

# RUSHTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Parish Council Meeting Minute Book

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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at Rushton Village Hall.

### Attendance

Cllr. P Hooton Chairman  
Cllr. R King  
Cllr. Mrs J Brightman  
Cllr. K O'Brien  
Cllr. P Wass  
Cllr. P Palmer

Mr Richard Reed Clerk

Ms. Emma Fontaine & Ms. Megan Wort: Applicants for the post of Parish Clerk  
Mr M Brightman  
Mr Neil Johnson MGL (Part meeting)

There were two members of the public in attendance

*It was agreed beforehand that agenda items 9 and 10 would be deferred until the end of the meeting in case the Clerk needed to get away.*

### 21/072 Apologies

Cllr. S Cruickshank (away); Cllr. Mrs B Milne (self-isolating); NNC Cllrs. Mrs. Brown (Rothwell TC meeting) and J Hakewill (NNC Meeting)

### 21/073 Local Policing

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

### 21/074 Mick George-Rushton Landfill Site Update

Mr Johnson gave an update of current works on site. Clay is being imported for site covering. In response to a question, Mr Johnson said that the haulier, Lyndon Thomas was aware of the AWR in and around Rushton and Pipewell but MGL had no power to dictate the route the drivers should use. Mr Johnson said that the site would close for landfill in spring 2022 although the company would have a presence for several years with recycling and site monitoring. Cllr. King presented the latest report from the Environment Agency with which Mr Johnson agreed.

*7:43pm: Mr Johnson left the meeting.*

### 21/075 Declarations of Interest

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

### 21/076 To approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting and Ordinary Meeting held on 11.05.21 and the Extraordinary Meeting held on 16.06.21

It was proposed by Cllr. Wass and seconded by Cllr. Mrs Brightman and agreed unanimously that the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2021 and previously circulated to Members, be accepted and signed as a true record of that meeting.

It was proposed by Cllr. Palmer and seconded by Cllr. O'Brien and agreed unanimously that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2021 and previously circulated to Members, be accepted and signed as a true record of that meeting.

It was proposed by Cllr. O'Brien and seconded by Cllr. King and agreed unanimously that the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2021 and previously circulated to Members, be accepted and signed as a true record of that meeting.

### 21/077 Matters arising

Cllr. O'Brien reported that Storefield Aggregates application to increase its vehicle fleet had been approved with the requirement that the Transport Manager attends refresher training. Cllr. O'Brien asked that thanks be recorded for Cllr. Cruickshank's work in getting Northants CALC to take up issues over town and parish councils not being consultees for such applications.

It was noted that the gullies and grips were blocked again due to run-off from Storefield Aggregates site. Concerns over this had been raised on the responses to planning applications.

Cllr. Hooton had written to those councillors who had stood down at the last election.

Cllr. Wass pointed out that the website needed updating. **Action: Clerk**

Chairman

Date

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### **21/078 NNC Councillors**

Cllr. O'Brien expressed concern that no NNC councillors were in attendance with two believed to be attending Rothwell Town Council's meeting

### **21/079 Rushton Community Minibus**

The Clerk presented that latest statement of accounts. He had been in touch with John Jefferis who was going to prepare a schedule of waybills to enable the NCC grant for 2018/9 and 2019/20 to be claimed. The grant is dependent on the number of passenger carrying journeys so the Parish Council would not be eligible for a grant in 2020/21.

There had been a few responses to Toni Orwin's questionnaire but there were concerns over its circulation.

The dates when refresher training is due to be determined. **Action: Clerk**

### **21/080 Recreation Ground**

Mr Brightman gave an update of recent work carried out in the park. NNC appear to be carrying out weekly safety checks and the Clerk will see if copies of the inspection reports can be sent to the Parish Council. **Action: Clerk**

Mr Brightman discussed the following works that need attention and which he can undertake:

The provision of decking under the shelter. Approximate cost of materials £1000

Carry out fencing repairs. Approximate cost of materials £100

Other fencing work. Approximate cost of materials £1000

Councillors agreed that Mr Brightman can prepare a detailed quote and Cllr. King would prepare a bid for wind farm funds. **Action: BK/MB**

The park is being used for exercising dogs and councillors discussed banning dogs. However, this had been raised before and was not viable but signage should be considered to state that dogs be kept on a lead.

### **21/081 New Albion Wind Farm**

Cllr. King presented his report. There is a variance between the New Albion Wind Farm and Cllr. King's records regarding the total funds remaining. Cllr. King is to look into this. **Action: Clerk**

### **21/082 Neighbourhood Plan Update**

Cllr. O'Brien gave an update on progress following discussions with Cllr. Shenagh Hackett of Duddington with Fineshade Parish Council. He would be meeting Gretton PC on 22<sup>nd</sup> July whose NHP has just been published. This item is to be retained on the September agenda.

**Action: Clerk**

### **21/083 Parish clerk Vacancy**

Two applications had been received and it was intended to hold the interviews on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021. **Action: KOB**

### **21/084 Second Village sign**

A site had been cleared near the station and Cllr. Hooton had obtained records of underground electricity cables. The vegetation would have to be kept down and the Clerk said that NNC would be unlikely to do this. NNC is to be consulted over the viability of the site and Glyn Mold contacted over the installation. **Action: Clerk**

### **21/085 The Queen's Platinum Jubilee**

The Green Canopy initiative was discussed and tree planting in the Recreation Ground was considered a possibility. Cllr. O'Brien said that he would follow this up. **Action: KOB**

### **21/086 Parishioners Questions**

The situation over Lyndon Thomas as discussed and in response to a question the action taken so far by the Parish Council was explained.

### **21/087 Finance**

(i) The Clerk presented the statement of accounts. The precept of £8000 had been paid into the bank account.

(ii) The following invoices were approved for payment, Proposed by Cllr. Wass and seconded by Cllr. Mrs Brightman:

Ordinary account-

Retrospective

27.05.21 Ian Arnott £75.00 Cheque No. 100918

27.05.21 Mr Adam Curtis £165.00 Cheque No. 100919

17.06.21 Mr M Brightman 193.77 Cheque No.100920

Rushton Village Hall £20.00 Cheque No. 100921

**Chairman**

**Date**

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## Minibus Account

Daventry Area Community Transport £138.00 Cheque No. 254

- (iii) The External Auditors have registered receipt of the Annual Return and will process it in due course.

### **21/088 Planning Report**

Cllr. King presented his report as follows:

#### **NK/2021/0567**

This is an application for a single storey front extension to Rowan House, Desborough Road.

A previous application which we supported has been withdrawn and this is a new application with revised plans. It only arrived yesterday so no response from committee members yet.

#### **NK/2021/0499**

This a revised application for the proposed dog walking area at Rushton Meadows. We said we were fully supportive.

#### **NK/2021/0389**

Full application for a rear extension to 4 Manor Road. This was a very poor application and it was unclear exactly what was proposed so we said that as the application stood we could not support it. The proposed extension would also clearly have an impact on the neighbouring house in High Street. Ruth James, the planning officer then sent a letter saying we had not followed the proper procedures convening a council meeting to discuss the application. I responded explaining our procedures to Ruth. I have not had the courtesy of a reply to my letters. In the event the application went to committee and was turned down.

Meanwhile, the Clerk had obtained guidance issued by NNC's Monitoring Officer which states that to avoid the problem of short timescales to respond to planning applications, the council could delegate authority to the Clerk to submit a response on behalf of the council provided they consult members in providing the response. Cllr. King proposed that this authority be delegated to the Clerk and this was seconded by Cllr. Wass.

### **21/089 Correspondence**

As per list circulated to Members.

*Cllr. Hooton declared an interest in this item of correspondence and took no part in the discussions.* The e-mail regarding fencing works carried out by Cllr. Hooton was discussed along with the draft response which councillors agreed should be sent. **Action: Clerk**

### **21/090 Items requiring urgent attention, for information or the next agenda**

Cllr. King said that the Woodyard Close nameplate had been moved to the boundary wall on Station Road and it was a bit misleading for strangers to the area He would speak to Lynne White to find out more. **Action: BK**

### **21/091 Date of Next Meeting**

As Cllr. Hooton would be away on the date of the scheduled meeting it was agreed to bring this forward to Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021 commencing at 7:30pm in the Village Hall

The deferred items were discussed:

#### **Highway Issues**

Although some attention had been given to the gullies and grips further problems exist due to run-off from Storefield Aggregates. Ian Boyes to be notified. **Action: Clerk**

The increase in the volume of traffic due to the closure at Blue Bridge is significant.

#### **HGV Issues**

The continuing breaches of the AWR by Lyndon Thomas's vehicles was discussed. The restriction is only enforceable by the Police, not highways. A multi-agency investigation is being undertaken. Cllr. O'Brien had posed a number of questions for answers to be given at this meeting but only some had been answered. Pipewell residents spoke of the issue and the need for action. It is hoped that the Police will take strong action over the matter but meanwhile the Chairman said that the Parish Council would keep pressing for the situation to be resolved. Cllrs. O'Brien and Cruickshank are to look at writing to the Traffic Commissioner. **Action: KOB/SC**

As there was no further urgent business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:09pm.

**Chairman**

**Date**

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**Rushton Landfill Site Update**

**Environment Agency**

**12th July 2021**

**Number of odour reports received**

March – 44

April – 33

May – 14

June - 7

**Odour reports**

The majority of the recent odour reports have been local to the landfill mainly around Rushton and Storefield.

**Odour assessments**

Odour assessments were conducted at eight locations around the area during May and June but did not pick up any landfill odours.

The site was inspected on three occasions during March and June. On each occasion the site was seen to have a small tipping area and a good supply of cover material that is used to cover the incoming waste once it has been tipped. The odour levels on site were significantly reduced compared to previous visits with only low level odours being noted close to the tipping areas.

The more odorous gas is being burned through a flare on the landfill and a smaller temporary flare is also collecting and burning gas from the current tipping cell. The site gas engine is also burning the gas to create electricity which is supplied to the national grid.

**Site Update**

MGL conducted a flux box survey across the site during May and June. This survey was conducted by a consultant engineer and measures the amount of methane being emitted through the landfill surface. A report is being prepared and the results will be reviewed once the report is available.

The Environment Agency will be conducting a gas management audit this week in order to identify any further improvements that could be made to the gas infrastructure and the site procedures for managing the landfill gas.

Discussions with management are ongoing to understand the plans for the current tipping cell and to identify any further improvements to the gas system.

Odour assessments will continue through the summer months to keep track of any site odours and also to assess any land spreading odours if they are present