composting toilet, and connection to power and water. A grant of £3000 would contribute to the match funding required to make an application to the Wychavon Rural Fund for the full funding required to complete phase 2. They will also be seeking some further match funds from Worcestershire County Council and approaching businesses for donations. Cllr Browne expressed support for the grant application to RLPC – RLPC want the project to work, and it is there to be used and enjoyed by Rous Lench and Radford residents.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Clerk to repost the Community Garden’s Facebook post regarding the grand opening.</p>

	<b>Action:</b> Clerk to send a grant application form to the Rous Lench & Radford Community Garden (Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)).
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27/24	<p><b>Rous Lench &amp; Radford parish matters for discussion or decision:</b></p> <p><b>a) Asset maintenance checks (standing item)</b> All assets checked, nothing to report. Trees on the village green will possibly need pruning before the Pig Roast (29th June). An arboriculturalist can give an opinion. <b>Action:</b> Cllr Davis and Cllr Newton to ask their independent contacts for a quote. <b>Action:</b> Cllr Browne to forward Rous Lench defibrillator registration information to the Clerk.</p> <p><b>b) Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) –</b> A grant has been awarded to RLPC from the OPCC for a new VAS unit with 2 solar panels (VAS can be moved between 2 locations) and data capture. The grant payment will be made from 1st April 2024. Wychavon Rural Fund has requested further information. <b>Action:</b> Clerk to provide the additional requested information to the Wychavon Rural Fund by 9am on 25th March.</p> <p><b>c) Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding –</b> CIL funding could be used as part of the grant request from the Rous Lench &amp; Radford Community Garden (Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)).</p> <p><b>d) Community Legacy Grant (round 5) –</b> Cllr Browne attended the briefing on behalf of RLPC. PCC have been invited to make a full application. Councillors in support of the PCC’s funding application (majority). There were questions over the need for a second community space in Rous Lench (village hall provides a community space and events).</p> <p><b>e) Litter Pick –</b> a successful litter pick was held on 17th March. Over twenty bags of rubbish were collected. Clerk has sent out messages of thanks.</p> <p><b>f) Portrait of His Majesty The King –</b> it was <b>agreed</b> to place an order for the free portrait being offered to Parish/Town Councils. <b>Action:</b> Clerk to place the order by 28th March.</p> <p><b>g) .gov Domains –</b> Councillors would like to find out more about the process and funding available to switch. <b>Action:</b> Clerk to sign up to the Parish Council Domains Helper Service to find out more.</p> <p><b>h) Parish Council Website –</b> Clerk reported that Worcestershire County Council (WCC) is currently deciding whether to stop the provision of the Parish Council websites. They will give a year to allow change overs. Worcs CALC is gathering quotes from website providers. <b>Action:</b> Clerk to find out if a website would be part of the .gov domains.</p> <p><b>i) Consultation on draft revised Statement of Licensing Policy (2024-2029) –</b> Councillors discussed a response to the question: <i>Do you think the Council should make any other changes or add anything further to its draft revised Statement of Licensing Policy?</i> Particularly the Temporary Event Notice (TEN) application process. Councillors <b>agreed</b> to submit a comment: suggest that Parish Councils are notified of a TEN application in their Parish and given the opportunity to comment on it. <b>Action:</b> Clerk to submit the comment on the online survey.</p> <p><b>j) Flyford Flavell Radford Road 30mph extension –</b> Councillors support the petition for the 30mph extension on Radford Road, Flyford Flavell. <b>Action:</b> Clerk to find out if there is an online version of the petition that can be circulated to Rous Lench &amp; Radford residents.</p>
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28/24	<p><b>Finance</b></p> <p><b>a) Budget expenditure: To consider and approve.</b> The budget expenditure was <b>approved</b>.</p> <p><b>b) Bank reconciliation: To consider and approve.</b> The bank reconciliation was <b>approved</b>.</p> <p><b>c) Invoices: To approve the proposed payments.</b> The proposed payments (see table at the end of Minutes) were <b>agreed</b>.</p> <p><b>d) Clerk's Delegation: To note the payments made between meetings.</b> The payments made between meetings (see table at the end of Minutes) were <b>noted</b>.</p>
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29/24	<p><b>Correspondence:</b> All correspondence has been circulated to Councillors.</p> <p>Worcestershire CALC: CALC Update 24-01.</p> <p>Worcestershire CALC: Agenda for Quarterly Meeting of the Wychavon Area of CALC.</p> <p>Worcestershire CALC: LNRS Consultation.</p> <p>Wychavon District Council: Invitation to The Chairman of Wychavon District Council's Civic Service.</p> <p>Wychavon District Council: Portrait of His Majesty The King for all Town, Parish and Community Councils in the UK.</p> <p>Wychavon District Council: Notification of Consultation on the Community Infrastructure Levy Draft Charging Schedule.</p> <p>Wychavon District Council: 2024 Wychavon Parish Games.</p> <p>Wychavon District Council: Consultation on Draft Revised Statement of Licensing Policy (2024-2029).</p> <p>Wychavon District Council: Outcome of CLG Expression of Interest</p> <p>Worcestershire County Council: Budget 2024.</p> <p>Worcestershire County Council: Revised Planning Validation Document Consultation.</p> <p>Worcestershire County Council: Digitisation of Parish Lengthsman Database.</p> <p>Worcestershire County Council: Home Upgrade Grant Scheme.</p> <p>Worcestershire County Council: New Community Orchard and Mini Forest Funding.</p> <p>Worcestershire Regulatory Services: Beltane Bash &amp; TEN applications.</p> <p>West Mercia Police: Latest Budget</p> <p>West Mercia Police: SNT Team Poster.</p> <p>West Mercia Police: Online Survivor Pathway Launches in West Mercia.</p> <p>Mill Lane Resident's group: Land ownership info &amp; email to Cllr Ben Hurdman.</p> <p>Rous Lench resident: Flooding.</p>
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	St Peter's Church PCC: CLG funding. Flyford Flavell Resident: Speed Reduction Petition.
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30/24	<b>Councillors Reports &amp; Items for Future Agenda</b> Cllr Hughes: Drains on Radford Road and outside Royal Motorways have not been cleared. Clerk has previously reported via the WCC website 'Report it'. Clerk will ask Highways to look at these.
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31/24	<b>Date of next meeting:</b> 20th May at 7.30pm at RL village hall. Annual Parish Meeting will be at 7pm on 20th May.
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**Meeting closed at 8.30pm**

SIGNED:..... Chair

Date: .....

<b>Payments for authorisation.</b>			Net	VAT	TOTAL
Chq. No.	Payee	Details			
online	Mrs Kerry Williamson	Salary & Expenses	£646.04	£0.00	£646.04
online	HMRC	Employers PAYE income tax	£13.60	£0.00	£13.60
online	Parish Lengthsman	January (£240) & February (£240)	£480.00	£0.00	£480.00
online	Rous Lench Village Hall	Meeting booking March 2024 + Litter pick hall booking	£48.00	£0.00	£48.00
online	John Whitfield*	Lawnmower petrol	£25.00	£0.00	£25.00
online	Brian Herdman*	Repayment of replacement defibrillator case having sold original case	£170.00	£0.00	£170.00
online	Park Corner Aquatic Nurseries*	Allotment/Community gardens work (CLG funded)	£425.00	£85.00	£510.00
online	Environmental and Landscape Maintenance Services*	Allotment/Community gardens work (CLG funded)	£2,600.00	£0.00	£2,600.00
online	Corrine White*	Village Green Christmas lights	£314.17	£62.83	£377.00
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>£4,721.81</b>	<b>£147.83</b>	<b>£4,869.64</b>

\* - payment made between meetings

Kerry Williamson  
Clerk and RFO