

## Minutes of Rushden and Wallington Parish Council Meeting

Held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at 8.00pm

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

In attendance: District Councillor, Steve Jarvis, Clerk, Marian Messenger and one resident

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17/001 To receive and accept apologies for absence      Councillor, Steve Pettyfer sent his apologies

17/002 Declarations of interest and dispensations

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| 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 |

17/003 To confirm the Minutes of the Rushden and Wallington Parish Council Meeting held on 8 September 2016.

**Resolved** that these minutes be agreed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings and be duly signed by the Chair. In addition, the updated Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, discussed at the 8 September meeting, were also accepted.

**Unanimously agreed.**

17/004 To receive a report from the District Councillor.

S J reported that there have been queries regarding Educational Provision in the Local Plan.

S J is still in consultation with the organisers of Baldock Senior Citizens' minibus. The scheme will rely on having enough volunteer drivers.

The government have informed the local authority that from next year they may introduce 'negative grants', making council finances even more difficult.

S J had spoken to planning officers regarding a Rushden property about which Parish Councillors had received complaints. As far as the planning officers are concerned there is no problem. S J was asked whether permission is needed for floodlights to be left on all night. He will investigate this and also inform the Environment Agency about the suspected burning of building waste.

S J was asked to look into the legality of the new ditch that has been dug at the roundabout end of the Wallington Road, as it seems to have been dug by the farmer, but on council land.

S J was also asked to report again the state of the road surface at and near the same roundabout. The last two points relate to Highways and are, therefore, a matter for the County Council. S J agreed to pass on the Parish Council's concerns.

17/005 To receive a report from the County Councillor.      No report as Tony Hunter was not present.

17/006 To receive information of a request from Sandon Sports Club

The Clerk read a letter from Sandon Sports Club requesting funding. It was agreed that a letter should be sent by the Clerk suggesting that they contact Steve Jarvis to apply for a grant.

17/007 To discuss the proposed changes to gritting in the area.

The Council were not able to put their proposed changes into practice, so Rushden should not have been affected. However the roads due to be left out of the gritting programme have not been gritted this winter. S J will look into this.

K H suggested that the PC should write to the Council to say that if gritting is to stop, then

Rushden should be provided with more salt bins. They would be needed on The Green near the church and at Southern Green. K H agreed to write this letter.

17/008 To receive an update on the River Beane post and rail fencing

It was reported that residents in Rushden are very upset that the repairs have still not been carried out. L H had emailed Tony Hunter twice, but has had no response. K H will write to Tony Hunter to ask when this work will be done.

**Resolved** that if the work is not done before the end of the financial year, or if there is no response, then this matter will be escalated. **Unanimously agreed.**

17/009 To receive an update from the Clerk on the position regarding the Transparency Fund

**Resolved** that the Clerk shall receive the grant for Transparency Fund work of £120.

**Unanimously agreed.**

17/010 To confirm the continuation of membership of HAPTC for 2017/18

**Unanimously agreed.**

17/011 To discuss the management of the Barclays Bank Account and the transfer of £1000 contingency for each village into the Savings Account

**Unanimously agreed** that the current balance in the Savings Account be split between the two villages on the 2:1 ratio. Also the Clerk will transfer funds from the Current Account into the Savings Account so there is a reserve of £1000 for each village.

17/012 To discuss Broadband

A broadband 'expert' had offered to give advice on how the broadband signal to the villages could be improved. Various possibilities were looked at but unfortunately, because of the lie of the land, the most promising suggestion (transmission via microwave links) would not work.

Broadband transmission via 4G remains a possibility, and there may be an opportunity to test this, but it relies on mobile phone signal which may mean that it is also unsuitable for our area.

The way forward, therefore, is to encourage residents to express their interest in High Speed Broadband to BT whenever possible.

17/013 To consider ongoing costs for the defibrillators.

K H reported that the gel pads in the defibrillators have an expiry date. One set of gel pads in the Wallington defibrillator has an expiry date during 2017.

**Unanimously agreed** that K H should order a new set.

It was also reported that the alarm on Rushden's defibrillator is faulty. It was decided that, as the alarm is an optional extra and unreliable, it will stop being used.

17/014 To consider the Police Crime Prevention Initiative

PCSO Chris Brabrook had offered to come to a PC Meeting to talk about this initiative. It was felt that this is not needed. However, the Clerk will give him details of the Wallington website. He already regularly puts information on the Rushden website.

17/015 To suggest agenda items for the next meeting of the Parish Council

- River Beane post and rail fencing

It was suggested that the date for the Annual Parish Meeting should be Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May in Wallington at 8.00pm. The Clerk will check with Steve Pettyfer and Wallington Village Hall that this date is OK.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.