

Rushall Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 27th February 2025

7.30pm, Rushall Village Hall

Attendees:

Mr. Colin Gale (Chairperson) (CG)
Dr. Richard Tilbury (RT)
Mr. John Rogers (JR)
Mr. Nigel Carson (NC)
Mr. Iain Goodfellow (IG)

Mrs. Claire Ridge (Clerk) (CR)

Mr. Paul Oatway (PO)

1. Apologies:

None

Action

2. Minutes of PC Meeting 28th November 2024

Minutes acceptance proposed by NC, second by RT.

3. Declaration of interest

None

4. Chairman's announcement

The Chairman announced with deep regret the unexpected passing of Caroline Larken, on Friday 21st February 2025. Caroline was a valued member of the council and had served as Chair of Rushall Parish Council for over three years. A service in her honour is expected to be held at Rushall Church. The parish extends its gratitude and recognition for Caroline's dedication and hard work in serving the community. Caroline will be greatly missed.

5. Correspondence CG attended questions to the Full Council (Wiltshire Council – WC) this week. - CG raised issue of collapsed drain head at the entrance to Church Lane in Rushall. In heavy weather, rain water over flows into Church Lane. CG raised the issue to the council and provided photos. They have assessed and appear to have taken some steps to remove some of the build-up. CG will follow up. - Rushall Bridge – flushing by CG has improved the flow of water. CG has asked WC to continue with the excavation of the ditch into the river. WC will conduct a survey to assess the levels. WC have not committed to when the survey will take place. CG will continue to push the matter with the council. - Letter from Rushall School. The matter has been discussed in Part II (private) and a response has been provided.	CG CG
5. Matters arising from Minutes of Meeting 28th November 2024 None	
6. Budget/Precept/Annual Audit Current balance: £17,252.42 Budget/Further invoices: Next section of footpath – TBC Possibly bank charges for Lloyds £5.25 per month Precept 2025 – 2026 Documentation has been signed and returned to WC	
7. Police Report Fourth quarter of 2024 – Report provided and circulated. Very little affecting Rushall. PCSO attended the Village Hall Coffee Morning on 4th January. The PC distributed leaflets and was available to answer queries from the villagers. Further information can be gained with the link below: Wiltshire PCC home (wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk)	

8. Planning Applications Considered • Planning application has been received for Rushall Pond, to be built at Rushall Manor. CG took a letter to each of the residents affected (Elm Row) after concerns were raised by Mr Dave Wornes from a neighbouring property. CG discussed the matter with Mr Wornes. Other residents did not raise any concerns when invited to do so. RPC submitted a response onto the WC portal • Village Design Statement (VDS) – an example of a ‘good’ VDS statement has been provided by Chute. CG spoke to WC Cllr Chris Williams who recommended that CG speaks to Neighbourhood Planning. Meeting planned to take place on 10th March CG submitted RPC’s VDS. Neighbourhood Planning will advise on improving Rushall’s statement. A working group will be called to go through amendments.	CG
9. Village Hall Matters • VH is doing well. VH have applied to Pewsey Area Board for a grant to install a shed to the rear of the hall. They were awarded £1,800. Full cost anticipated to be approx. £4,000 plus. RVH and RPC will also assist with funding. RPC can also use for storage of gel sacks, salt and signs which are currently stored at a councillor’s home • VH continue to have a good turn out for regular events • VH are discussing VE celebrations in May 2025 and hope to collaborate with local groups.	
10. Community Speed Watch • IG: KR has completed training and is attending Speedwatch. Now four members are fully trained and operational. The team is working well. Still looking for further volunteers to help with speedwatch. CR to advertise on website.	CR
11. Local Highways and Footpath Improvement Group (LHFIG) • Elm Row footpath, Phase 3 – taking the path halfway to The Drove. Still don’t have the results from Rushall’s last bid for funding with Wiltshire Council. CG has submitted the final phase, should be able to start progressing Phase 4 through the process soon. • Footpath to the North of the Village; modifications to the pathway outside Wheelright will be completed this year.	
12. Newsletter CG hoping to complete a newsletter in the next few months.	CG

13. Website CR to update Risk Assessment and Flood Plans etc	CR
14. Safe Pedestrian Access Scheme Rushall's footpath is progressing. The scheme was introduced in 2008, it has taken time but RPC are now embarking on the last two phases.	
15. AOB a) Flood Task Force; The task group has actioned work to clear the ditches and gullies, as highlighted in the Flood Plan 2024. Working well and making progress. Need to look again at the Flood Plan for 2025. b) Rushall School – no updates. c) Highways – A scheme called the 'Discretionary Gullies Service' has been in touch with the parish via the clerk. The scheme introduces a service program for the villages. RPC can nominate six gullies/drains to be cleared. Rushall doesn't appear on the schedule until 2026. Can only have gullies cleared that don't require traffic control; this will limit drain work; the eligible gullies will be the two at Rushall Bridge. These need to be flushed in Autumn, rather than in January when Rushall have been allocated the service. PO has raised this as an issue with WC. CG will write to the author of the scheme to raise the problem. The Parish Steward is working well. He corresponds directly with CG. Attends Rushall first Thursday of the Month. The road is being resurfaced between Rushall and North Newnton in the coming month. Disruptions are expected. The pathway is due to be completed in March/April. d) Emergency Plan – CR to update for 2025 e) BKV –CG has reviewed last year's submission and the results. A sponsor for this year's award is Wiltshire Council. Entry needs to be submitted by 17th April 2025. The maximum points for a small village is 77. The adjustments for last year's entry – Rushall received 67.7. The report was glowing, doesn't give any negative feedback. CG proposed the following action points: 1) Spring clean Sat 5th April 2025 (CR). 2) Repair stocks (CG) 3) Paint telephone box (?) 4) Repair or replace the notice board (NC). CG received an email from John McDonall who has confirmed they will replace the fence along Church Lane, the boundary to the McDonall's land. f) Data Protection – ICO paid, next payment May 2025 g) Speeding Petition – public consultation on transport plan, will be with the Cabinet Office on Tuesday 4th March 2025 h) SID – CG wanted to test the new SID. Working fine. Rota's will be updated to ensure the SID's are in the villages more often. Three are in	ALL CG CR CR ALL CR

use. i) Risk Assessments – CR to update for 2025 j) Salt Bins – Full at the start of the winter and they have not been used yet this year. CG has three bags of salt if required. k) Whistledown Path – CG received a phone call from Upavon Parish Council to attend an informal meeting to discuss the origins of the pathway. To understand responsibilities. The original pathway design, as part of the Whistledown development, was to meet with Elm Row pathway. However, the developers cut the pathway short. Rushall's pathway will therefore need to extend further. Whistledown residents have realised that it is their responsibility to maintain the pathway. Upavon PC chose the softened version as opposed to a tarmac footpath. 106 Agreement was amended – between Andrews & Sons, and Wiltshire Council. Approx £68k was provided through S106. Upavon PC approached Redcliff Homes, asked for two projects – one being the pathway to Rushall, the second, play equipment area on Andover Road. Meeting will be held next week to discuss further. l) Defib – New pads required; JR will organise. m) Spring Clean – date booked for 5th April 2025, 9.30am to meet at the allotments. CR to circulate details to village. PART II <i>Items during consideration of which it is recommended that the public should be excluded because of the likelihood that exempt information would be disclosed.</i> 1. Correspondence from Rushall Primary School.	CR JR CR
17. Dates of next meetings: 7.30pm, Thursday 29th May 2025 (Annual General Meeting) 7.30pm, Thursday 17th July 2025 7.30pm, Thursday 27th November 2025	
Meeting concluded at 21.00hrs	
Signed:	

