

Minutes of Rushden and Wallington Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 8th September 2016 in Wallington Village Hall at 8.00pm.

Present: Councillors Chris Garrett, Kate Heath, Linda Hill, Steve Pettyfer, Frank Randall

In attendance: District Councillor, Steve Jarvis, County Councillor, Tony Hunter, Clerk, Marian Messenger

16/053 To receive and accept apologies for absence. None were received

16/054 Declarations of interest and dispensations

- a) To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda None
- b) To receive written requests for dispensations for declarable interests None
- c) To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate None

16/055 To confirm the Minutes of Rushden and Wallington Parish Council Meeting held on 18 May 2016.

Resolved that these minutes be agreed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings and be duly signed by the Chair. **Unanimously agreed.**

16/056 To receive a report from the District Councillor

S J reported that there has been very little change to the Local Plan and there will be further public consultation during October and November before it goes to the Secretary of State.

There is a new list of rules for Grants, one of these states that no grants can now be given to Parish Councils. However, applications can be considered from other local organisations. In addition the budget for grants has been halved.

16/057 To receive a report from the County Councillor

T H reported that the Council have to make further budget cuts in the coming years. They have, however, managed to set aside £3 million for work on highways – signage, white lines, etc.

16/058 To consider the 'Financial Regulations' document and related amendments to Standing Orders

It was agreed that an extra point be added to the Financial Regulations document to say that the ceilings on spending be reviewed annually. These figures should be shown as a separate item to make this review easier.

The statement that the chair should alternate annually between Rushden and Wallington needs to be re-instated in the document.

Resolved that, subject to the stated alterations, the Financial Regulations document and the related amendments to Standing Orders be approved. **Unanimously agreed.**

- 16/059 To consider the budget requirements for 2017/18
A budget for 2017/18, based on previous expenditure, was presented.
Resolved that this budget be accepted and that, on this basis, the precept demand for 2017/18 will be £4200. **Unanimously agreed.**
While it was accepted that the Parish Council cannot build into its budget a donation to Sandon Sports Club, it was suggested that, if the budget is underspent by the year end a donation could be considered at this point. **Unanimously agreed.**
- 16/060 To receive an update on the defibrillators in each village
Both defibrillators are in place and weekly inspections are happening. Familiarisation sessions have been organised for later this month in both villages.
- 16/061 To discuss the costs involved in painting Wallington's phone box
Unanimously agreed that an upper limit of £200 be placed on expenditure for this work.
K H proposed a vote of thanks to Andrew Messenger for volunteering to do this job.
- 16/062 To receive an update on the River Beane fencing
T H reported that this repair has been costed at £12,000 and will definitely be carried out during this financial year.
It was stated that the verge is not being cut beyond the nursery, and the hedge cutting on the other side of the road is not happening. T H will report this back and ask for the instructions to be changed.
- 16/063 To discuss the need for a repair to timber decking in Rushden
The timber decking has been repaired at no cost to the Parish Council
- 16/064 To discuss the state of the garden at Maples, in Rushden
It was reported that the front garden is being used for storage and it is floodlit at night. S J was asked if he could investigate the situation, which he agreed to do.
- 16/065 To receive an update on the leased land in Wallington
The surveyor has agreed the boundary with the homeowner of the adjacent land and has plans in place to mark the boundaries of the second parcel of land. Posts will be put in to mark these boundaries. K H is awaiting the quote for this work.
Unanimously agreed that an upper limit of £300 be placed on expenditure for this work.
- 16/066 To decide whether to apply for Transparency Code Compliance Funding this year
The Clerk explained that the Parish Council is able to apply for a grant towards the cost of Transparency Code compliance again this year.
Unanimously agreed that the Clerk should apply for this funding.
- 16/067 To suggest agenda items for the next meeting of the Parish Council. No suggestions.

The Meeting closed at 9.30pm.