MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF RUSHWICK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8 APRIL 2026 AT 7.30 PM AT RUSHWICK VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllr Jenkins (Chair), Cllr Staff, Cllr Williams, Cllr Haywood,Cllr Dovey and Cllr Hemsworth (arrived 7.37pm)

In Attendance: Mrs Sharon Dunn (Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer)

1. Apologies: Cllr Lowe (Personal) - 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

No Questions for Public Question Time

Report from County Cllr McSweeney - No report available

District Councillor Whatley - Resignation
We would like to express our sincere thanks for your service as our District Councillor over the past years. Your commitment and help to Rushwick has been greatly appreciated and it's been a real privilege to work with you. We wish you all the very best for the next chapter in your life.

4. Minutes: Having been previously circulated the minutes of The Parish Council meeting of 11.03.2026 were signed as a true and correct record.

5. Progress Reports: No matters arising from previous minutes. The Action Plan was reviewed and updated. The Parish Council to obtain advice from a solicitor to seek to become a Trustee of the Village Hall and what this entails.
   Cllr Jenkins is pursuing a meeting with WCC Highways concerning the roundabout and the impact on the A44/Claphill Lane.
   Two new litter bins are to be ordered from Broxap Street Furniture, one to be placed in Christine Avenue and the other for Claphill Lane. A new Vehicle Activated speed sign is to be purchased from Elan City.

6. Parish Lengthsman Scheme: Update
   Tim has been busy clearing gulley grates in Claphill Lane and Upper Wick Lane, siding and clearing the footpath along the Bransford Road and carrying out weed clearance in Orchard Close. He has also been attending to the VAS signs and ensuring the underpass is clean and tidy.

7. Finance
   1. Payment of accounts as per schedule were authorised
   2. Bank Reconciliation Statement to 31.03.2026 was reviewed and approved.
   3. Budget Monitoring to 31.03.2026 - Reviewed and agreed

8. Data Compliance - Assertion 10 AGAR
   - Website - Progress Update - The content has been downloaded from the existing website and has been securely backed up. A holding page is in place to let visitors know the new website is currently under construction. Working on the new logo and the newly designed homepage.

- New parish council domain name and email addresses - Update - The new Parish Council email address is **clerk@rushwickparishcouncil.gov.uk** and all councillors now have in operation their own.gov.uk email address for data compliance purposes.

9. Reports from representatives: To receive an update
    1. Report from Village Hall Committee: Cllr Dovey
       The Village Hall Committee is due to meet again next month to progress matters.
    2. Footpath Officers report: Cllr Williams announced his resignation from this position. He was thanked for carrying out such admiral work. A replacement Footpath Officer is required.
    3. Report on Play Area: Cllr Hemsworth
       The play area continues to operate well.
        a. ROSPA Play Safety Inspection 2026 - The report was reviewed, actions noted with remedial works to be arranged to be made.
    4. School Representative report: Cllr Jenkins - Nothing to report
    5. Speeding/Parking Issues & Crime Prevention Update: Cllr Staff reported that the speed awareness trainer has now retired. Cllr Staff was thanked for his efforts in helping to reduce speeding throughout the village.
       Cllr Jenkins referenced a parishioner who had reported a long standing /worsening issue regarding obstructive parking on Sandys Close. Unfortunately, as this is not an issue that can be dealt with by the Parish Council he was referred to the police at the safer neighbourhood team to for further assistance and advice.

Planning: To consider any Planning Applications received before this meeting.
Application No: M/26/00405/HP
Location: Westwood, Bransford Road, Rushwick, Worcester, WR2 5TA
Proposal: Erection of lean to shed to replace standalone shed and wood store
Comments: No Objections

Application No: M/26/00513/S106. Associated Ref: 16/01168/OUT
Location: Land at (Os 8202 5595 West of Worcester), Martley Road, Lower Broadheath
Proposal: Application under section 106A(3)(a) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to modify The requirements relating to legal agreement dated 14 April 2020 associated with planning permission ref. no. 16/01168/OUT ….
Comments: No Objections

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

12. Correspondence for Information: Circulated by the Clerk
    18.03.26 Public Consultation - Police Force Mergers - Survey closes 15th June 2026
    23.03.26 Malvern Hills Area Meeting 02.04.2026 - to be held virtually on zoom
    24.03.26 Registering to speak at Area Planning Committee will be introduced from 1st April 26
    26.03.26 Adopted South Worcestershire Development Plan Review 2021-2041
    The plan was formally adopted on 26 March 2026. It now provides an up-to-date development plan to be used when considering both existing, as yet undecided and future planning applications.
    27.03.26 Neighbourhood Planning Funding of up to £10K available
    30.03.26 South Worcestershire Citizens Advice – Donation Request
    Uunfortunately, due to budget constraints for the financial year 2026-2027 Rushwick Parish Council is unable to make a financial contribution to support your good work.

13. Councillors' reports and items for future agendas
    - A suggestion was to make enquiries to engage a local artist to paint a mural on the wall of the underpass. Cllr Williams to make further enquiries.
    - Cllr Staff expressed an idea to purchase the car park land for sale located by the Whitehall Inn, with an aspiration to develop a local convenience shop to benefit the whole community. He is very passionate about this venture and will research viable options including volunteers. He will report back at a future Parish Council meeting.

- Cllr Haywood asked if an area at the playing field could be designated to play pétanque (a French ball game) which is becoming increasingly popular. She was advised because of the gravel surface required to play this game on; this may be problematic due to the football pitches and other grass areas.
- Cllr Williams highlighted that new noticeboards are required as the existing ones are no longer fit for purpose. He will make further enquiries and advise.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Signed ……. Chairman…… Date……..