

Annual General Meeting

Rushall Parish Council

Tuesday 12th May 2025 Rushall Village Hall 7.30pm

Mr. Colin Gale (Chairperson) (CG)
Mr. Nigel Carson (NC)
Mr. John Rogers (JR)
Dr. Richard Tilbury (RT)

Mrs. Claire Ridge (Clerk) (CR)

Mr. Paul Oatway (PO)

1. Apologies

Mr. Iain Goodfellow (IG)

2. Minutes of PC Meeting Thursday 26th May 2025

Minutes acceptance proposed by JR, second by RT.

3. Declaration of interest
None

4. Correspondence – PCAP Report May 2026

5. Annual Review

**RUSHALL PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REVIEW 2025-2026
By Colin Gale**

Introduction

This year has continued to be very busy with village events and activities. The frequency of meetings has stayed constant with the previous years.

PC Meetings

Four scheduled meetings took place and the AGM. All of the scheduled meetings were held in person in the Village Hall. The normal precept working group was satisfied via email exchanges as it was straight forward. Meeting minutes are available on the Rushall Community Website.

Pewsey Area Board

Councillor Colin Gale continued to regularly represent Rushall at the PAB, the PAB's have continued as three meetings per annum. CG also sits on the Local Highways Footpath Improvement Group (LHFIG) and Pewsey Community Area Partnership (PCAP). The LHFIG meetings have continued to be all satisfied via virtual events with the PCAP meetings being held in person.

Village Events

The Village Hall Committee introduced regular events during the year which included a Curry Night, Burger & Brew, Ploughmans & Quiz Night, Jumble Sale etc along with the monthly Coffee Morning held at the Village Hall.

The Church held a fundraising event in June 2025 with Bishop Andrew providing a concert with music from his latest CD which was produced at St Matthew's. A talk event was given by David Leakey, previous Black Rod in November and proved to be very enlightening and was a successful event. In December the church held the Darkness to Light Service and a Candlelight Carol Service which were both extremely popular. The school also held their Carol Service at the Church and there was the traditional Christmas Day service held. The number of monthly services continued at three per month. The Parish Council carried out its annual Village Spring Clean on the 5th April with a group of volunteers followed by a well-earned retreat to the monthly 'Coffee Morning' afterwards. This is an important activity clearing up after the winter and preparing for Best Kept Village.

People

The population of the village has continued to stay fairly constant with not many movements during the year. There is currently two houses empty and two houses being used for 'Air B&B' in the village. The current population total is around 154 including 33 children.

Planning Applications/ Planning Issues

Wiltshire Council submitted its Local Plan for consultation and approval which maintained the old housing targets as agreed at the time. The independent Inspectors carried out an initial review and identified further documents etc that were required. A timeline was agreed for Wiltshire Council to produce the additional documents and the overall position was believed to be favourable. Unfortunately the Inspectors subsequently had a change of position and presented Wiltshire Council with two options:

- a) Withdraw the Local Plan and proceed with producing a new plan to the latest housing requirements.
- b) The Inspectors continue to review the Local Plan from a position of rejecting the plan.

Wiltshire council are currently considering the two options.

Rushall PC recognised the potential impact and decided to start a review and reissue the Rushall Village Design Statement as a 'Material Planning Document'. The update is ongoing.

One new planning applications was received for the village during the year, conversion and change of use of a barn at Rushall Mill into 3 paddle tennis courts. The planning decision is ongoing.

Policing

Regular Police reports were received at PC meetings.

Communications

Colin Gale has produced 2 editions of the Rushall Parish News. The Rushall community website was maintained during the year by Claire Ridge along with the notice board at the Village Hall.

Precept

The Precept was increased by 2.68% on a band 'D' property which represented an increase of £3.19 pa.

Donations were made to PCAP and Pewsey Vale Tourism Partnership.

Best Kept Village Competition

Rushall entered the Main Competition for the 'Best Kept Village' for 2025/2026. Rushall came first in the Kennet District round for small villages and second in the overall County round for small villages. Rushall scored well in both rounds and the judges reports for both rounds were very favourable.

LHFIG formally CATG

Colin Gale actively progressed the Rushall issues at LHFIG. Phase 3 of the footpath from Manor Cottage to half way to Rushall Drove was completed in April/May 2026. Phase 4 of the footpath which will join the Whistledown Path just beyond Rushall Drove was approved by Wiltshire Council for a substantive fund grant scheme and is scheduled to be built in March 2027. The section of footpath between Hazelnut Cottage and Forge House was carried out in Summer 2025.

Community Speed Watch (CSW)

The team led by Iain Goodfellow regularly carried out speed watch throughout 2025/26. There remains 4 members of the team. The Speed Indicator Devices (SID's) that are rotated between 5 parishes were in operation throughout 2025/26.

Defibrillator

The defibrillator remains in the telephone kiosk and is maintained by JR.

Village Hall

The Parish Council provided financial support to the Village Hall Committee in the purchase of a shed for shared usage. The Parish Council stores salt bags, road signs etc in the shed.

Flooding

The drains at Rushall Bridge continue to be flushed twice a year and the level of flooding has remained considerably less during the winter. When the drains are flushed early in the year the team also ensure the drainage head ditch to the river is clear.

The ditch down Church Lane by the triangle requires clearing and is beyond the scope of the Parish Steward. A ticket was put in for the work but the Wiltshire Council Highways Engineer refuses to support the work. This item is

being progressed at a senior level in Wiltshire Council along with other highways issues.

Acknowledgements

The Chairman would like to thank his fellow councillors, and our Clerk, Claire Ridge for all their hard work throughout the year. I would also like to thank our Wiltshire Councillor Paul Oatway for his help and advice.

The PC would also like to thank Geoff Perry for the maintenance work along the Rushal/Charlton footpath.

**Colin Gale - Chairman Rushall Parish Council
May 2026**

6. Questions
7. Next Meeting

Thursday 27th May 2027