

# Minutes of the Rushden and Wallington Parish Council Meeting

held remotely, via Zoom, on **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

Present: Councillors Steve Pettyfer, Kate Heath, Linda Hill, Graham Lamb, Roger Greenwood

In attendance: Marian Messenger, Clerk, Steve Jarvis, District and County Councillor and one member of the public.

Due to the current restrictions relating to Covid 19, there will not be an Annual Meeting in 2020. As a result it was agreed that Steve Pettyfer will continue as Chair until the Annual Meeting in May 2021.

20/016 To receive and accept apologies for absence None

20/017 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 |

20/018 To confirm the Minutes of Rushden and Wallington Parish Council Meeting held on January 14<sup>th</sup> 2020. Chair to sign (when this is possible).

**Resolved** that the Minutes of the Rushden and Wallington Parish Council Meeting held on 14 January 2020 be agreed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings and be duly signed by the chair (to be arranged) **Carried unanimously**

20/019 To consider the financial report for the year ending 31 March 2020 and to consider / approve Section 1 of the Annual Return

**Resolved** to accept the financial report, as presented, for the year ending 31 March 2020  
Proposed by SP. **Unanimously agreed**

20/020 To consider / approve Section 2 of the Annual Return

**Resolved** to approve Section 2 of the Annual Return. Proposed by SP. **Unanimously agreed**

20/021 To formally declare R & W P C an exempt authority

**Resolved** that Rushden and Wallington Parish Council declare itself to be an exempt authority within the definition contained in the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015 **Unanimously agreed**

20/022 To receive a report from the District Councillor and the County Councillor

- Steve Jarvis reported that the Council has been focussed on coronavirus related activities, particularly related to dealing with the vulnerable. There had been a fantastic response from the public to a call for volunteers to help with this. Each councillor had been given extra funding to help with Covid 19 related issues.
- Some highways work has now restarted but the weight limit for the A507 is delayed for the moment.
- The Local Plan is on hold.

- *Bin Collections should be back to normal from this week as there is no longer a shortage of drivers.*
- *Some of the recycling centres have re-opened, but only for essential disposal. There are not enough staff to open all the centres.*
- *SJ has been made aware of a problem with blocked drainage by the pond at Southern Green but has been unable to discover who owns it. He stated that he would be willing to make a grant available to the Parish Council if they would be willing to sort out the problem. SP agreed to make some enquiries and then try to get some quotes for the work*

20/023 Covid-19 Response

*Both Rushden and Wallington councillors have set up communication between people willing to help and vulnerable people, plus those who are self-isolating. These initiatives have worked very well and have been appreciated.*

20/024 Wallington Neighbourhood Plan

*The consultation period on the area covered by the plan is complete. There were a few comments made, all constructive. Further work on the plan, including applying for funding, will go ahead when official approval is received from North Herts Council and when circumstances allow.*

*SJ will check the approval status as he thinks it has already received approval.*

20/025 Fingerposts

*There are three old style fingerposts in Rushden, photographs have been taken.*

*RG will contact the County Council to see whether a grant to refurbish them could be made available.*

20/026 Wallington Trees

*Wallington lost two and a half trees in the storms. Work to remove one tree, which was dangerous, was carried out and was covered by the Parish Council's insurance.*

*Getting quotes for the maintenance of other trees on PC land has been on hold because of the coronavirus restrictions, but should now be able to go ahead.*

*KH thanked SJ for putting them in touch with a lady who planted 16 trees at no cost to the Parish Council.*

20/027 Church Farm Meadow.

*There have been some problems with this piece of land which has been divided into plots and then sold on. SP has spoken to people on three occasions about the way they are using the land which they have bought. There is a covenant in place which strictly limits what the land can be used for. The issue is enforcing this.*

*SP spoke to Chris Garrett, who owned the land, about the problems. Chris Garrett asked SP to ask whether the Parish Council would be willing to take on responsibility for this.*

*It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council do not wish to do this. SP will relay this to Chris Garrett.*

*Notices have been put on the gates to the land, informing potential purchasers that there is no likelihood of getting planning permission to build. It was suggested that a copy of the covenant specifically stating this should be added to the notice.*

20/028 Wallington Pond

*The transfer of ownership of Wallington Pond to the Parish Council is going ahead and is currently in the hands of solicitors. Current Parish Council Insurance covers the pond at no*

*extra cost, provided that a sign is put up stating the dangers. This will be done as soon as the pond officially changes hands.*

20/029 Village AED's

*There was some concern that pads were reaching their use by date. Rod, who provides these, has assured KH that he has it in hand and there is no cause for concern. SP reported that another AED has been offered to the PC but, as it is not needed, asked whether anyone knew of anywhere that might like to have one. KH suggested the cricket club. SP will send details to the treasurer of the cricket club.*

20/030 To set provisional dates for meetings for the rest of the year 2020/21

*As time was running out, MM was asked to liaise with SJ and suggest some dates for the meetings, contacting everyone by email.*

20/031 To suggest agenda items for the next meeting of the Parish Council

*No items were suggested.*

*The Meeting closed at 9.15pm.*

After the meeting, and in accordance with Item 20/030, the following provisional dates were decided on for the 2020/2021 meetings:

Thursday September 17	Parish Council Meeting in Wallington Village Hall
Wednesday January 27	Parish Council Meeting in Rushden Village Hall
Tuesday April 13	Rushden Parish Assembly in Rushden Village Hall
Wednesday April 14	Wallington Parish Assembly in Wallington Village Hall
Thursday May 20	Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and Parish Council Meeting in Wallington Village Hall

All meetings start at 8.00pm