

RUSHTON PARISH COUNCIL
Parish Council Meeting Minute Book

DRAFT

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 12th January 2021 virtually via the Zoom.

Attendance

Cllr. R King	Chairman
Cllr. P Palmer	
Cllr. S Cruickshank	
Cllr. P Hooton	
Cllr. Mrs J Brightman	
Cllr. Ms L White	
Cllr. K O'Brien	
Cllr. R Gardiner	
Mr Richard Reed	Clerk
NCC Cllr. Jim Hakewill	Part meeting
KBC Cllr. David Howes	
Neil Johnson MGL	Part meeting

There were two residents in attendance

21/001 Apologies

Cllr. K Abraham (work commitments) NCC Cllr. Hakewill may be late arriving

21/002 Local Policing

The latest crime report had been forwarded to councillors by the Clerk.

21/003 Mick George-Rushton Landfill Site Update

Mr N Johnson gave an update of activities at the site. An extra gas extraction system has been installed. There is less waste entering the site due to the Covid situation. Cllr. Hooton spoke of litter on highway verges in the vicinity of the site and Mr Johnson said that he would inspect and clear. The latest Environment Agency report (appended to these minutes) was discussed. Mrs Barton, (resident), asked about the proposed access off the Oakley Hay roundabout which had been discussed a few years ago with Mick George. Mr Johnson was unaware of the proposal but said that it would be unlikely to go ahead given the predicted life of the site. Cllr. Mrs Brightman spoke of the subsidence on the Oakley Road due to overriding HGVs. Cllr. Cruickshank spoke of HGVs exceeding the speed restriction on Oakley Road and asked that drivers be reminded to respect speed limits. Cllr. Hooton spoke of a MGL lorry passing through Rushton early in the evening breaching the AWR. Mr Johnson said he would check logs but he really needed a registration number. Cllr. O'Brien said that Lyndon Thomas lorries were being parked on the site. Mr Johnson said that he was unaware of this but would look into the matter and report back to the Clerk. Mrs Barton asked about the lifespan of the site and if another one would open when the existing one closes. Mr Johnson said that this would not be the case.

21/004 Flooding 23.12.20

Cllr. King spoke of the recent flooding event and the catastrophic effect on Mr Tye's property. Mr Johnson and Mr Tye had met recently and it was not considered to be due to the landfill site but was possibly a highways issue. MR Tye said that he would be meeting the Environment Agency shortly but that authority had said that it was not within its jurisdiction. There are concerns that the culvert under the A6003 may be blocked or obstructed and this may have led to the flooding. NCC is to be contacted and asked to check. **Action: Clerk**

Neil Johnson left at 7:55pm

21/005 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations on the agenda items at this time.

21/006 To approve the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 10.11.20

It was proposed by Cllr. Gardiner and seconded by Cllr. Hooton and agreed unanimously that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 10th November 2020 and previously circulated to Members, be accepted and signed as a true record of that meeting.

Chairman

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The signing of the minutes will be carried out retrospectively upon return to face to face meetings.

21/007 Matters arising

The Clerk reported that there had been no requests for an election following the notice of the Casual Vacancy and therefore the council is free to co-opt. However, in view of the forthcoming elections in May, and given the number of councillors in post, it was agreed to leave the vacancy for now.

The Clerk had contacted Glyn Mould and the Village Sign should be available for delivery in February. Arrangements for the erection of the sign are to be discussed at the next meeting. The potential sites are to be inspected beforehand. Action: All/Clerk

Cllr. O'Brien spoke of the aim to produce a Neighbourhood Plan for Rushton. It was agreed to make a start on this rather than wait for the elections and the new Parish Council. He and Cllr. Cruickshank are to meet prior to the next meeting when there will be an item on the agenda.

Action: KOB/SC/Clerk

Mr Tye left at 8:20pm

21/008 District Councillor

Cllr. Howes said that there was no official indication that the May elections would be deferred. The transition to the unitary authorities was discussed. The management of the new authorities is in place and KBC is winding down pending the change on 1st April.

The County Councillor item was deferred pending the arrival of Cllr. Hakewill

21/009 Rushton Community Minibus

The Clerk presented the latest statement of accounts. There had been no receipts since the last meeting owing to the Covid 19 situation.

21/010 Highway Issues

It is understood that the markings by the railway bridge are to be refurbished but the road surface has significantly deteriorated and should be resurfaced first although this is unlikely. Ian Boyes is to be advised of the situation. **Action: Clerk**

NCC Cllr. Hakewill joined the meeting at 8:30pm

During the December flood there was a lot of silt washed out of Wright's yard but this has been cleared in the last day or so.

It was noted that a number of verges had been damaged by overriding.

The street nameplate by the Thornhill Arms has not yet been changed. **Action: Clerk**

The problem of standing water outside the Trout Farm continues. NCC to be advised. **Action: Clerk**

21/011 County Councillor

The Lyndon Thomas appeal was discussed. Cllr. Hakewill said that he would take up the issue of standing water again. The unitary arrangements were discussed in respect of NCC.

21/012 Recreation Ground

Cllr. Gardiner reported on the situation with the recreation ground. There was no evidence of moles nor was there any litter on the last inspection. The setting up of a working party to clean the equipment and deal with items raised by the inspection report to be discussed at the March meeting. **Action: Clerk**

Repairs are needed to seats and also the bench overlooking the cricket ground.

21/013 New Albion Wind Farm

Cllr. King presented his report. The balance of the fund currently stood at £15248. Grants approved include £1200 for Pipewell telephone kiosk (updated estimate) and £12,000 for Rushton Cricket Club. There was an application for the Village Hall of £7000 and a possible application for the resurfacing of the lane to the site of the Parish Rooms.

21/014 Summer Holiday Camps

It was proposed by Cllr. Gardiner and seconded by Cllr. King to support Summer Holiday Camps again this year. **Action: Clerk**

21/015 Appeal at Birchfield Springs

It was agreed to submit a written representation in respect of the appeal. Cllr. King suggested that Cllr. Howes speaks to James Wilson to see what the barrister wishes to be included.

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21/016 Clerk's Salary

Councillors had discussed increasing the paid hours for the Clerk and also awarding a change to the SCP point. It was proposed by Cllr. King that this be approved and seconded by Cllr. Ms. White with all in favour. The Clerk thanked councillors.

Cllr. Hakewill left the meeting at 9:23pm.

21/017 2021/22 Budget

The Clerk had previously circulated the final revised draft budget which councillors approved.

21/018 2012/20 Precept

It was proposed by Cllr. O'Brien and seconded by Cllr. Gardiner that the precept for 2021/22 be set at £8,000. **Action: Clerk**

21/019 To appoint a Police Liaison Representative

Cllr. King proposed that Cllr. Ms. White should take on this role and this was agreed by all.

Action: LW/Clerk

21/020 Parishioners Questions

Mrs Barton spoke of the displaced setts outside No. 1 Oakley Road which has already been reported to Street Doctor but no action had been taken, the need for resurfacing the road from Oakley Hay roundabout to Pipewell Industrial Estate and drainage issues. These would be taken up with Highways. **Action: Clerk**

21/021 Finance

(i) The Clerk presented the statement of accounts and the budget monitoring report. There had been no receipts since the last meeting.

(ii) The following invoices were approved for payment, Proposed by Cllr. Ms. White and seconded by Cllr. Gardiner:

Ordinary account-

Retrospective

11.11.20 Northamptonshire Community Foundation £825.00 Cheque No. 100902

26.11.20 Smith of Derby £636.00 Cheque No. 100903

26.11.20 The Play Inspection Co. Ltd. £81.00 Cheque No.100904

Northamptonshire ACRE £35.00 Cheque no.100905

(iii) There were no other financial matters.

21/022 Planning Matters: To Receive the Planning Report

Cllr. King presented his report.

The following applications had been considered by the Planning Sub-group:

KET/2020/0825: hedgerow removal notice for the removal of hedgerows necessary for the laying of water mains. Hedges to be replanted after completion of the work. No objections.

KET/2020/0730: Application for the conversion of the garage at 3 Beswick Close to a dog grooming facility, notified at a previous meeting has been approved.

21/023 Correspondence

As per list circulated to Members.

21/024 items requiring urgent attention, for information or the next agenda

Cllr. Howes said that he still had some money available in his ward Initiative Fund that needs to be allocated by the end of the financial year. Could be used for bench repairs. **Action: RG**

21/025 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 9th March 2021 commencing at 7:30pm. Whether via Zoom or in the Village Hall depending on the restrictions prevailing at the time.

As there was no further urgent business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:42pm.

Chairman

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Rushton Landfill Site Update

Environment Agency

8th January 2021

Number of odour reports received

September - 36

October - 17

November - 3

December - 18

Odour reports

The majority of the odour reports have been quite local to the landfill with a few from the housing estates around the Aldi Roundabout and a couple from the Great Oakley area.

Odour assessments

A total of ten odour assessments were conducted by the Environment Agency between October and December 2020

The majority of the odour assessments picked up little or no odours around the area though a fairly strong odour was noticed on the A6003 in early December and this was related to drilling works being undertaken to install more gas wells on the landfill.

Site Inspections

An additional twelve gas wells have been installed into the current tipping area during December and these have all been connected to the site flare. Normally gas wells are not installed into a landfill until the area has been filled and capped. As this area is taking longer to fill than previous areas these additional wells should help to reduce gas emissions from the tipping area. As mentioned above, there were some stronger odours associated with the gas well installations and a number of the December odour reports were received during this time. There was a delay of about a week connecting the gas wells to the flare due to problems with the gas pipe connections. It was felt that these delays could have been avoided with better planning and so this delay was recorded as a breach of the permit condition relating to odour control. Once the gas wells were connected a reduction in odours was noted.

Planned work for the coming months will include a review of monitoring data and infrastructure.

Chairman

Date

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