

## Minutes of Rushden and Wallington Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2018 in Wallington Village Hall

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

In attendance: District & County Councillor, Steve Jarvis, Clerk, Marian Messenger and 3 residents.

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- 18/001 To receive and accept apologies for absence *None received*
- 18/002 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*
- 18/003 To confirm the Minutes of Rushden and Wallington Parish Council Meeting held on 07 September 2017. Chair to sign.  
***Resolved*** that these minutes be agreed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings and be duly signed by the Chair. ***Unanimously agreed.***
- 18/004 To receive a report from the District Councillor and County Councillor  
*Steve Jarvis reported that the Local Plan is still ongoing, actual timings are not yet known. Waste disposal – North Herts now have a joint contract with East Herts and a new contractor is being employed, making a saving in costs for North Herts. The Council intends to go ahead with its plan to charge for emptying of brown bins and this will start in May 2018. The cost will be £40 per annum, per household. Every household will be given a new food waste bin and this will be emptied weekly. The Council are currently looking at issues with the A505. There are several dangerous junctions where there have been accidents. By March there will be a set of proposals on how to improve safety on this road. They are also wanting to introduce a seven and a half ton limit for vehicles using the A507. This has been agreed in principle, but how to enforce it has not yet been decided. Steve reported that there is still grant money available in both the District and the County Councillors' budget.*
- 18/005 To confirm the dates for the meetings in April and May.  
*The revised dates were confirmed as:*  
*Rushden Parish Assembly on Wednesday 11/04/18*  
*Wallington Parish Assembly on Thursday 12/04/18*  
*P C Annual Meeting in Rushden on Thursday 03/05/18*
- 18/006 To consider the feedback received from BDO regarding the Audit of 2017  
*The Clerk explained that the issue raised by BDO Auditors regarding the Annual Return was about the value given to the defibrillators. As the defibrillators were given to the P C free of charge they have to be shown on the Asset Register as a value of £1 and not the actual value of the items. This is noted for future additions.*
- 18/007 To discuss recent issues with the drainage in Bennetts Lane  
*S.P. reported that the road had been dangerous in the recent icy conditions due to running*

*water having frozen on the road. The issue of the blocked drainage needs addressing, as previously requested. S.J. said that a meeting with Gary will have to be called, on site, to discuss the issues and to agree what needs to be done. He confirmed that this initial meeting will happen before the end of March. The timing of any work will depend on the outcome of this meeting. This work cannot become part of the budget until costs are known.*

*C.G. informed S.J. that the Church End road sign has been knocked down and needs re-installing.*

18/008 20mph speed limit in Wallington

*The Council are still working on this. There will be a set of proposals by the end of March. There will then be consultation with residents. Implementation is in next year's budget.*

18/009 To receive feedback re The Moon and Stars

*S.P. reported that he has submitted the paperwork to the Council and is now awaiting notification from them. In addition a letter had been received from a resident expressing concern at some of the changes to the Moon and Stars. This will be kept on file to be considered if any planning applications are made by the owners in the near future.*

18/010 To discuss issues regarding Wallington Phone Box

*A letter was received from a local resident explaining that she had made some stained glass panels reflecting the history of Wallington, that she wished to donate, for them to replace some of the glass in Wallington's phone box. She said that the glass used had come from an old phone box, so it was the right type of glass.*

*K.H. had done some research into this and raised some concerns. Firstly, as the Parish Council owns the phone box it has a duty of care to all residents to ensure that it is safe. Although the glass used came from a phone box, it has now been through further processes including etching and re-firing which may have affected the structure of the glass. The P.C.'s insurance policy would not pay out if it was proved that the glass did not meet the required standard. In view of these concerns K.H. suggested that the panels be hung inside the village hall. It was unanimously agreed that the panels will be hung in the village hall, subject to agreement by the village hall committee, for the time being. If in the future it can be proven that the panels meet the required the standards, there would need to be a consultation with all Wallington residents to decide whether they wanted the panels moved into the phone box.*

18/011 Speed indicator device at Mill End

*S.J. confirmed that this is in his budget for the next financial year. There will be two locations, one in each direction.*

18/012 To give further information on the changes in law being introduced by the General Data Protection Regulation and to decide how Rushden and Wallington Parish Council will meet the requirements.

*The Clerk had been on a course to learn more about the new Data Protection Legislation, which comes into force on 25/05/18. It was made very clear that this legislation puts considerable onus on every organisation to ensure the safety of all personal data held. The DPO needs to be a trained person.*

*The company running the course, dpocentre.com, offer a solution to ensure that the P C is compliant with the legislation. Small P C's with a precept of less than £5000 would be grouped together and charged £280 (estimated) for year one. This would include the initial 'Impact Assessment'. Year 2 onwards would be £120 (estimated).*

**Resolved** that the P C use this company to ensure our compliance with the legislation, subject to checks on the company. **Unanimously agreed.**

- 18/013 To decide whether the precept amount agreed at the September meeting is still appropriate.  
**Resolved** that the Precept request be kept at £4300 as agreed at the previous meeting.  
*The extra cost of meeting the Data Protection Legislation in 2018/19 will be taken out of the P C's surplus funds.*
- 18/014 To consider a letter from Sandon Sports and Social Club.  
*This letter requested financial support from the Parish Council in the next financial year.  
It was agreed that the same amount as last year (£200) could be given in the financial year 2018/19 as this would fall within the budget that has been set.*

The Meeting ended at 10.05pm.