

Date / Time: Wednesday 17th April 2024, 8pm

Location: Rushden Village Hall

In Attendance: Steve Pettyfer (Chair), Mark Hopley (Clerk); Steve Jarvis (District and County Councillor); 9 No. residents

Item	Description	Action
1.0	<p>Update from the local PCSO Hannah Moss who covers the Parish and PC Lynsey Catt who covers Royston.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The local team are Chris Brabrook, Tom Woollard and Hannah Moss. They are responsible for 18 villages in the area. Very few crimes in the past year which is encouraging news. Just one burglary at Cumberlow Green in November 2023 and one attempted burglary at Julian's Park. They carry out regular patrols in the village including loops through to Southern Green. There is the village WhatsApp group with 70 residents in the group that does report suspicious behaviour. Hannah reiterated that it is vital that this is then reported via 101 directly rather than to individual PC's or PCSOs. 	
2.0	<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 12th April 2023 were signed and approved. 	
3.0	<p>Matters arising from the Minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None. 	
4.0	<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 2023-24, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>2 new Councillors have joined the Parish Council during the year; Jenny Barlow who was elected at last May's election. Jenny replaced Linda Hill, who retired after many years service on the Parish Council. At the resignation of Ian Roper, Sue Lewis was co-opted onto the Parish Council in January 2024.</i> <i>Talk from the Revivel Community Group regarding the cat ditch and the state of the local water table and the effects that Anglian water have in removing too much water from the locality. Revivel have been in discussion with Wallington Farms to find possible ways of working together to alleviate some of the issues. Their website can be found following this link https://www.revivel.org/</i> <i>The Moon and Stars status as a community asset came up for renewal at the end of its 5 year term. The difficulty about renewing its community asset status now is that the pub has been shut and therefore cannot be justified as an asset to the community.</i> 	

Item	Description	Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>The river Beane fence has been repaired and thanks to Steve Jarvis for all his help in getting that done.</i> - <i>Road closure notices were issued from the bottom of Bennetts Lane to Southern Green for drain cleaning, however, all the debris from the drains was left by the side of the road and when the next rains came the debris was immediately washed back down the drains, thereby re-blocking them.</i> - <i>A Parish Council Safeguarding policy has been introduced and will be a standing item at future Parish Council Meetings as well as being clearly signposted on the Parish Council website. This was instigated by the murder of Victoria Greenwood in the Parish in 2023.</i> - <i>Planning – 2 outstanding planning issues; Daisy Barn on Treacle Lane which is ongoing, with recent revisions to the original plans and Moonshine with objections remaining about access. The Parish Council, as a consultee body, have lodged their views, taking into account the views of residents at Parish Council Planning meetings, which are advertised in advance on the PC website and on the village notice board. Any member of the public can add their views by lodging their comments on the NHDC planning portal at; https://pa2.north-herts.gov.uk/online-applications/</i> - <i>It was noted that the Parish Council do not always get notified of all significant planning notices. Steve Jarvis will investigate and MH will notify Steve Jarvis of future notices that the PC did not receive.</i> - <i>PC Finances remain under control despite the high inflationary environment over the past year. The PC is forecast to be under budget this year but some of this underspend is just a timing issue and will be spent in the coming financial year. The PC have kept their precept / grant request for this financial year at the same level as last year at £4,850, so that no unnecessary pressure is placed on increasing council tax rises.</i> 	SJ/MH
5.0	<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 but is also being reviewed for possible amendments due to it being out of date. It will be amended to come back into line with national policies. • <i>Waste Collection</i> – the trial of recycling soft plastics (plastic bags etc.) is being extended in certain locations with the idea to roll out in 2025. Additional waste bins may be required but probably smaller than the current bins. In 2025 they will be introducing the new collection timetable which will be 1 of the three current bins every week (so a cycle of 3 weeks). Brown food waste bins will be collected every week. • <i>Road Repairs:</i> Potholes are an ongoing problem and repairs are poor. Residents are urged to report any and all potholes, whatever their size, at https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/highways-roads-and-pavements/report-a-problem/report-a-street-light-or-pothole.aspx • <i>Drainage and gully cleaning</i> – the issue is that roads needed to be closed for 	SJ

Item	Description	Action
	<p>this to happen but HCC now have agreed a plan of action to alleviate the backlog. One of the issues with the road closure notices is that they are not allowed to state what the closure is for as this limits the work that they can do. As a result the notices are left blank or vague deliberately. Residents can view all road closures nationally at this website ;</p> <p>https://one.network/uk/hertfordshire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <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 having been extended to Hertford and Ware. Additional buses have been added to the service and the routing software has been much improved. • Thanks were given to Steve Jarvis for all his help and support throughout the year in getting issues raised and resolved. 	
6.0	<p>Report from the Rushden Manor Trustees is attached.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highways made a mess on Southern Green which Steve Jarvis helped get cleaned up but sadly the later cable replacement made even more of a mess that still needs clearing up. • Steve Humphrey resigned as a trustee in 2023. It is not planned to replace him. • Help has been sought and hopefully given to take haylage from Shaw Green. • The clear up around Southern Green for the Coronation was hampered due to a complaint by a resident. This means that the ditches are unlikely to ever be cleared out. • Chip reminded all that the Trust is self-funded with occasional income from the pylons in the fields, grants from the Parish Council for the annual liability insurance, council grants awarded with the help of Steve Jarvis and fees from residents who want to gain access across Trust Land. Most of the work is voluntary and all help is very much appreciated. • It was suggested by Karen Pettyfer that a village flyer be produced that reminded residents what organisations such as the Rushden Manor Trust, the Village Hall Committee, the Church PCC committee and even the Parish Council, do for their local community. It should also explain how these organisations are funded and what is required each year to keep them viable. MH will organize the same for Wallington. • Thanks were given to Chip and Brian for their work on the Rushden Manor Trust. 	<p>KP MH</p>
7.0	<p>Drainage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treacle lane drains have been lined and it seems to have solved the problem. 	
8.0	<p>Community Speed Watch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mill End – It was suggested at last year’s Village Assembly that a volunteer group be gathered to man the speed watch trial. Sadly not enough volunteers came forward. The option is still there if enough volunteers do come forward. • It was requested that the speed monitor is moved to the other end of Mill 	

Item	Description	Action
	End. This should be done in September	SJ
8.0	<p>Luton and Stansted airport flight path issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RELAS have information on the latest position which can be found on their website at; https://relas.uk/ • Awareness has been raised within all local Parishes and the Parish Council have done as much as it can to publicise the issue and raise awareness via the Parish Council website, local community social media and at Parish Council meetings. • There is also an update on the proposed changes to Stansted airport flight paths and night flights. They currently have a restriction of 13,700 night flights per annum (as compared to Heathrow with around 5,800) and this is proposed to be increased. More information can be found online following this link; https://stanstedairportwatch.com/press-releases/your-community-needs-you/ 	
9.0	<p>Woodland Trust and Forestry Commission plans to plant 25,000 trees in 18 Ha of farmland previously owned by Shaw Green Farm.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A private individual purchased the land in 2022 and is working with the Woodland Trust to develop a plan to plant 25,000 trees, with funding coming from the Forestry Commission,. • The site is to be known as the 'Rose and Lion Wood'. • There is more detailed information on the proposed plans on the PC website. • Work is due to start this Spring. 	
10.0	<p>Issues which are raised by Residents attending the Meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was suggested that another Village clean-up be arranged. • Reporting of Potholes. In order to get potholes fixed they need to be registered with the HCC Highways team. Some potholes may not meet the criteria for immediate repair (greater than 50mm deep and wider than 300mm). However, all potholes should be reported by residents as they are more likely to get fixed than if not reported. • They can be reported at ; https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/highways-roads-and-pavements/report-a-problem/report-a-street-light-or-pothole.aspx 	SP
	The meeting closed at 9.15pm.	

Chair's Signature:

Date: