

Annual General Meeting
Thursday 30th May 2024
Rushall Village Hall 7.30pm

1. Apologies: Iain Goodfellows
2. Minutes of last Parish Council Annual General Meeting held 25th May 2023, proposed by JR and second by RT, to be signed by CG. Accepted
3. Declaration of interest

None

4. Correspondence – PCAP Report January 2023 to April 2024
5. Annual Review

RUSHALL PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REVIEW 2023-2024

By Colin Gale

Introduction

This year has been very busy with village events and activities. The frequency of meetings has stayed constant with the previous year with some meetings staying as virtual ie not in-person events, however, there has also been some new meetings.

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. The November PAB was a special event, Highways Matters with presentations from Highways, the opportunity to table pre-meeting questions plus further questions at the meeting. The response to RPC questions have only just been received and were incomplete and inadequate and are awaiting a further response. CG also sits on the Local Highways Footpath Improvement Group (LHFIG) and Pewsey Community Area Partnership (PCAP). PCAP arranged a special meeting with the Leader of Wiltshire Council, Richard Clewer plus our three local Wiltshire Councillors, Paul Oatway, Jerry Kunkler and Stuart Wheeler which was held in Rushall Village Hall to discuss the state of the

highways in the Pewsey Community Area based on a survey conducted by PCAP supported by the Pewsey villages. 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, Beetle Drive, Jumble Sale etc along with the monthly Coffee Morning held at the Village Hall.

The Church held a further fundraising event in 2023 with the Dauntsey Choir performing a Carol Concert along with the Darkness to Light Service and Candlelight Service. 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 the reduced level due to the shortage of clergy.

The Parish Council carried out its annual Village Spring Clean on the 4th May 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 so many movements during the year. There is currently two houses up for sale in the village with two houses empty and two houses being used for 'Air B&B'. The current total is now around 154 including 33 children.

Planning Applications/ Planning Issues

The 5 Year Housing Land Supply Target – There has been recent revisions to the government 5 year land supply target where Wiltshire only now have to demonstrate a 4 year land supply. This will have a significant impact on speculative developer housing applications during the appeal process and will stop the continuous overriding of planning decisions.

No new planning applications were received for the village during the year.

A planning development is in its early stages for a Solar Farm above the Wilsford Barn AirDryer along the A342. A presentation by the developer is scheduled for 30th May 2024. Access requirements are unknown at this stage.

Policing

Regular Police reports were received at PC meetings

Communications

Colin Gale has produced 3 editions of the Rushall Parish News.

The new 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 5.19% on a band 'D' property which represented an increase of £5.76 pa.

Donations were made to PCAP and Pewsey Vale Tourism Partnership.

Best Kept Village Competition

Rushall won the Laurence Kitching Competition for the 'Winner of Winners' for 2023/2024. Rushall are the first village to win this award three times. The award presentation/ceremony was held on the 24th September at the stocks followed by light refreshments in the village hall. The judges report identified a couple of minor issues which will be satisfied for this years entry again to the Laurence Kitching competition which we are entitled to enter for a further year before rejoining the main competition .

LHFIG formally CATG

Colin Gale actively progressed the Rushall issues at LHFIG. Phase 2 of the footpath from the bus stop to Manor Cottage which was approved by Wiltshire Council for a substantive fund grant scheme was built in July 2023. The next section from Manor Cottage to Rushall Drove topography survey was also completed.

Site discussions on Phase 3 post a BT survey of the 3 phone poles along the length were held to discuss the BT advice that all 3 poles would need to be relocated further up the bank and to establish the number of drop kerbs required plus the termination point for the footpath. It was established that the total cost of the remaining footpath would be circa £100K. The decision was made that the remaining phase would need to be split into two with the next section being designed to a cap of £50K. The design was presented to the LHFIG meeting on 24th April and approved to go forward to a substantive grant bid.

A further site meeting was held on the section of footpath between Hazelnut Cottage and Forge House is an ongoing issue. The design for the footpath was also presented to the LHFIG on the 24 April after initially providing the design to the Parish Councillors for consultation. The cost is approximately £18K which technically is supposed to be totally funded by the LHFIG and Parish Council. The local Wiltshire Councillors have taken an action to discuss the circumstances with Highways due to the circumstances surrounding this footpath requirement and past events.

Community Speed Watch (CSW)

The team is now led by Iain Goodfellow resumed again in 2023 after some new volunteers had completed training and some existing volunteers had received re-training. The Speed Indicator Devices (SID's) that are rotated between 5 parishes throughout 2023/24. SID Parishes have agreed to purchase a further SID and are currently finalizing additional locations/changes to the rota.

Defibrillator

The defibrillator remains in the telephone kiosk and is maintained by JR. The PC have registered the unmetered electricity supply with a supplier to maintain the supply but have not received any confirmation.

Flooding

Considerable flooding was experienced at Rushall Bridge in January 2024 and again on Good Friday, 29th March. The sand bags were deployed to protect Avon Villa. The garage was flooded and the car had to be moved to River House. There is an ongoing issue to get Wiltshire Council Highways to clear the drains from the highway to the river and subsequently to resolve the inadequate drainage infrastructure.

The flood plan has been updated based on the experience and further updates to the plan are being progressed. CG and IG attended local flood meetings and CG has taken part in

the Operational Flood South Operational Hybrid Meetings to progress issues. The PC is also progressing the flooding issues with Wiltshire Council, Cabinet and Full Council.

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 2024

- 6. Declaration of new Councillors – all in place. Re-election May 2025.
- 7. Election of Chairman to Parish Council. JR proposed RT seconded.
- 8. Questions from the floor – none
- 9. Date of next Annual General Meeting, Thursday, 29th May 2025.

Signed.....
(Chairperson)

Dated.....