

Date / Time: Wednesday 12th April 2022, 8pm

Location: Rushden Village Hall

In Attendance: Steve Pettyfer (Chair), Mark Hopley (Clerk); Steve Jarvis (District and County Councillor); 6 No. residents

Item	Description	Action
1.0	<p>Approval of the Minutes of Rushden Parish Assembly 12th April 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The minutes of Rushden Parish Assembly 13th April 2022 were approved. 	
2.0	<p>Matters arising from the Minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. 	
3.0	<p>Report from the Parish Councillors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chair, Steve Pettyfer, presented a report detailing the key matters addressed by the Parish Council during 2022-23, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Apologies for absence from Ian Roper and Linda Hill, Parish Councillors.</i> - <i>Linda Hill has decided not to stand for re-election to the Parish Council after 17 years of dedicated service. The Parish Council thanks Linda for all her hard work and support over that time and a gift of thanks has already been presented to her to acknowledge this.</i> - <i>Jenny Barlow has kindly put herself forward to stand as a Parish Councillor to replace Linda in the upcoming May elections.</i> - <i>The budget for 2023-24 has been increased by £335 to take account of potential inflationary costs and so the precept demand for the Parish Council now stands at £4,850 to help fund activities around the Parish.</i> - <i>The bus shelter has been refurbished in the last 12 months. This was mainly down to Ian Roper and Steve Pettyfer who carried out the works at a much reduced expenditure than was quoted from other building firms. Thanks go to the two of them for their hard work and the resulting bus shelter should survive for many more years to come. Thanks also go to Steve Jarvis for getting us a £300 grant towards these works and to Linda Hill for putting in the grant application.</i> - <i>North Herts Local Plan has been approved which is good news given the recent planning issues affecting both Rushden, Redhill and Wallington.</i> - <i>The speed indicators at Mill End have been moved around which is good news. There is no possibility of more permanent speed restrictions such as speed bumps being installed. Community speed watch has been proposed but volunteers are required. Equipment can be borrowed from the police but a minimum of 2 volunteers are required and measurements need to be done over a number of days / weeks / months and at different times of the day.</i> - <i>Drainage repair works in Treacle Lane have been carried out and appear to be a success but will be monitored closely.</i> 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Julia Clark from the Footpath team at NHDC has left and been replaced by Robert Lloyd.</i> - <i>The coronation bank holiday weekend has been earmarked for local community volunteering within Rushden. Volunteers are required to help coordinate and to help.</i> 	
4.0	<p>Report from the District and County Councillor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Local Plan:</i> The Local Plan has now been adopted which should be helpful in determining local planning issues. • <i>A507 Weight Limit:</i> Weight limit likely to be introduced between the South Road, Baldock roundabout and Buntingford. • <i>Herts Lynx on-demand Bus Service:</i> The service has proved to be successful, with extended service times (running to 11pm on Friday and Saturday evenings) and the serviced area is being extended to south of Buntingford. Additional buses will be added to the service. • <i>Road Repairs:</i> Potholes are an ongoing problem. There are apparently 6 times as many potholes this year than last year. Recent repairs have included repairs to the A505 bypass. • Speed limits – the suggestion was made to join together with other villages to carry out community speed watches. The Chair then asked if we could be added to the list of the locality budget to investigate speed limit options. SJ did mention that the earliest this could be started is in the 2024 budget. • Waste collections will be changing from 2025 with general waste (purple bins) being collected every 3 weeks rather than every fortnight. Soft plastics will be able to be recycled in the black bins which is why less should be in the purple bins. 	SJ
5.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report from the Rushden Manor Trustees is attached. • A request was made to investigate whether the green builders bags that have been on the driveway on Southern Green for about 2 years be removed. Steve Pettyfer will make a representation to the owners to see if they can be moved. 	SP
6.0	<p>Drainage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treacle line drains have been lined and it seems to have solved the problem. 	
7.0	<p>Luton airport flight path issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debora and Paul Stapleton presented their findings on the recent changes to the flightpaths proposed by Luton Airport. This could cause considerable noise pollution in the skies above Rushden and Wallington and many other local Parishes, especially at night. • There is already a noticeable increase in flight activity and noise levels, particularly at night and if Luton’s proposals are accepted this will get 	

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	<p>considerably worse in years to come especially as Luton are proposing to increase passenger numbers from the 18 million currently allowed to 32 million by 2043.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a voluntary organization called RELAS (Reject Luton Airport Stacking) that Debora and Paul Stapleton have joined that is challenging Luton Airport's proposed changes. • RELAS have carried out lots of work and investigations into the impact on local communities. RELAS are challenging Luton Rising (the owners of Luton airport) on their findings and the way they have handled the change process. • Awareness needs to be raised within all local Parishes and the Parish Council will do as much as it can to publicise the issue and raise awareness via the Parish Council website, local community social media and at future Parish Council meetings. • RELAS have a presentation setting out their findings to date which can be found on their website at https://relas.uk/ 	<p>SP / MH</p>
<p>8.0</p>	<p>Issues which are raised by Residents attending the Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. 	
	<p>The meeting closed at 9.15pm.</p>	

Chair's Signature:

Date:

Report from the Trustees of Rushden Manor for the Parish Assembly on 12th April 2023.

This time last year we had announced our plan to remove the Cherry Laurel hedge from Southern Green, and obtained all the necessary approvals. That work was completed in September and the Trustees are very grateful to the volunteers from the council that helped so much on the day.

We spent a considerable amount of money commissioning an ecological survey by a local specialist company to ensure that the proposed work did not disturb or threaten great crested newts which we had been told had been seen in the area. This company also supervised the work done on the day. In the event, there was no evidence of newts and little sign of much wildlife habitation. The clearance team did however find a considerable quantity of black matting and other household waste that had been placed behind the hedge in the ditch, which is likely to be a contributory factor in the lack of wildlife! Piles of timber and vegetation have been left as advised by the ecological company to encourage insects and other small wildlife to take up residence.

There is still more tidying to do and some trees have since fallen which we will endeavour to clear when time is available.

We continue to look after the trust land to preserve it for the local residents and welcome assistance from any villagers interested in helping.

With thanks,

Brian Littlechild, Steve Humphrey and Charles Gutteridge.