MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF RUSHWICK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11 MARCH 2026 AT 7.30 PM AT RUSHWICK VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllr Jenkins (Chair), Cllr Staff and Cllr Dovey

In Attendance: Mrs Sharon Dunn (Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer) plus two members of the public. County Councillor Chris McSweeney and District Councillor Peter Whatley

1. Apologies: Cllr Haywood (Personal), Cllr Williams (Personal), Cllr Lowe (Personal) - All Accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest
   1. Register of Interests: Councillors were reminded of the need to update their register of interest.
   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

Notes from for Public Question Time are appended to these minutes
Reports from County Cllr McSweeney noted
Report from the District Councillor Whatley was noted

4. Minutes: Having been previously circulated the minutes of The Parish Council meeting of 11.02.2026 were signed as a true and correct record.

5. Progress Reports: No matters arising from previous minutes. The Action Plan was reviewed and updated.

6. Parish Lengthsman Scheme: Update
   A request was made for the Lengthsman carry out weed clearance in Orchard Close and to side out the left-hand side of the repainted underpass. The Lengthsman is due to attend Training Day on 20th March 2026.
   a. **RESOLVED:** To renew the Contract of Services for the Lengthsman from 01.04.26 to 31.03.27.

7. Finance
   1. Payment of accounts as per schedule were authorised
   2. Monthly Bank Reconciliation Statement - For Information Only

8. Data Compliance
   - The new website is currently under construction.
   - **RESOLVED:** To adopt an IT Policy
   - As part of RPC's compliance with new requirements from central government a new domain name of rushwickparishcouncil.gov.uk is being progressed with Cloud Next, an approved government provider. The first year of the domain is free (normally £50). They will also set up to 25 email addresses at a cost of £50 per year. Next steps are for the domain name to be approved and for councillors to each have a.gov.uk email address operational.

9. Reports from representatives: To receive an update
   1. Report from Village Hall Committee: Cllr Dovey attended his first meeting today. He conveyed that the Village Hall Committee needs to request a meeting with a solicitor, and a Statement of Truth is required. However, the Cllr Jenkins suggested an easier option to pursue might be to appoint the Parish Council as a Trustee.
      The potholes in the car park opposite the school are to be repaired late spring/early summer.
   2. Footpath Officers report: Cllr Williams has been in contact with WCC Countryside Access Services, who informs him that the post of Officer for this part of the county is due to be filled soon, and he will be updated so any queries can be addressed.

3. Report on Play Area: Cllr Hemsworth - No report available
4. School Representative report: Cllr Jenkins - No report available
5. Speeding/Parking Issues & Crime Prevention Update: Cllr Staff was thanked for his work involving speed monitoring.
    a. **RESOLVED**: To purchase a third mobile VAS Sign from Elan City to place in Claphill Lane in the new financial year 2026-2027. Cllr Staff to place order
    b. **RESOLVED:** To purchase two new litter bins, 1 x Christine Avenue and 1 x Claphill Lane from Broxap Street Furniture in accordance with the new financial year 2026-2027 allocated budget. Cllr Staff to place order.

10. Planning: To consider the following Planning Applications received: -

Planning Application No: M/25/01910/FUL
Location: The Forge, Crown East, Worcester, WR2 5TU
Proposal: Change of use of property to a pre-school nursery including conversion of existing dwelling with addition of foyer to front and covered verandah to rear, siting of pre-fabricated classroom block, erection of storage building, parking to front and rear and associated external works .
Additional information/amendment(s) have been received for this planning application.
Amended site plan and additional information in the form of a technical note (transport)
Comments: RPC comments on Revised Transport Assessment
RPC believes that the revised transport submission does not adequately demonstrate that the proposed nursery can operate without causing parking overspill or highway safety risks on Crown East Lane. Furthermore, in our opinion, it does not satisfy the requirements set out in the WCC Highways response. Our concerns are:
Drop-off Parking at 14 spaces remains inadequate because

(a) Parking Demand Based on Averages Rather Than Peak Demand - The applicant calculates parking demand using average ratios of cars per pupil.

(b) Their survey data shows higher peak ratios. When the highest observed ratio is applied to 94 children, it suggests that up to around 19 vehicles could be present at one time, significantly exceeding the 14 spaces proposed, and

(c) The survey method may underestimate true peak activity because they were recorded at 10-minute intervals, which may miss short periods where multiple vehicles arrive simultaneously. Nursery drop-offs typically occur in short bursts, meaning the true peak demand could be higher than recorded.

In addition, we do not believe the comparator sites are comparable to the Crown East site under consideration because the Bransford Road nursery used as evidence is located opposite a large hotel car park, which provides informal overspill parking, which we know is frequently and regularly used. No such additional parking exists at Crown East Lane.

Thus, even based on their additional information, overspill parking onto Crown East Lane will occur causing a significant hazard as Crown East Lane is a narrow road with a 40mph speed limit, regular through traffic and the proposed development is very close to the junction with the A44.

For Information Only
Planning Ref: M/25/02047/ADV
Proposal: Application to erect sales signage for the housing development at Regency Gate, to include Main 'V' Sign, Flags , Fascia, Parking Sign.
Location: Land At (Os 8202 5595 West of Worcester), Martley Road, Lower Broadheath
Application Approved

11. Update to the Parish Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr Lowe - No progress to report

12. Correspondence for Information: Circulated by the Clerk throughout the month
    A local resident is seeking provision for an allotment. Unfortunately, there are none in operation within the Parish but seeking to establish some hopefully in the future.

13. Please note the May Parish Council meeting which will commence at the earlier time of 7.00pm, followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 8.00pm. Cllr Williams may present a talk on the History of Kempsey and the Civil War.

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

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Signed ……. Chairman…… Date……..

Standing Orders were adjourned

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

County Councillor - Chris McSweeney

Worcestershire County Council (WCC) faces an "unprecedented" budget crisis for 2026/27, with a forecasted £74.3 million funding gap. To manage this, the council is considering a 8.9% council tax increase, potentially adding £145 annually to Band D bills, to avoid a Section 114 (effectively bankrupt) notice.

Cllr McSweeney will chase to arrange a meeting directly re: Roundabout A44 and various technical issues including the visibility splays. To assist Cllr McSweeney, Cllr Jenkins will write an email capturing these points.

Cllr Jenkins requested if a bicycle route could be progressed from Rushwick directly to Worcester.

Cllr McSweeney to chase the request made by Cllr Staff for double yellow lines could be introduced at the junction of Minett Avenue and if the yellow hatch marking could be introduced at the bus stop located on the Bransford Road to help address parking issues.

Questions from members of the public
Q1. What will happen next year with the budget?
A1. Hoping all parties will work together next year to try to resolve the fundamental issues.
The same member of the public referenced the SWDPR revision referencing the next 15 years housing supply.
The Chairman suggested that he address his questions outside of this meeting, directly to the County Councillor for answers.

District Councillor - Peter Whatley

No increase in Council Tax for financial year 2026/2027.

Apparently, the Planning Inspectors require more time to conclude their report. Rather than MHDC councillors getting a briefing on Monday 9th March, this is now promised one on March 20th. MHDC's vote on SWDPr is still scheduled for March 24th.

WCC Highways have recommended that application M/25/02042/FUL be deferred on the grounds that "insufficient information has been provided to demonstrate that the proposals would not result in a severe or unacceptable impact on the local highway, and safe and suitable access can be ensured for all users as per paragraphs 116 and 115 of the NPPF December 2024." Highways full report is now available on MHDC's website.

Standing Orders were reimposed