

RUSHTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 25th September 2024 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall

Present:

Councillors: Peter Hooton (Chair), Mike Brightman (Vice Chair), Joy Brightman, Peter Palmer, Bill Parker, Roger Gibbard

In attendance: Megan Ellis (Clerk/RFO) and NNC Councillor Jim Hakewill

1	Apologies Apologies were received from Cllrs O'Brien, Cruickshank and Turner. These apologies were approved in the meeting.
2	Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of interest.
3	Minutes of the meeting held on 17th July 2024 The minutes of the meeting dated 17.07.2024 were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.
4	Local Issues Updates a) Police: No update was provided in advance of the meeting. Cllr Milne sent over a link to the Clerk with contact details to enquire who our local rep is. ACTION: Clerk b) Mick George Landfill: Cllr J Brightman contacted Stephen at Mick George for updates on the landfill site, he confirmed that the landfill is now closed and capped. No more waste will be brought into the site for landfill disposal. c) Environment Agency: It has been confirmed with Greg that the capping operations went to plan at the landfill site, gas wells have been installed and the restoration programme is progressing. There were a few odour reports over the last month but all of them came from the Great Oakley area and investigations showed that it was due to land spreading and not the landfill. Cllr J Brightman commented on the excessive mud on the road and checked if there was a problem with the wheel washer, however this was rectified the following day. If this becomes a regular occurrence Greg said to contact him. The waste transfer station will continue at site. Household bin waste will be brought onto site and sorted into

	<p>recyclable and non-recyclable items which will then be transferred to other sites for final recovery or disposal.</p> <p>c) Speed Issues: Further discussed in item 16.</p>
5	<p>Public Open Forum No members of the public were present.</p>
6	<p>NNC Councillor Updates Cllr Hakewill discussed the proposal of potential warehousing on 107 acres of land off junction three on the A14 in Rothwell. 3,000 jobs have been promised from the build and residents are concerned this will cause traffic. No warning was given to local councils. NNC have been undertaking Corporate Peer Reviews to establish if they are working to "Best Practice". Cllr Hakewill was interviewed and took the opportunity to give his views to the panel that attended. Hanson have purchased Mick George. Cllr Hakewill to enquire the future of the landfill. ACTION: Cllr Hakewill Clerk to request updates to actions taken following the November 2023 meeting from Cllr Smyth. ACTION: Clerk</p>
7	<p>Finance</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The accounts for the Parish Council and Community Minibus YTD will be circulated to Cllrs before the next meeting ACTION: CLERK b. Payments listed in the payment schedule were reviewed in the meeting and approved. c. Emma to complete the relevant form to allow new Clerk Meg Ellis to approve payments and remove herself end of August. Bob King will also be removed. Action: Emma Fontaine/Clerk d. Cllr Brightman has requested the movement of £42k from the minibus account into the savings account for a better interest rate. The savings account has been set-up, Clerk to contact the bank once forms have been completed. ACTION: Clerk e. The RPC budget is due by the end of November. Clerk to finalise before the next meeting. ACTION: Clerk
8	<p>Audit The 2023/2024 External Auditor Report and certificate were sent over to the Clerk on 16th September. PKF Littlejohn stated that sections 1&2 of the AGAR were in accordance with proper practices and no other matters have come to attention. Clerk to prepare a 'Notice of Conclusion' report and publish alongside the certified AGAR (sections 1,2 & 3) before 30th September. ACTION: Clerk</p>
9	<p>The requirements for the Transparency code were discussed in the meeting and a copy of the policy has been circulated to councillors.</p>
10	<p>Bio-Diversity Policy Cllr O'Brien will circulate his drafted policy for approval next meeting. ACTION: Cllr O'Brien.</p>
11	<p>Community Minibus We will be holding a meeting with the committee, including the</p>

	<p>drivers, to review the current minibus operation. In the meeting, innovative ideas and suggestions will be discussed for the future operation of the services. Date and time to be arranged. There is a potential new driver from Rothwell called Martin Owen. The annual Minibus Service was conducted on the 24th of September and the MOT is booked in for the 29th of October. Annual RFL due by 30th September. The End of Grant Report for the NCF Rushton Community Minibus Funding Support Grant for 23/24 has been completed and successfully closed. This funding contributed to the running costs for the Community trips between July 23 to August 24. We will continue to run these successful and well supported trips funded from the Minibus income.</p>
12	<p>Recreation Ground Cllr Brightman advised that NNC have cut the grass regularly this year. There have been a couple of occasions during the summer months where visitors have left excessive amounts of litter. The cleaning and painting work will continue now the summer holidays have finished. The buffer tyre on the zipline has been repaired by NNC Parks. Unfortunately, whilst the zipline was awaiting repair, the lock and chain cut off and taken. The wire mesh perimeter fence has been cut through, fortunately the horizontal straining wire has not been cut so we have been able to repair the opening. There have been signs of mole activity which will continue to be monitored.</p>
13	<p>Funded Projects <u>80th Anniversary Commemorations of D Day, 6th June 2024</u> The End of Grant Report was submitted by the end of July deadline and has been accepted by NCF and is now closed. <u>Improvements to the Public Footpath Styles (update)</u> Work will commence at the end of September; application was approved on the 26th of June. <u>Bus Shelter Refurbishment</u> The grant application for the works for the refurbishment of the Station Road Bus shelter including the replacement of the old notice board and installing the Village Map has been submitted by the application closing date of 20th September for presentation to the approval panel on the 23rd of October. <u>Radar Speed Signs</u> The grant application for the works for the relocation of the RSS and associated works as been submitted by the application closing date of 20th of September for presentation to the approval panel on the 23rd of October.</p>
14	<p>New Albion Windfarm The new grant allocation of £42,157.57 has been received. The approval of grants from the Parish Council, Kissing Gates £13,048 and from the village Hall, sewerage works £13,720 has now been allocated leaving a balance of £22,924.08 in the fund.</p>
15	<p>Neighbourhood Plan Cllr O'Brien included in his report that AECOM are going to take on the SEA review for RPC and a few other parish councils in the same</p>

	position. Any other updates will be shared.
16	<p>Planning</p> <p>The following updates provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NK/2023/0736 - resubmission of KET/2010/0242 Lyndon Thomas for 2 x fishing lakes, buildings, car park and access. Decision date was planned for 26/02/24, but still no decision as of 22/9/24. One more objection was received in May from a Desborough resident. • NK/2024/0301- I M Kelly Holdings, Weekley Wood Avenue. Extension to existing building. Planning informed that there were no objections from RPC (PC626988388) Decision due 6/9/24. Permission granted 11/9/24. • NK/2024/0545 - 8 Desborough Road, Rushton. Mr and Mrs Knight have submitted a planning application for a single storey and two storey rear extension and front porch.
17	<p>Speed Device - Pipewell</p> <p>Cllr O'Brien reported that he has secured speed watch equipment for Pipewell over the period Saturday 17th August 2024 up to Saturday 14th September 2024. There are five newly trained volunteers to use this equipment. The objective is to capture speeding vehicles through the village and to register weight restriction breaches to report to the respective companies.</p>
18	<p>Biodiversity Policy</p> <p>It was resolved to adopt Cllr O'Brien's draft policy</p>
19	<p>Website and Hosted Emails</p> <p>Report circulated by Cllr M Brightman and Clerk to breakdown the services provided by Parish Online with costs alongside. First year subscription - £215 (includes a £100 discount) Annual subscription each year after - £315 Example websites created by Parish online shown by Cllr M Brightman on the projector during the meeting. New additions to the website were also discussed and approved in the meeting along with the subscription costs. It was agreed by Councillors that we should move forward with Parish Online to get the new website started. Action: Clerk and Cllr M Brightman</p>
20	<p>Allotments</p> <p>NNC cleared the overgrown unused allotment plots. Cllr M Brightman reported fly tipping offences to NNC after speaking with a resident, the area has now been tidied. Damaged fencing needs attention and the gate needs to be repaired to secure the plots.</p>
21	<p>Pipewell Public Footpath Stiles</p> <p>Cllr O'Brien has received a request from a Pipewell Resident to report a damaged footpath stile. This is the stile that is completely broken as reported by the resident. It is that landowner's responsibility to maintain the right of way and keep the stiles/gates in good condition. The stile and supporting fence were unsafe to use and reported on Fix My Street. NCC have contacted the landowner, and it has now been</p>

	repaired. The stile between the two needs to be reported directly to NNC Rights of Way for further action as it is on private land.
22	Street Watch - Relaunch Cllr Milne agreed to look for local volunteers to take an active role in keeping their community safe. Action: Cllr Milne
23	The meeting closed at 8.53pm. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 7:00pm on Wednesday 20^h November 2024 in the Village Hall.

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ACTION SUMMARY - SEPTEMBER 2024

Item	Action	Who?
4a	The Clerk to confirm who the local Police rep is for RPC.	Clerk
6	The Clerk will ask Cllr Smyth to provide his action responses from the November 2023 meeting.	Clerk
7a	The accounts for the Parish Council and Community Minibus YTD to be circulated to Cllrs before the next meeting	Clerk
7c	Emma to complete the relevant form to allow new Clerk Meg Ellis to approve payments and remove herself end of August. Bob King will also be removed	Emma/Clerk
7d	Cllr Brightman has requested the movement of £42k from the minibus account into the savings account for a better interest rate once Clerk has access.	Clerk
7e	The RPC budget is due by the end of November. Clerk to finalise before the next meeting.	Clerk
8	The Clerk to prepare a 'Notice of Conclusion' report and publish alongside the certified AGAR (sections 1,2 & 3) before 30 th September.	Clerk
10	Cllr O'Brien will circulate his drafted bio-diversity policy for approval next meeting.	Cllr O'Brien
19	The Clerk & Cllr M Brightman to liaise and then contact Parish Online to begin setting up the new website.	Clerk/Cllr M Brightman
22	Cllr Milne to provide an update on the street watch campaign.	Cllr Milne