**M846 a) Present Cllrs J Mcguirk (Chair)(, S Manea-Nelken (Vice Chair), J Jennings**

**(Environment), J Good (Planning) & D Clark (Finance)**

**b) in Attendance N Mayglothling (Parish Clerk)**

**c) Apologies NCC Cllr N Clarke, RBC Cllr T Combellack & Notts Police B Price & C Kemish**

**M847) Declarations of Interest** Cllr Mcguirk; Agenda Item 7e, St Mary’s Funding Request

**M848)** Council approved the Draft **Minutes of 17 October 2022**

**M849) Items not covered elsewhere in the Agenda and Item Updates**

The Clerk had circulated an Update ahead of the Meeting (plain text as below**, Meeting updates in Bold).** Council welcomed this positive initiative and resolved to continue this format going forward.

**Clerk’s Update to Parish Councillors; December 2022**

1. Lengthsman; no local interest, role advert circulated to all Rushcliffe Parish & Town Clerks
2. Precept; 2023-24 Application completed & submitted to RBC 6/12/22
3. Mowing; Streetwise 2023 & 2024 combined tender circulated to Cllrs
4. Remembrance Day; CB Silent Soldiers and Lamppost Tommies deployed & recovered
5. Clerks (obo Parish) SLCC Membership renewed, 50% funding basis authorised & applied
6. Defib replacement Battery & Pads , request for interest in Training session sought

**£411.60 inc £68.60 VAT, payment approved. Some interest in training, Clerk to pursue**

1. Christmas Gifts; 2022 purchase & distribution undertaken by Mrs Jane Clark & Cllr Mcguirk

**Gifts distributed and very well received; settlement approved**

1. RBC Village Safety Committee attended by Clerk 5/12. Separate notes circulated to Cllrs.
2. External Auditor: **Council Noted** JFK Littlejohn re-appointed as External Auditor to 2026
3. 2022-3 Flood Report; to date two flood alerts; one day of minor Bunison flooding, one day of church gates / Bunison flooded (both events Warden monitored & attended)
4. 2022 Winter Grit delivery arrived, stored by bins at VH. (Major supplies still at Manor Farm)
5. Jubilee Avenue wildflower border inspected; replant Spring 2023; tree protectors tba
6. VAT refund request Jan-Oct 2022 (for £525.35) drawn up and submitted to HMRC.

n) Village Hall Cameras No Police specialist, no ongoing project-leader, to date not pursued

**M850) Local Representatives Reports**

**a) Nottinghamshire** **NCC Councillor Neil Clarke**

**b) Rushcliffe Borough** **RBC Cllr Mayor Tina Combellack**

Both representatives had offered their apologies and had confirmed to the Clerk that they had no new items to raise at this meeting. **Speed restriction on Hall Lane have been approved, Clerk to ask NCC Cllr N Clarke for an indication of when this reduction might be actioned and implemented.**

**M851) Finance** ***Cllr David Clark***

1. Cllr Clark offered an update on the three Unity Trust Bank accounts. Projections implied the Current Account (Precept-based) close to balance projection or may show a small excess of Income over Expenditure at Year End. Projected Agreed Commitments from the Reserve Account indicate that the Reserve will be close to the £18k policy-figure by year-end if all supported projects are delivered in-year.
2. In line with FAG guidance & Full Council approval, Council NOTED the 2023-24 Precept Submission has been acknowledged.
3. Council noted the 2022-23 JNC National Pay Scales & Clerks Q3 Differentials (both as previously circulated) and **approved these for payment**.
4. **The Clerk was requested to invoice the Village Hall Treasurer** for the VH 2022-3 contribution to the PWLB village Hall Loan Repayment.
5. Cllr Clark noted that he intends stepping down from Council in May, so requested that Council urgently consider appointing his replacement as Finance Lead, so that a smooth handover with Unity Trust Bank can be achieved over the next three months*. In the absence of any volunteer in the meeting this item will be carried over to the January meeting.* The Clerk informed Council that they were at liberty to appoint a councillor without recourse to election (which could help specifically address this vacancy) given current vacancies (2) and the proximity to the Local Elections due in May 2023.

**M852) Environment *Cllrs Jennings & Mcguirk***

a) **Lengthsman considerations**. The Clerk informed Council that in line with the agreed funding and recent uplift in the National Living wage the vacancy had been advertised based on 3.5hrs rather than 4hrs per week for 48 weeks / year. To date there had no enquiries or interest shown despite circulation to all Rushcliffe Clerks. Council asked the Clerk to contact local parish magazines and *Into The Vale* to publicise further, depending on copy-dates.

b) **Mowing Contract**; Consideration of Streetwise Tender. The Clerk had circulated a Tender Application received from Streetwise for £2853.90 (excluding recoverable VAT). This figure covered the 2023 & 2024 seasons and was below the £3000 estimated by FAG within the 2023-4 Precept Formation process. Council noted satisfaction with the value offered, and RESOLVED to accept the Tender. **Clerk to accept & request 2nd Invoice for the 2022 Season**.

c) **Flood Resilience Planning** a) Council Recognised a group of local Flood Wardens and Flood Assistants as trained and listed by NCC & VIA. The volunteers and Lead Warden Jim Mcguirk were thanked.

b) Council NOTED that Signage had arrived & delivery and Storage were being arranged in the agreed venues around the Village, in line with the agreed Flood Closure Plan.

d) **Traffic Survey** Council Resolved to hold a **Traffic Survey in October 2023** (to correlate with the date of previous surveys) to ascertain traffic flow, HGV passage and incidents on (Lower) Church Gate, with a view to better-informing traffic-calming or reduction recommendations particularly around St Johns & The Market Cross. Cllr Jennings offered to lead this Survey.

e) **Other Projects** Cllr Mcguirk having declared an interest in this matter, this Item was chaired by Cllr Manea-Nelken, Council having accepted a late item presented to The Clerk and circulated ahead of the meeting. An approach from the PCC / Wiverton Group of Churches regarding **a request for Council to 50% fund the removal of specific trees and overgrown bushes at St Mary’s.** An agreed quotation had been received (from Streetwise) which implied a potential cost to Council of £415 plus VAT to deliver both elements listed in the quotation.

After discussion Council noted that St Mary’s remains one of the most popular aspects of the parish in the reported view of parishioners (Neighbourhood Plan Survey and Report), regardless of religious belief. Council also noted that the current financial situation did not allow for any further large expenditure without either an overspend on estimates or a change of policy with regard to the level of Reserve to be maintained. Council noted that current support for St Mary’s already formed a substantial part of the Annual Mowing Contract *(Clerks note; £1397 of £2853 in a contract which will absorb 29% of the 2023-4 Precept*.)

With regret Council NOTED that they were not in a position to support this request given known liabilities, commitments and agreed fiscal policies, and that it is also not a current responsibility of the PC to maintain St Mary’s, as that responsibility remains under Church management and control. It was noted that a considerable amount of the listed work might be undertaken by volunteers, although the tree-removal elements clearly required professional skills to undertake safely.

**M853) Planning *Cllr Good***

a) Councillor Good circulated an update on **Current Applications**;

i) The Cottage on Church Gate (Council noted “OBJECT” already LODGED)

ii) The Martins Arms (Considered in Meeting & Supported / NOT OBJECT)

b) **Under RBC Consideration** The Old Rectory, Hall Lane (Council noted “OBJECT” already lodged)

c) **Conservation Area** Council noted appointment of a 2023 Conservation Area Review Group, to work alongside RBC Officers: Cllrs Jonathan Good & Josie Mcguirk, Bunty Fletcher, John Fletcher, Mark Wilmott, Tony Makin & Nige Mayglothling had already met with RBC to discuss process, and Cllr Jennings will also join the group.

d) **“Significant Trees” Survey** The Purpose, Process, Personnel and Timetable for establishing a list of important trees, and any potentially in need of a Tree Protection Order, was discussed. Council resolved that Cllr Good could take this forward in discussion with Mrs Bunty Fletcher.

**M854) Village Amenities *Cllrs Nelken & Mcguirk***

a) **Village Hall Paddocks** Cllr Maguirk reported on recent communication with the Land Agent on behalf of The Estate. A report on Village Hsll usage of the areas has been passed to The Estate. Draft Papers for an agreement (lease or Licence) are awaited and will be circulated to Cllrs for comment.

b) **Village Hall** a) Council noted submission of the **Grant application to assist with the replacement-repair of the North Roof**, and resolved to endorse the e-agreed role of Council as third-party funder of the project, with up to £2k to be allocated from Reserves as required.

b) Council discussed **potential removal of the diseased Prunus Tree on the north side of the Hall** near the two benches; a removal-cost quotation of £200 has been advanced. In the absence of a formal request from the Village Hall this matter was deferred to the next meeting.

**M855) Councillors Considerations**

a) **Wiverton Clergy** Thew Wiverton group of Churches have requested that each parish advance a small section on the value of Parish-Priest input and thus the need and role for a local priest. Whilst not necessarily the domain of Council to pass comment, Cllr Manea-Nelken offered to daft and circulate some appropriately supportive words, for e-ratification by Council.

**M856) Future Meetings** Council noted the proposed 2023 Parish Council meetings

23 January Ordinary Parish Council Meeting

13 March Annual Parish Meeting and Ordinary Parish Council Meeting

*4 May Local Elections Election of new Parish Council (7 seats)*

15 May Annual Parish Council Meeting (New Council)

*Provisional future dates tbc: 17 July 18 September 27 November*

Councillor Mcguirk noted that she would not be seeking re-election to Council in 2023, so her last full meeting would be the Annual Parish Meeting in March. *(Clerks Note; The retiring Chair may but is not obliged to Chair the election of a new Chair at the Annual Parish Council Meeting held in May).*

Council noted that only three current Councillors are likely to stand in the Local Elections, so there is an urgent and obvious need to recruit new Candidate-Councillors. An insufficiency of local Parish Councillors would be likely to result in direct appointments by, and management of, Colston Bassett Parish Council Finance, Planning and other affairs by Rushcliffe Borough Council. Quoracy for Colston Bassett Parish Council requires a minimum of three Councillors to be present to conduct business.

There being no further business the Chair thanked the attendees and closed the meeting at 2110hrs

Signed\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Rushcliffe Villages Safety Committee: Summary Meeting Notes from 5/12/22 (*Clerks Notes)***

* Meeting attendees a mixture of Neighbourhood, Speed & Farm Watch and Parish Council representatives, alongside Borough Councillors and Notts Police reps.
* Noted traditional NW groups on the demise; less structured, informal groups operating.
* Suggested that PCs should become obliged to send attendees; thoughts to integrate group in to Town & Parish Forum not considered appropriate.
* Greater liaison between Police & Highways & better information around long-term “incident” road closures requested (by CB Clerk)
* Farm Watch noted as operating reasonably well & with some successes.
* Local Crime Figures are available via “nottspolice” website, but Rushcliffe is a low crime area so even a few crimes can distort % movements.
* Speedwatch kits have been upgraded / simplified & are now available to buy, c£500, with funding support potentially available from Borough Cllrs more info on this expected). Any miscreants are initially issued with a warning letter from the Police, which may be followed up with any repeat “speedsters”.
* Police priorities remain Road Safety & Anti-Social Behaviour, utilising social media Comms, but police are officially not on WhatsApp.

Colston Bassett Conservation Area Review Group: Summary Notes from 5 December 2022 meeting

* Led by Andrew Langley (RBC Project Lead). Attendees Cllrs J Good & J Mcguirk, Mrs Bunty Fletcher, Messrs Tony Makin, Mark Wilmott, Nige Mayglothling (& apologies John Fletcher)

Group composition to be noted by Full Council.

* Conservation Area Document is a “Non-Policy Document” but refers to local & national policies & dovetails with CB Neighbourhood Plan, seeking to identify characteristics worth conserving (heritage assets, listed buildings, old & new important buildings & examples of exemplary/integrated modern designs (“the protected or Listed buildings of the future”)
* Andrew to pass template & further info to Clerk to distribute. Group to collate photos & evaluate examples of settings, locations, historical importance; can include woodlands, walls & railings, plus important views & open green spaces. Also try to evaluate key unlisted heritage assets & listed buildings, especially if any are at potential risk.
* Process; group to review docs & submit comments / revisions to Clerk (cc’d all); aim to meet late Jan to work through an initial draft. Village consultation & draft to Andrew in Feb, final draft to Andrew in March, then on to RBC Cabinet for adoption.
* Aim is to identify the characteristics of the Conservation Area that are worth seeking to conserve; eg open spaces, styles of architecture (eg red brick / pantiles), sylvian aspects, open views, space between houses, dark skies, nature corridors, traditional materials, etc.
* Revised document should help guide but not prevent future development, highlight features & characteristics to retain, allowing and supporting sympathetic (but not contradictory) modern upgrading and development.

*(Meeting Notes compiled by The Parish Clerk)*