

RUSHTON PARISH COUNCIL
Parish Council Meeting Minute Book

DRAFT

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 8th September 2020 virtually via the Zoom.

Attendance

Cllr. K Abraham	Chairman
Cllr. P Palmer	
Cllr. R King	
Cllr. S Cruickshank	
Cllr. P Hooton	
Cllr. Mrs J Brightman	
Cllr. Ms L White	
Cllr. K O'Brien	

Mr Richard Reed	Clerk
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NCC Cllr. Jim Hakewill
KBC Cllr. David Howes

There was one resident listening to the meeting via audio link.

20/082 Apologies

Cllr. Mr R Gardiner. Cllr. Tye had tendered his resignation.

20/083 Local Policing

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

20/084 Mick George-Rushton Landfill Site Update

Mr N Johnson was unable to access the meeting.

The latest Environment Agency report was discussed. It was agreed to request the actual number of odour assessments for the next meeting. **Action: RK**

A virtual meeting is being convened by the Corby Borough Councillor Judy Caine, Cllr. for Oakley. Cllrs. Abraham and King will be attending.

It appears that MGL is doing what it can to improve the situation at the site and this is acknowledged by the EA. Councillors felt that it would be helpful to get confirmation of the life of the landfill part of the operation.

The Chairman added an item after Agenda item (11) for discussions following NCALC's Zoom meeting regarding unitary authorities.

20/085 Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Cruickshank declared an interest under item 11 as an allotment tenant.

20/086 To approve the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 14.07.20

It was proposed by Cllr. King and seconded by Cllr. Cruickshank and agreed unanimously that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 14th July 2020 and previously circulated to Members, be accepted and signed as a true record of that meeting be accepted and signed as a true record of that meeting.

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

20/087 Matters arising

The Clerk had contacted North Northants First Responders and a representative will be attending the November meeting to discuss their work.

Springfield Farm: the land has now been purchased.

It was agreed to reinstate the Parishioners' Questions item for the next agenda. **Action: Clerk**

20/088 Rushton Community Minibus

The Clerk presented the latest statement of accounts. Owing to Covid there had been no receipts since the last meeting and no activity within the account since the latest bank statement dated 01.05.20.

The vehicle tax is due at the end of September and it was agreed that the Clerk would apply for this online and claim reimbursement as part of this half-yearly account. **Action: Clerk**

Chairman

Date

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A meeting of the Minibus sub-group has been held. There had been no interest from users in view of Covid19 and it was therefore agreed to leave returning the minibus to service pending review in due course.

20/089 Highway Issues

Although some of the road marking refurbishment had been carried out, many areas still had to be completed, including the proposed markings at Pipewell. The Clerk was pursuing this with NCC.

It was reported that a number of road signs along Oakley Road were obscured by vegetation or graffiti.

Cllr. Cruickshank spoke of recent reports that he had made to the Police in respect of HGV breaches of weight restrictions.

The Rothwell North Working Party - Truck watch have a Zoom meeting scheduled for 29.09.20 at 7:30pm.

Any HGV issues are to be reported to Cllr. Cruickshank or NCC Cllr. Hakewill.

20/090 Recreation Ground

On behalf of Cllr. Gardiner, the Clerk spoke of litter picking and reported that the new equipment was being well used. The permitting of dogs in the park and also mole issues were discussed.

20/091 New Albion Wind Farm

Cllr. King presented his report. The balance of the fund currently stood at £32,963.13 following receipt of the next twelve month's allocation. The next meeting is due in October.

20/092 Allotments

The lease is due for renewal this month but following a site meeting with Cllrs. Gardiner, Hooton and the Clerk, it was recommended that the lease not be renewed and control of the site returned to KBC. The reasons are the condition of several plots, the maintenance of fencing in the future and poor access within the site. Cllr. Hooton proposed that the lease is not renewed and this was seconded by Cllr. King. **Action: Clerk**

20/093 Unitary Authorities

This was an additional item to discuss the recent NCALC meeting and give the County and Borough councillors the opportunity to discuss the current situation.

Cllr. King reported on the NCALC meeting and Cllr. Hakewill spoke of the current situation and also the Planning White Paper.

Cllr. Howes responded in connection with the Rural Forum and also advised that the cost of local elections may in future be charged to the respective town and parish councils who should consider making provision in next year's budget.

Cllr. Mrs Brightman left the meeting at 9:03pm

The Clerk said that he routinely included an allocation towards election costs each year so that funds were built up over the usual four-year electoral term.

20/094 Dog-fouling and Additional Litter Bins

Cllr. Ms White expressed concerns over dog-fouling within the village. It was suggested that additional bins should be provided at various sites including the junction of Manor Road and High Street. Cllr. Howells said that he would check on the availability of bins with KBC.

Action: DH

There is a need to highlight these issues, perhaps with posters. Cllr. Ms White is to speak to the school about its concerns. **Action: LW**

20/095 management of the Website

Currently the Clerk manages the website with uploading documents etc. This is not a problem but he considers that someone else should have the necessary access for those occasions when he is unavailable or indisposed. Cllr. O'Brien offered to take on this role. **Action: Clerk**

20/096 Finance

(i) The Clerk presented the statement of accounts. Since the last meeting, £93.39 had been received which included three contributions towards the Zoom subscription and the wayleave payment from Western Power Distribution.

(ii) The following invoices were approved for payment, Proposed by Cllr. Hooton and seconded by Cllr. O'Brien:

Minibus account

R Reed (1/3 of half-yearly salary and Vehicle Tax) £552.00 Cheque No. 250

Chairman

Date

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Ordinary account-

Retrospective

22.07.20 R Gardiner £348.00 Cheque No. 100890

18.08.20 Greenbarnes Ltd. £7,291.95 Cheque No. 100891

18.08.20 R Gardiner £54.11 Cheque No.100892

Ladywell accountancy Services £25.00 Cheque no.100893

HMRC £264.20 Cheque No. 100894

R Reed £773.02 Cheque No.100895

(iii) There was no other financial business.

20/097 Planning Matters: To Receive the Planning Report

Cllr. King presented his report.

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

KET/2020/0503 Sir John Lowther Training and Activity Centre, Glendon. No objections.

KET/2020/0339 Warehouse, Weekley Wood Avenue site. No objections. The Parish Council had expressed concerns about an increase in traffic at outline stage but Highways had raised no objection.

The following applications had just been received and would be considered by the Planning Sub-group shortly and reported at the next meeting.

KET/2020/0436 17 High Street Rushton.

KET/2020/0565 Lower Lodge Farm, Pipewell.

20/098 Correspondence

As per list circulated to Members.

A request had been received from Mrs Barton to purchase the bench at Pipewell. It was agreed to defer this matter to the next meeting when Cllr Gardiner would be present to advise on the possible need for the bench in the Recreation Ground.

The Clerk had forwarded copies of the Register of Interests to Mr Jones under the FOIA request. Cllrs. were concerned about publishing this information and Cllr. Cruickshank was seeking clarification from KBC's cabinet.

Cllr. O'Brien had attended the recent Code of Conduct meeting.

20/099 items requiring urgent attention, for information or the next agenda

There were no items at this time.

20/100 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 10th November 2020 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 9:48pm.

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Rushton Landfill Site Update

Environment Agency
7th September 2020

Number of odour reports received

May - 46
June - 25
July - 57
August - 47

Odour reports

The odour reports have presented a confusing picture recently. Numbers have generally increased though it should be noted that there has also been a lot of land spreading on the fields in the area. Late July saw a large increase in numbers of reports from the Great Oakley area with up to thirty reports in one day. Many of these reports described the odours as sewage type of smells and other descriptions which were different to the normal landfill descriptions.

We do know that sewage sludge is spread on many fields in the area and it is felt that many of these reports could be due to this land spreading activity.

Odour assessments

We have carried out a number of odour assessments over the past few months. The majority of these have picked up no landfill odour. Some low level, intermittent waste odour has been noticed on occasion at the ALDI roundabout on the A6003 and at Storefield area.

A slight landfill gas type of odour was detected on Oakley Road in August, the odour was quite low in intensity and disappeared approximately 500m away from the landfill tipping area. Overall the odour intensity from the site does seem to have reduced since the new flare became operational.

Site Inspections

The new flare continues to operate and all the site leachate wells are also now connected to it. This should help reduce any fugitive emissions and odours from these points.

The site has recently appointed new managers as the previous site manager has left for pastures new. The new managers are experienced waste managers and have worked with the MGL Company for a number of years.

Over the coming months we intend to continue with odour assessments and look at waste types used for cover material on the site. We will also spend some time looking at the sites procedures and management systems.

Many people have been asking how much longer the landfill has to operate. While it is not possible to give an accurate date, based on the current level in the tipping cell and the rate of waste going in, it will probably last for another year or so. The company are looking to find another area to use as landfill and so the future of Rushton landfill is dependent on how quickly this happens