

RUSHTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 21st May 2025 at 7.10pm in the Village Hall

Present:

Councillors: Peter Hooton (Chair), Mike Brightman (Vice Chair), Joy Brightman, Yvonne Turner, Peter Palmer, Bill Parker, Kevin Abraham, and Suzi Smith.

In attendance: Megan Ellis (Clerk/RFO), NNC Councillors Jim Hakewill & Brian Bennyworth, PCSO James Vickery and 1 member of the public.

Annual Meeting

01/25	Peter Hooton was proposed and seconded as Chair and then voted for unanimously.
02/25	Mike Brightman was proposed and seconded as Vice Chair and then voted for unanimously.
03/25	The Chair signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
04/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cllr Cruickshank will continue his role as Police Liaison Officer.• Cllr Joy Brightman will continue her role as the primary liaison with the Wind Farm Fund.
05/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planning: Cllrs Turner (Lead), Cruickshank, Hooton, Abraham, and Parker.• Minibus: Cllrs Mike Brightman, Cllr Joy Brightman, and Hooton.• Recreation Ground: Cllrs Mike Brightman and Palmer.• Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr Cruickshank.

Ordinary Meeting

06/25	Apologies Apologies received from Councillor Cruickshank.
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07/25	<p>Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of interest.</p>
08/25	<p>Minutes of the meeting held on 19th March 2025 The minutes of the meeting dated 19.03.2025 were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.</p>
09/25	<p>Local Issues Updates</p> <p>a) Police: Update provided by PCSO James Vickery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 reported crime in Rushton since the 18th of March, front and back number plates were being held on by Velcro were stolen from car. • Travellers recently settled at Rushton Hall which was classed as a Civil trespass. This was an unplanned visit due to a wheel coming off one of the caravans and all vehicles moved on quickly. • There is only 1 speed van available for the County. • PCSO Vickery and colleague PCSO Scott will monitor speeding traffic in Pipewell with speed guns before the next Parish Council meeting. • Cllr M Brightman to hand over traffic information relating to Desborough Road to PCSO Vickery once obtained. Action: Cllr M Brightman <p>b) Mick George Landfill/Environment update: Stephen is happy with how the site is running, no issues. Greg from the Environment agency is happy with the waste transfer, there have been no complaints.</p> <p>c) Speed Issues: Covered above in section a.</p>
10/25	<p>Public Open Forum 1 member of the public in attendance to enquire about the closure of the Thornhill Arms. The pub has unfortunately gone into liquidation.</p>
11/25	<p>NNC Councillor Updates <u>Jim Hakewill - Independent:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Hakewill advised that Travellers Union can give advice to private landowners if travellers settle again in the Parish. • Update on Nigel Tye's flooding, Councillor Hakewill met with the MP and the Environmental agency, the section 19 report concludes the culvert underneath the A6003 is not of sufficient capacity. The Council should either compensate or assist Nigel for damages. Action: Cllr Hakewill • The Council control has changed since the election; there were 66 seats available: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 39 reform colleagues elected. - 13 conservatives elected. - 8 Green elected. - 4 Labour elected. - 1 Liberal Democrat elected. - 1 independent elected. • There is now only 1 planning committee for the whole of the

	<p>North Council, there were 2 previously.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Hakewill has joined with Simon the Lib Dem candidate to form a group called 'The Communities Alliance.' Together, both 3 seats on the council and can attend more meetings. • Chair Hooton stated that it would be helpful to continue with the Rural Forum for Parishes to meet. Action: Cllr Hakewill • The Rose of Northamptonshire awards take place on 04.06.25 and Cllr M Brightman was selected to win this award! A special thank you for your dedication to bettering the lives of those that in your local community through your work with Rushton Parish Council. • Cllr Hakewill advised the Parish could investigate declaring the pub as an 'Asset of Community Value' as it is the only pub in the village. Action: Clerk • RPC raised concerns with the Farm Shop plans at Bunkers Hill. This is a greenfield site and should not be built on. The planning decision has been delayed. Action: Cllr Hakewill <p><u>Brian Bennyworth - Reform:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apologies received from Brian's colleague Chris. • Introduction given by Brian. • In full agreement to collaborate with other parties. • Slight changes will be made to the cabinet structure.
12/25	<p>Finance</p> <p>a. The accounts for the Parish Council and Community Minibus YTD will be circulated to Cllrs before the next meeting ACTION: Clerk The closing March bank balances agreed in the meeting: RPC account - £28,687.22 Minibus account - £5,749.60 Minibus Savings account - £42,461.51</p> <p>b. Payments listed in the payment schedule were reviewed in the meeting and approved. Permission for additional expenditure before Mays meeting (reflected by pre-agreed cost schedule) was approved.</p> <p>c. Cllrs Abraham and Parker have agreed to become new approvers in Unity bank. ACTION: Clerk Clerk to remove Beth's Unity bank access. ACTION: Clerk</p>
13/25	<p>Audit</p> <p>The following were reviewed and approved where necessary:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Internal Auditor Reports b) Section 1: Annual Governance Statement c) Section 2: Accounting Statement d) Payments that exceeded £100 e) Explanation of variances

	Action: Clerk
14/25	<p>Community Minibus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minibus insurance was renewed 31.03.25. • RPC have received the annual grant for the minibus which totals £3,450. This grant represents about a third of our annual running costs. • The passenger numbers for our registered shopping trips have fallen this year reducing the concessionary income for year 24/25 by approximately £600.00. • The search and discussions are ongoing for fold out steps/handrails to help some passengers with access on and off the minibus. • Cllr M Brightman has been meeting regularly with groups in Rothwell to increase passenger numbers and has attracted more passengers for our Rushden Lakes Trip and regular Friday Shopping Trips to Asda & the Peel Centre in Corby. • Rothwell Town Council are in support of Cllr M Brightman's' proposal to extend the minibus services to Rothwell. RPC will trial an additional journey to Tesco Corby in July to see if there is enough passenger interest. Approximately there will be an £1000/1200 increase in concessionary fares and is likely to create additional interest in our other services. • Any changes to requested routes need approval from Office of the Traffic Commissioner & NNC Bus & Rail In a recent meeting with NNC Bus Rail, these revisions and solutions where out lined and received support.
15/25	<p>Neighbourhood Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clerk confirmed that RPC have the correct mapping in place with Parish Online and have an in-date subscription. Cllr Cruickshank has passed the details over to John. There is an outstanding YourLocale Ltd invoice to be paid, it looks as though a grant application was made for this amount previously. Action: Clerk and Cllr Cruickshank
16/25	<p>Recreation Ground</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly inspections continue to take place. • The first grass cut of the year has been conducted. The council commented that the gate to enter the park is in poor condition making it difficult to open. This needs urgent repair or replacement. • The Annual inspection report details a few items which need attention: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grass matting areas - Two of the benches need new slats. - The three picnic benches need to be secured to the ground. - Some of the equipment needs repainting (either volunteers work on this or the RPC covers the cost) • Paving slabs have now been installed under each of the legs

	<p>of the benches standing directly on the ground.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was new mole activity in March, currently no further activity. • There have been incidents over the last month of inconsiderate dog owners not cleaning up after their dogs.
17/25	<p>The following documents were reviewed and approved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Standing orders b) Financial Regulations – Cllr Parker has volunteered to check all bank reconciliations before each meeting. c) Risk assessment d) Asset Register e) Insurance Cover (Renewal due in July – Action: Clerk)
18/25	<p>Planning</p> <p>The following updates were provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NK/2023/0736 Lyndon Thomas, Birchfield Springs. No decision as of 20/5/25. • NK/2025/0057 Prologis, Glendon. Solar Panels. APPROVED. • NK/2025/0067 Pipewell Hall. Tree removal. APPROVED. • NK/2025/0079 Pipewell Hall entrance lodge repairs. Decision extended until 6/6/25. • NK/2025/0088 Mr Bentley, Glendon House. No Decision as of 20/5/25. • NK/2025/0107 and 0108 Rushton Hall. Decision extended until 13/6/25. • NK/2024/0301 I M Kelly unit 4 Weekley Wood Avenue. Conditions from previous approval awaiting approval on 6/6/25 for AOC/2402/2403/2404. AOC2401 approved 4/2/25. • NK/2025/0137 T White, Bunkers Hill Farm. Change of use to farm shop. No decision as at 20/5/25. • NK/2025/0151 J Pain 17 Manor Rd. Installation of heat pump. APPROVED 12/5/25.
19/25	<p>Funded Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The installation of the new kissing gates has been completed. RPC have underspent by £2,000. NCF have agreed an extension of the project to enable time for us to provide details and additional cost to use this underspend. • The new village map has now been delivered. The original has been framed and subject to approval will be hung in the Village Hall. • Refurbishment of the bus shelter (including the installation of the new notice board) has commenced but unfortunately not yet complete. With this further delay we will not meet our funding end date and now require an extension creating unnecessary additional work for us and NCF. <p>RPC are currently awaiting the delivery/installation of the new VAR post and completion of the new security bracket. When the post installation is complete, RPC will arrange to carry the installation</p>

	of the replacement Pipewell Speed sign and the relocation of the Station Road Speed sign. Tyetune have agreed to provide their vehicle and possibly one of their mechanics to assist with this work.
20/25	Street Watch - Relaunch Campaign <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cllr Abraham to gather more information before our next meeting as Beth Milne is no longer standing as a Parish Councillor. Action: Cllr Abraham
21/25	VE Day 80th Celebrations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The event was a great success despite the cool weather. Some aerial shots have been taken on the drone. Thanks, have been passed over the Primary school, the WI team, the volunteers that helped to decorate and set-up, the Thornhill Arms, the Scouts for the marquee hire and the entertainment. Thank you to the VE Day Committee for helping with the event. 100+ comments provided since the event which will help with the end of grant reports. Costs will be provided in our next meeting. Action: Cllr M Brightman
22/25	Further matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair to thank e-mail Beth and Roger for their hard work as Councillors. Action: Chair There is still an open Pipewell Councillor vacancy. Cllr M Brightman to create a Councillor advert to advertise our vacancy to Pipewell residents. Action: Cllr M Brightman A Parishioner has complained about the height of some hedges by their fence and has asked for them to cut back. Chair Hooton is going to walk down to take a look. Action: Chair
23/25	The meeting closed at 9.00pm. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 7:00pm on Wednesday 16th July 2025 in the Village Hall.

ACTION SUMMARY - May 2025

Item	Action	Who?
09/25	Cllr M Brightman to hand over traffic information relating to Desborough Road to PCSO Vickery once obtained.	Cllr M Brightman
11/25	Cllr Hakewill to apply pressure to NNC to find a solution for Nigel since the flooding.	Cllr Hakewill
11/25	Cllr Hakewill to question whether future Rural forums can take place for smaller parishes.	Cllr Hakewill
11/25	Clerk to investigate the process of declaring the Thornhill Arms as an 'Asset of Community Value.'	Clerk
11/25	Cllr Hakewill to investigate the planning decision for Bunkers Hill,	Cllr Hakewill

12/25	The accounts for the Parish Council and the Community Minibus YTD to be circulated to Cllrs before the next meeting alongside the closing bank balances.	Clerk
12/25	Clerk to add new access for Cllrs Abraham and Parker in Unity bank and to remove Beth Milne's access.	Clerk
13/25	Clerk to scan signed paperwork over to the external auditors before 01/07/25.	Clerk
15/25	Clerk to pay outstanding invoice to YourLocale and Cllr Cruickshank to work on next steps for Neighbourhood Plan.	Cllr Cruickshank/Clerk
17/25	Clerk to renew the Parish Council insurance before 13/07/25.	Clerk
20/25	Cllr Abraham to gather more information for the Street Watch Relaunch campaign.	Cllr Abraham
21/25	Cllr M Brightman to provide a breakdown of VE Day costs in the July meeting.	Cllr M Brightman
22/25	Chair to thank e-mail Beth and Roger for their hard work as Councillors.	Chair
22/25	Cllr M Brightman to create a Councillor advert to advertise our vacancy Pipewell residents.	Cllr M Brightman
22/25	Chair Hooton to check the hedges that one parishioner has sent over a complaint about.	Chair