

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF RUSHWICK PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9 JULY 2025 AT 7.30 PM
AT RUSHWICK VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr Jenkins , Cllr Lowe, Cllr Hemsworth, Cllr Staff , Cllr Haywood , Cllr Williams and Cllr Griffin-Blugher.

In Attendance: County Councillor McSweeney , District Cllr Whatley and Mrs Sharon Dunn (Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer) plus representatives (x4) in respect of the proposed Bellway application.

1. Apologies: None
2. Councillor Vacancies - Mr. Christopher Dovey was successfully appointed as a new councillor by co-option and duly signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
3. 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
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 -

Notes from Public Question Time are appended to these minutes.

Representation from Bellway Strategic Land

Reports from the County and District Councillor were noted

5. Minutes: Having been previously circulated the minutes of The Parish Council meeting of 11.06.2025 were signed as a true and correct record.

Cllr Griffin-Blugher apologised for leaving early but was required to attend to an emergency.

6. Progress Reports: Matters arising from previous minutes - None
The Action Plan was reviewed and updated. The two dead cherry trees located in Claphill Lane have been reported to WCC who will inspect within 28 days to determine the priority of works and action required. Cllr Williams identified sections of footpaths within the Parish need attention and has compiled a list. Cllr Staff to look into the viability and cost of a new vehicle activated speed sign.
7. Parish Lengthsman Scheme: Update was presented as per worksheet which included continuing to keep the the underpass tidy, cutting back verges in Upper Wick, footpath clearance along the Bransford Road and Claphill Lane.
8. Finance
 1. The payment of accounts as per schedule were authorised.
 2. Monthly Bank Reconciliation Statement - For Information Only
 3. Budget Monitoring to 30.06.2025 - Reviewed.
9. Reports from representatives: To receive an update
 1. Report from Village Hall Committee: Cllr Griffin-Blugher
Kay Poole has resigned as a Trustee. Trying to progress a meeting with the remaining Trustees. The order has been placed for the new defibrillator, and it is expected to be delivered soon.

2. Footpath Officers report: Cllr Williams has inspected the following this month cutting brambles and nettles where necessary :-
 1. The wooded area leading to the pedestrian level crossing. 521(C)
 2. From the Cricket ground, over the footbridge to the Golf Course . 525(B)
 3. From Bransford Road to Summer Hollow. 513(C) This requires strimming.
 4. Through Oldbury Woods to Crown East Lane. 504(C) and 597(C). A large fallen branch in 597 needs attention.
 5. From the rear of The Whitehall to the pedestrian tunnel . 516(C) The fallen tree has not been dealt with, but looks quite stable.
 6. To the west of Crown East Lane, along the book down to Bromyard Road near the end of Otherton Lane. 500(C) Here a falling tree has destroyed part of the kissing gate structure and a directional sign.
 7. The gate onto Crown East Lane, path 595(B), is secured with bailer twine and the exit onto the road (where there is no pavement) is precipitous.
 8. From Crown East Lane down to Bromyard Road opposite Aymestrey. 501(C)
 9. At the layby near the Teme Bridge 534(C) then along the river 517(C). The area between the two kissing gates has dense Himalayan Balsam , but is passable though the path width is reduced
There is also a fallen branch near the first gate which is a trip hazard.
 10. The gateway at the junction of Bransford Road and the A4103 needs a litter-pick.
 11. Behind Brookfields Farm down to the stream 518(C).
3. Report on Play Area: Cllr Hemsworth - General tidy up of the play area continuing.
4. School Representative report: Cllr Jenkins - Nothing to report
5. Speeding Issues & Crime Prevention Update: Cllr Staff - Volunteers still need vetting.
10. Planning: To consider any Planning Applications received before this meeting:-

Planning Application No: M/25/01035/LB
 Location: Meander Forth Cottage, Tan House Lane, Rushwick, WR2 5SZ
 Proposal: This proposal removes the oil-fired system and replaces it with a modern, efficient gas combi boiler positioned and routed to preserve character ...
 Comments: No objection
11. Correspondence for Information: Circulated by the Clerk
 MHDC Community Arts & Culture grant launched - Deadline for applications 1st August 2025.
 Cllr Jenkins to pursue.
12. Councillors' reports and items for future agendas - None

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm

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

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Bellway Strategic Land gave a presentation relating to Land East of Claphill Lane, Rushwick seeking full permission for around 100 new homes, including 40% affordable homes, across a range of house types, new areas of public open space with proposals to deliver up to 10 dedicated plots for travelling showpeople on land north of the A4103.

An overview included landscape and environment, a sustainable development, access and movement and dedicated plots for the travelling showpeople.

Councillors highlighted the importance of access, being key to this proposed development. They also commented that they would actively like to be involved in S106/CIL allocations to ensure money can be spent where it is needed withing the Parish.

The timetable to submit the full planning application to MHDC will be made in the latter end of this year and September 2025 was cited.

It would be mutually beneficial to both parties to share WCC Highway issues and dialogue.

County Councillor Chris McSweeney

- Confirmed there is a full council meeting tomorrow.
- He confirmed there is potential funding of around £300K across the whole Worcestershire to assist with projects, including to help facilitate footpath repairs.
- He advised following numerous complaints that WCC Highways has successfully completed a consultation where no formal objections were received allowing road markings to be laid by the contractor on or around the 7th of August 2025 (weather and their programme dependent) to help alleviate the problems with dangerous parking, on the Bransford Road near the Village Hall.

District Councillor Peter Whatley

- Removal of funding to support local Neighbourhood Plans
- Drew attention to the interim comments to the South Wores District Councils from the Inspectors tasked with examining SWDPr to determine if it is "sound". In other words, whether it should go ahead. The Inspectors' broad answer is "yes", but that SWDPr does not go far enough and will not meet the 2024 target for a 5-year housing supply. More dwellings will be required - roughly at 1500 per year across South Worcestershire. This is not good news for our area. However, national standards for sustainability, preservation of areas of special interest will still apply.

- He highlighted that the southern part of the potential Bellway application site is not in the original call for sites for SWDPr and is confirmed to be in the significant gap. This questions sustainability and the retention of character identity.