

Rushden and Wallington Parish Council

22nd January 2026 – To Councillors :

Kate Heath (Chair), Graham Lamb, Stephen Pettyfer, Jenny Barlow, Sue Lewis

You are requested to attend the following meeting:

Rushden and Wallington Parish Council Meeting

to be held on

Thursday 22nd January 2026 at 8.00pm

at

Wallington Village Hall

Members of the public and press are also invited to attend this meeting.

*Mark and Michelle Hopley
Clerks to Rushden and Wallington Parish Council*

AGENDA FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Item	Description
25/056	To receive and accept apologies for absence
25/057	Declarations of interest and dispensations - To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda - To receive written requests for dispensations for declarable interests - To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate
25/058	To confirm the minutes of the - Extraordinary Planning Meeting held on Tuesday 5th March 2024 (Papers had been overlooked for signing at prior meetings) - Rushden & Wallington Parish Council meetings held on Thursday 18th September 2025
25/059	To receive a report from the District and County Councillor.
25/060	Wallington Footpath FP22 Update
25/061	New IT & Data Policy requirements – Assertion 10 adoption under the SAPPP (Smaller Authorities Proper Practices Panel) 2025 - decision required on the proposals put forward by the Clerks.
25/062	Review of Safeguarding awareness and communication

MSGHopley

- 25/063 Review of a request by a parishioner to enable Parish Council meetings to be attended remotely by parishioners.
- 25/064 Planning Update
- 25/065 Finance
- Accounts to 31.12.25
 - Budget for 2026-27
- 25/066 There is a problem with the revised May 2026 meeting – that is the day of the local town and council elections. Alternatives?

Confirm dates of upcoming meetings and any items to be included on the agendas.:

- Thursday 22nd January 2026 - Parish Council Meeting (Wallington VH)
- Tuesday 14th April 2026 - Wallington Parish Assembly (Wallington VH)
- Wednesday 15th April 2026 - Rushden Parish Assembly (Rushden VH)
- **Thursday 7th May 2026 - Parish Council AGM and PC Meeting (Wallington VH)**
- Thursday 17th September 2026 - Parish Council Meeting (Rushden VH)
- **Thursday 21st January 2027 – Parish Council Meeting (Wallington VH)**
- **Tuesday 13th April 2027 – Wallington Parish Assembly (Wallington VH)**
- **Wednesday 14th April 2027 – Rushden Parish Assembly (Rushden VH)**
- **Thursday 13th May 2027 – Parish Council AGM and PC Meeting (Wallington VH)**

MSG Hoppy

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes and Action Points

Date / Time: Tuesday 5th March 2024, 8.00pm

Location: Rushden Village Hall

Councillors Present: Steve Pettyfer (SP) (Chair), Sue Lewis (SL)

In attendance: Michelle Hopley (MH) - Clerk, 4nr. members of the public

Apologies: Graham Lamb (Parish Councillor), Kate Heath (Parish Councillor), Jenny Barlow (Parish Councillor), Mark Hopley (Clerk)

Item	Description	Status / Action
24/017	Planning Application Ref: Reserved Matters application for approval of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for outline application 21/02112/OP granted 28.01.2022 for one detached 4-bed dwelling (as a resubmission of planning application 22/02663/RM). The Chair clarified the key characteristics of the application, with particular reference to the previous application (22/02663/RM), which was refused as per NHDC decision notice dated 5th January 2023. The previous application was refused based on: <i>The proposed new dwelling, by reason of its large scale relative to the size of the site, would appear a contrived, visually excessive and poor form of development. This is exacerbated by its contemporary form and materials combined with its scale resulting in a form of development contrary to local context. Furthermore, the largely glazed, three-storey rear elevation would appear contrary to and harmful in the landscape when viewed from the lane to the west (from the A507) resulting in a form of development that would be to the detriment of the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside. The proposal is therefore deemed contrary to Policy D1 of the Local Plan and Sections 12 and 15 of the NPPF, especially paragraph 130 of the NPPF.</i> SP noted that these Sections relate to size, scale in comparison to other dwellings. <i>The proposal, by virtue of the incorporation of a side facing balcony and the set back nature of the dwelling relative to the host property, Daisy Barn, would allow for future occupants to step out and have a direct view into the rear fenestration of Daisy Barn 1approx. 20.0m away. This would have a materially adverse impact upon the amenities, reasonable living conditions and well-being of this neighbouring property, contrary to Policy D3 of the Local Plan and Section 12 of the NPPF.</i>	-

Chair's Signature:

Date:

Item	Description	Status / Action
	SP stated that this particular point had been addressed by the new application. There are windows but no new balcony to the side elevation, although there is a balcony to the rear of the proposed dwelling. The rough calculation of developed floor area for both the applications is circa 730m²; with the height of new proposed dwelling, at 7.2m, being higher than the previous proposed dwelling. Overall, the proposed dwelling is considerably larger than an average 4 bed house. The proposed materials were considered to be more appropriate for the location. The rear elevation still consists of large areas of glazing. The observations and concerns raised by the members of the public are summarised below. • Proposed Access Area / Hammerhead - The proposed access is not in line with the outline planning permission was raised – the gravel and open area is now fenced off. • Windows to the side elevation. • Roofs - appearance of the roof was not being in keeping with other properties in the vicinity. • Parking Spaces, Garage size. • Scale, size of property - Height, depth of property. • Boundaries - hard boundaries large sliding gate rather than the hedges. SP concluded that as it is difficult to conclude that the new proposal fits within the planning policies as highlighted in the previous refusal notice, i.e., appropriate scale, size and overall form compared to adjacent / other buildings in the village. It was agreed that the Parish Council would submit a response to NHDC, objecting to the proposal, along the lines that the original refusal point 1 had not been addressed, and noting the objections of the parishioners including the access arrangements.	
-	Meeting adjourned at 8.50pm.	-

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes and Action Points

Date / Time: 18th September 2025, 8.00pm

Location: Rushden Village Hall

Councillors Present: Kate Heath (KH) - CHAIR, Steve Pettyfer (SP), Graham Lamb (GL), Jenny Barlow (JB)

In attendance: Mark SG Hopley (MSGH) - Clerk, Michelle Hopley (MH) - Clerk, Steve Jarvis (District and County Councillor) and 8 members of the public

Item	Description	Status / Action
25/045	To receive and accept apologies for absence Apologies were received from Sue Lewis	-
25/046	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 - NA.	-
25/047	To confirm the Minutes of Rushden and Wallington Annual Meeting and Parish Council meeting held on 15th May 2025 Minutes were <i>carried unanimously</i> as a true and accurate record of the proceedings. No matters arising, other than those on the agenda. Minutes were signed by the Chair.	-
25/048	Report from the District and County Councillor. - Variable success of the new waste bin arrangements but time will get this settled down. New blue topped bins should have been delivered by now. If not then residents should complete this form on the NHDC website https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/request-new-replacement-or-larger-bin - Potholes - trials of new ways of working are being carried out and the results of these will be communicated in due course. The main trial is about completing all pot holes in a given area in one go rather than the current piecemeal approach. Bennetts Lane in Rushden is due to have some repairs carried out in November 2025.	-
25/049	Wallington Footpath 22 No updates on Wallington footpath 22. GL has received no updates from the Council but was assured that issues were being progressed.	
25/050	Community Drivesafe Update. - Still not allowed to be carried out where there is a 20mph zone. - The number of volunteers appears to have been raised back up to 10. - There is an opportunity provided by the police and crime commissioner for local residents to be issues with speed cameras. Residents can then report speeding vehicles to the police who will contact the owner directly and if the owner gets three letters then points can be issued.	

Chair's Signature:

Date:

Item	Description	Status / Action
25/051	IT and data policy requirements changes - Under the Smaller Authorities Proper Practices Panel (SAPPP) review there is now a requirement to separate out our digital and GDPR policies and ensure clarity around these through our policies and regulations. We started this journey with our move over to the .gov.uk website and email addresses as well as making our website accessible to all (you will see that we have a green “Accessibility” box at the bottom right of all of our web pages) - What used to be called Assertion 3 "Compliance with laws, regulations and proper practices" is now split and Assertion 10 “Digital and Data Compliance” has been created. We need to comply with this starting from April 2026. - This will require the PC to have: - An IT policy. - Data protection and privacy policies to ensure compliance with UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act. - Official email domains such as .Gov.UK - Comply with website accessibility regulations. - We comply with all but the IT Policy and MH will propose these as well as putting forward specific data protection and privacy policies for approval at the next Parish Council meeting in January 2026.	MSGH
25/052	Review of safeguarding, awareness and communication KH has a new poster that will be displayed on notice boards and the website.	KH
25/053	Planning including an update on planning applications being added to the PC Website. Existing Applications - The Old Well Green, Southern Green – external rendering and insulation. Permission has been granted. - Youngloves Farmhouse – rendering and weatherboarding. Permission has been granted. New Applications: - Windmill House, Bennetts Lane – conversion of an outbuilding. A planning meeting was held on the 5th August 2025 to discuss this application and comments were submitted to the planning department from the Parish Council following that meeting. No decision has yet been received from the Planning department. - Upgrade of existing telecommunications base station at Cumberlow Green Farm. - Lightrock Solar Farm South of Cumberlow Green. - It was believed that the deadline for comments had been extended to the end of October. - The presentations and final planning proposal appear to be a great deal more professional than the Beane Valley proposal. - Wallington Residents have been made aware of the proposal via the village WhatsApp groups as they are slightly further removed from the potential impact of the solar farm. - It was felt that the Parish Councilors representing the Rushden Parish now need to make their views clear in objecting to the plans and submitting such an objection to the planning department. SP agreed to draft the objection,	

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes and Action Points

Item	Description	Status / Action
	circulate this draft to all the Councilors for approval and then submit on behalf of the Parish Council. - It was also noted that there have been a significant number of email representations to the Clerks email address which need to be noted and referenced in any response that the Parish Council might make. - Communication has already been done via village WhatsApp groups of deadlines, planning application numbers and how to access the NHDC planning portal to submit individual comments. This may need repeating. - MH will investigate adding this to the website. MH asked Ian Roper to provide all relevant links as well as more leaflets that could be dropped around the Wallington Parish.	SP MSGH MSGH
25/054	Finance: - MSGH presented the accounts to 31.8.25. Spend year-to-date is under budget by £4.28 and is forecast to remain on or under budget for the remainder of the year. - Draft budget was presented and approved. Final sign off will be at the January PC meeting: - Inflation is assumed to be around 2% on those lines normally impacted by inflationary increases. Overall the inflationary impact on the PC budget is around 1% or £43. - Proposal to retain the precept request at £4,500 which is the same as the prior year and is still lower than that in 2020. - This allows us a contingency of around £200 or 5% which was agreed to be a comfortable level. - Banking Update - Lloyds have now introduced their monthly fee of £4.25. This is covered by the interest we are currently earning on our reserves. - If interest rates keep falling we may need to consider budgeting for this fee as costs may outweigh interest income. - There are no other banks that offer dual authorization without a monthly fee and Lloyds is one of the lowest monthly fees.	MSGH
25/055	Confirm date of next meeting and any items to be included on that agenda. - Next PC Meeting due on 22nd January 2026 - Proposed future meeting dates - Tuesday 14th April 2026 - Wallington Parish Assembly (Wallington VH) - Wednesday 15th April 2026 - Rushden Parish Assembly (Rushden VH) - Thursday 14th May 2026 - Parish Council AGM and PC Meeting (Wallington VH) - Thursday 17th September 2026 - Parish Council Meeting (Rushden VH) - Thursday 21st January 2027 – Parish Council Meeting (Wallington VH)	
	The Chair closed the meeting at 9.10pm	

Rushden and Wallington Parish Council

IT and Data Protection Policy 2026

IT POLICY - PRINCIPLES & PURPOSE

This Policy sets out the Parish Council's commitment to information security within the Parish Council and provides clear direction on responsibilities and procedures.

Rushden and Wallington Parish Council is a Data Controller, as defined under the Data Protection Act 1998, and has registered as such with the Information Commissioner's Office under registration reference number ZA461100.

The Responsible Officer is deemed to be the Data Protection Officer and is responsible for compliance with GDPR.

PROTOCOLS

System Security Processes and Procedures

The Council will provide and maintain security processes and procedures for all key information systems. The procedures will uphold the principles of confidentiality, integrity, availability and suitability and be assessed for their impact upon other systems and services.

The security procedures will provide preventative measures to reduce the risks to the system, the information held within the system and the service it supports.

A Continuity plan will be developed and maintained for each system to ensure the principles are sustained and enable the continuation of services following failure or damage to systems or facilities.

The Clerk will be responsible for the implementation and promotion of the procedures.

Physical Security

Adequate and practical access controls will be provided in all areas in which personal and business data is stored or used.

All documents disclosing identifiable information will be transported in sealed containers e.g. envelopes. Staff will be responsible for minimising the risk of theft or vandalism of the data and equipment through common-sense precautions. In particular high value equipment such as, laptop computers, should not be left unattended or unsecured and paper records should not be left in public view. The physical environment in which data and equipment is stored will be suitable and fit for purpose to ensure the safety of the data and equipment.

Logical Security

All computerised information and systems must be regularly backed up to a secure environment. Regular back-ups to an external hard drive are carried out.

All computerised information systems will be password controlled and all passwords will be treated with the strictest confidence and users will not divulge their password to any unauthorised person. All sensitive data will be password protected.

Copyright and licences

The Clerk is responsible for ensuring all computer software packages and non-electronic media for use within an information environment are used in accordance with the terms and conditions of use as set out in the licence agreement.

Disposal and movement of equipment and media

Any media or IT equipment disposed of by the Council will not contain any data or codes that could allow an individual to be identified from it. The disposal of equipment will be made under a controlled and documented environment satisfying the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998. The disposal of media such as disks and memory sticks must ensure that data cannot be recovered. Disposal of such media through the “everyday” waste collection is not permitted. The Council will implement processes to ensure appropriate disposal of such media.

Personal Computers and Parish Council email addresses

Computer users have responsibility for the security of the equipment in their care and shall not commit an act to compromise the data or Information Security Policy.

Computer users will be made aware of their responsibilities through this policy.

All Councillors will be issued with a personal.Gov.uk email address for use on Council business. Councillors will not share their Council email security login details with anyone and should make every effort to ensure that access to their Parish Council email is secure. Any breach of this security should be communicated to the Clerk immediately.

Staff and Councillors’ Responsibilities

The Council will make every reasonable effort to ensure that staff and councillors are aware of their responsibilities for the security of information. However, each councillor or member of staff is responsible for ensuring that Security Policy is adhered to and report any breaches of security.

Parish Councillors must consider any information sent via digital means carefully before sending it and ensure that it does not breach any privacy or data protection laws. If they are in any doubt then they should contact the Clerk before sending it.

Incident Reporting

Incidents affecting security must be reported to the Clerk as quickly as possible.

DATA PROTECTION AND FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

The Parish Council complies with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) Act 2016 and the Data Protection Act (DAP) 2018.

The Data Protection Officer is required to keep a list of all data held by the Parish Council and how this data is held and the security of this data.

This data must be securely held and digital backups done regularly and securely stored.

Data must only be shared for Parish Council business and must be securely communicated either via Parish Council email addresses or digital hardware such as memory sticks. This data must be deleted or destroyed once its purpose has been fulfilled by all users except for the Data Protection Officer.

These policies will be reviewed on an annual basis with Councillors being reminded about their responsibilities at this review. At this review Councillors will be given the opportunity to request further information or training should they deem it necessary.

A great deal of information held by the Council can be found at the Parish Council website at :

<https://rushdenwallington-pc.gov.uk/>

The Clerk should ensure that the website is compliant with the latest accessibility requirements.

Information we collect

When you give your personal information by writing or emailing the Parish Council, by phoning the Parish Council Clerk or a Parish Councillor, you are giving us information that we collect.

That information may include:

- name
- physical address
- email address
- phone number

Other details may include:

- gender
- occupation
- other demographic information

By giving us this information, you consent to your information being collected by us.

All personal information that we collect, we will only use to deliver the service you ask for.

Why do we collect information?

- To keep an accurate, up-to-date record of Parish Council correspondence and activities.
- To respond to any feedback, if you have asked us to.
- To answer any questions you have asked us.
- To send you updates about local administrative matters, if you have asked us to.

Changes to our privacy policy

We may change our privacy policy from time to time, but we will always display the updated version on the Parish Council website.

Who does this policy apply to?

The policy covers employees of the Parish Council, whether they are paid employees or volunteers. It also covers Parish Councillors on the occasions when they need to hold or process personal data about individuals during the course of Parish Council business.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 it is the duty of every parish authority, including Parish Councils, to adopt and maintain a publication scheme.

The Council has considered and adopted the New Model Publication Scheme (See Appendix A) prepared by the Information Commissioners Office and the detailed information that is relevant to the Council.

Any request for information must be made in writing to:

The Parish Council Clerk
Rushden and Wallington Parish Council
c/o Derby Arms Cottage
21 The Street
Wallington
Baldock
SG7 6SW

Complaints

Complaints about the Council's response to requests for information should also be directed to the Clerk at the above address.

The opportunity to complain to the Council does not place any limitation on the right of any individual to refer a complaint to the Information Commissioner at the following address:

Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Telephone: 01625 545 700
Fax: 01625 524 510
data@dataprotection.gov.uk
www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Rushden and Wallington Parish Council Approved:

Review Date: May 2026

Data information

<u>Data held</u>	<u>Where is it held</u>	<u>How is it held</u>	<u>For how long is it held</u>
Electoral Roll	Clerk's Computer	Digitally – password protected	Indefinitely
Parish Councillors personal details	Clerks' files Clerk's computer	Paper Digitally – password protected	Until resignation
Commercial Contacts eg. Banks, Insurers etc.	Clerks' files Clerk's computer	Paper Digitally – password protected	Until commercial relationship ends.
District and County Council details	Clerks' files Clerk's computer	Paper Digitally – password protected	Indefinitely

APPENDIX A

New Model Publication Scheme prepared by the Information Commissioners Office

Freedom of Information Act

This model publication scheme has been prepared and approved by the Information Commissioner. It may be adopted without modification by any public authority without further approval and will be valid until further notice.

This publication scheme commits an authority to make information available to the public as part of its normal business activities. The information covered is included in the classes of information mentioned below, where this information is held by the authority. Additional assistance is provided to the definition of these classes in sector specific guidance manuals issued by the Information Commissioner.

The scheme commits an authority:

- To proactively publish or otherwise make available as a matter of routine, information, including environmental information, which is held by the authority and falls within the classifications below.
- To specify the information which is held by the authority and falls within the classifications below.
- To proactively publish or otherwise make available as a matter of routine, information in line with the statements contained within this scheme.
- To produce and publish the methods by which the specific information is made routinely available so that it can be easily identified and accessed by members of the public.
- To review and update on a regular basis the information the authority makes available under this scheme. To produce a schedule of any fees charged for access to information which is made proactively available. To make this publication scheme available to the public.
- To publish any dataset held by the authority that has been requested, and any updated versions it holds, unless the authority is satisfied that it is not appropriate to do so; to publish the dataset, where reasonably practicable, in an electronic form that is capable of re-use; and, if any information in the dataset is a relevant copyright work and the authority is the only owner, to make the information available for re-use under the terms of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015, if they apply, and otherwise under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act section 19.
- The term 'dataset' is defined in section 11(5) of the Freedom of Information Act. The term 'relevant copyright work' is defined in section 19(8) of that Act.

Classes of information

Who we are and what we do.

Organisational information, locations and contacts, constitutional and legal governance.

What we spend and how we spend it.

Financial information relating to projected and actual income and expenditure, tendering, procurement and contracts.

What our priorities are and how we are doing.

Strategy and performance information, plans, assessments, inspections and reviews.

How we make decisions.

Policy proposals and decisions. Decision making processes, internal criteria and procedures, consultations.

Our policies and procedures.

Current written protocols for delivering our functions and responsibilities.

Lists and registers.

Information held in registers required by law and other lists and registers relating to the functions of the authority.

The services we offer.

Advice and guidance, booklets and leaflets, transactions and media releases. A description of the services offered.

The classes of information will not generally include:

- Information the disclosure of which is prevented by law, or exempt under the Freedom of Information Act, or is otherwise properly considered to be protected from disclosure.
- Information in draft form.
- Information that is no longer readily available as it is contained in files that have been placed in archive storage, or is difficult to access for similar reasons.

The method by which information published under this scheme will be made available

The authority will indicate clearly to the public what information is covered by this scheme and how it can be obtained.

Where it is within the capability of a public authority, information will be provided on a website. Where it is impracticable to make information available on a website or when an individual does not wish to access the information by the website, a public authority will indicate how information can be obtained by other means and provide it by those means.

In exceptional circumstances some information may be available only by viewing in person. Where this manner is specified, contact details will be provided. An appointment to view the information will be arranged within a reasonable timescale.

Information will be provided in the language in which it is held or in such other language that is legally required. Where an authority is legally required to translate any information, it will do so.

Obligations under disability and discrimination legislation and any other legislation to provide information in other forms and formats will be adhered to when providing information in accordance with this scheme.

Charges which may be made for information published under this scheme

The purpose of this scheme is to make the maximum amount of information readily available at minimum inconvenience and cost to the public. Charges made by the authority for routinely published material will be justified and transparent and kept to a minimum.

Material which is published and accessed on a website will be provided free of charge.

Charges may be made for information subject to a charging regime specified by Parliament.

Charges may be made for actual disbursements incurred such as:

- Photocopying
- Postage and packaging
- The costs directly incurred as a result of viewing information

Charges may also be made for information provided under this scheme where they are legally authorised, they are in all the circumstances, including the general principles of the right of access to information held by public authorities, justified and are in accordance with a published schedule or schedules of fees which is readily available to the public.

Charges may also be made for making datasets (or parts of datasets) that are relevant copyright works available for re-use. These charges will be in accordance with the terms of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015, where they apply, or with regulations made under section 11B of the Freedom of Information Act, or with other statutory powers of the public authority.

If a charge is to be made, confirmation of the payment due will be given before the information is provided. Payment may be requested prior to provision of the information.

Written requests

Information held by a public authority that is not published under this scheme can be requested in writing, when its provision will be considered in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.

Rushden and Wallington Parish Council

Consideration for making Parish Council Meetings accessible remotely

Background to the request; in October 2025 a parishioner enquired as to whether Parish Council meetings could be broadcast remotely in order that they, as a person with physical disabilities, could 'attend' Parish Council meetings.

The Clerks replied to this request stating that at present this wasn't allowed under the Local Government Act 1972 and was only temporarily allowed under the Section 78 of the Coronavirus Act 2020 from 4th April 2020 to 7th May 2021.

The clerks did respond to the parishioner stating that "We think it is an excellent idea and have lobbied for this since lockdown officially ended but I'm afraid to say the Parish Council are legally bound to only hold Parish Council meetings in person".

This lobbying has taken the form of the Clerks responding to a Government consultation, instigated in October 2024, called "**Enabling remote attendance and proxy voting at local authority meetings**", the details of which can be found in the link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/enabling-remote-attendance-and-proxy-voting-at-local-authority-meetings/enabling-remote-attendance-and-proxy-voting-at-local-authority-meetings>

The Clerks responded to this survey supporting the view that remote attendance should be allowed. The results of this consultation which were published on 5th June 2025 can be found in the link below

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/enabling-remote-attendance-and-proxy-voting-at-local-authority-meetings/outcome/remote-attendance-and-proxy-voting-in-local-authorities-consultation-results-and-government-response>

Note particularly the response to question 3 (Figure 5) where many parish councils noted the digital limitations they faced due to lack of 'equipment to facilitate hybrid meetings' so Rushden and Wallington Parish Council are not alone in this situation.

The results of the Government consultation are that "We have carefully considered arguments for and against remote attendance and proxy voting, and we plan to legislate to support permanent provision in relation to both policies, when parliamentary time allows. On remote attendance, we plan to permit local authorities to develop their own locally appropriate policies, if they decide to hold remote meetings."

This means that in due course, when the law is amended, Rushden and Wallington Parish Council can adopt their own policy on remote / hybrid meetings and that may mean some form of investment in equipment and facilities which may be sourced from future grants or via an increased precept. However, in the meantime remote meetings are still not allowed although broadcasting meetings, where technology and internet allows, could be trialled.

	Pros		Cons
1.	Enables increased participation by all parishioners, potentially boosting public knowledge of and engagement with local democracy.	1.	Quality of the meetings may deteriorate due to increased numbers of participants,
2.	Allows participation by those parishioners who would like to attend but cannot due to physical and non-physical disabilities	2.	Length of meetings may increase.
3.	Could allow Parish Councillors the opportunity of 'attending' meetings that they might otherwise miss (although currently they will not be considered as having attended the meeting and they will not be able to vote on any matters arising at that meeting)	3.	Not every parishioner has the ability or equipment to attend remotely.
4.	Increased transparency of Parish Council Matters.	4.	Reduction in accountability if Parish Councillors do not have to attend meetings in-person
5.	Cost saving from not having to hire out Village Halls	5.	Reduced Informal Interaction: The lack of in-person, informal interactions before and after meetings can make it more difficult for councillors to build strong personal working relationships and collaborate effectively
6.	Easier to organise meetings for the Clerks.	6.	Cost of suitable equipment a) Zoom / Teams Licence b) Microphones for those speaking c) Internet access in Village Halls d) Suitable laptop / PC equipment for Parish Councillors e)
7.	Increased Accessibility and Inclusion: Remote meetings remove significant barriers for prospective and existing councillors with disabilities, caring responsibilities, or inflexible work commitments, encouraging a more diverse and representative council body.	7.	It may be more difficult for councillors to build personal working relationships with colleagues, and engage with members of the public in attendance at meetings
8.	Greater Resilience: The PC are better able to continue essential decision-making during local or national emergencies, such as a pandemic or adverse weather, that might prevent in-person gatherings.	8.	It could lead to a significant number of councillors habitually attending remotely and ultimately reduce the effectiveness of councils.
9.	Modernisation and Efficiency: Adopting digital tools is a modernising measure that can streamline document access (agendas, minutes, etc.) and potentially lead to more efficient meetings.	9.	Revenue lost by Village Halls from not holding PC meetings.
		10.	Procedural and Security Risks: Managing private or confidential items requires robust procedures to ensure remotely attending members are in a private location and securely "locked out" from confidential discussions, which can be complex to manage.

		11.	Public Participation Limitations: Remote meetings might not provide the same degree of direct public participation as in-person meetings, such as speaking directly to councillors or engaging in informal dialogue, and can be open to legal challenge if public access fails (e.g., a live stream goes down).
		12.	Potential for Reduced Participation Quality: There are concerns that members joining online may struggle to participate as fully in debates and discussions compared to those physically present, particularly in hybrid formats.

Spend Vs 2025-26 Budget - Approved 23.1.25 2025-26

2025-26 Inflation Assumption 2%

									SPEND BY PERIOD									ANTICIP
	PYR Income / (Expenditure)	Actual or Estimate	Rushden	Wallington	Total (Excl. Inflation)	Inflation %	Inflation £	Total (Incl. Inflation)	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January
Grass Cutting	(£1,235.00)	E	(£1,235.00)		(£1,235.00)			(£1,235.00)	(£195.00)		(£260.00)			(£260.00)		(£195.00)		
HAPTC Membership	(£258.55)	A	(£172.37)	(£86.18)	(£258.55)	6.8%	(£17.71)	(£276.26)	(£276.26)									
PC Insurance	(£214.00)	A	(£142.67)	(£71.33)	(£214.00)	2.0%	(£4.28)	(£218.28)		(£214.00)								
Tree maintenance	(£700.00)	A		(£700.00)	(£700.00)	2.0%	(£14.00)	(£714.00)										(£714.00)
Information Commissioner	(£35.00)	A	(£23.33)	(£11.67)	(£35.00)			(£35.00)						(£47.00)				
Website Hosting costs including website and email support	(£85.15)	A	(£76.77)	(£38.38)	(£115.15)	2.0%	(£2.30)	(£117.45)								(£59.99)		(£72.00)
Wallington Insurance	(£236.55)	A		(£236.55)	(£236.55)	2.0%	(£4.73)	(£241.28)							(£230.25)			
Staff Costs	(£600.00)	A	(£400.00)	(£200.00)	(£600.00)			(£600.00)								(£600.00)		
Dog Bin Emptying	(£321.94)	E	(£214.63)	(£107.31)	(£321.94)	2.0%	(£6.44)	(£328.38)										(£328.38)
Rushden Insurance	(£335.93)	E	(£306.11)		(£306.11)	2.0%	(£6.12)	(£312.24)										
Printing & Stationery	(£106.92)	A	(£66.67)	(£33.33)	(£100.00)			(£100.00)								(£12.99)		(£12.29)
Village Hall Hire	(£90.00)	A	(£75.00)	(£75.00)	(£150.00)			(£150.00)										
Tree inspection and report		A				2.0%												
Election Fee																		
Sub-Total	(£4,219.04)	£534.87	(£2,712.54)	(£1,559.76)	(£4,272.30)	1.3%	(£55.59)	(£4,327.89)	(£471.26)	(£214.00)	(£260.00)			(£307.00)	(£230.25)	(£867.98)		(£1,126.67)
Available for one-off expenses		A	(£114.74)	(£57.37)	(£172.11)			(£172.11)										
Total Precept Required 2023-24	(£4,219.04)	£660.76	(£2,827.28)	(£1,617.13)	(£4,444.41)	1.3%	(£55.59)	(£4,500.00)	(£471.26)	(£214.00)	(£260.00)			(£307.00)	(£230.25)	(£867.98)		(£1,126.67)
Prior Year Precept 2024-25	£4,850.00	A	£3,233.33	£1,616.67	£4,850.00			£4,850.00	£2,250.00					£2,250.00				
			66.7%	33.3%														

Explanation of Budget Methodology

This budget has been drafted using the "Incremental Budget" method - i.e. starting with historical figures from the latest invoiced costs
2% inflation has been applied to all general costs unless renewal costs are already known at the time the draft budget is produced.
Unforeseen one-off expenditure or grants by the PC to external organisations could exceed the budget in 2025/26 and dip into reserves, in accordance with the financial regulations.

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Spend Vs 2025-26 Budg

	ATED SPEND TO COME		Invoiced Spend To Date	Anticipated Spend to Come	Full Year Forecast	Full Year Forecast Vs Budgeted Good / (Bad)	Comments	Background Information Upon which the 2024-25 Budget was based
	February	March						
Grass Cutting		(£130.00)	(£910.00)	(£130.00)	(£1,040.00)	£195.00	Based on PYR and assumes no inflation increase as Greg has not increased prices for a number of years	19 Cuts @£65 = £1,235
HAPTC Membership			(£276.26)		(£276.26)		Actual Fees already communicated 7.11.24 - 6.8% inflation being applied	Actual Fees already communicated 7.11.24. HAPTC fees up by 6.3% and NALC fees up by 12%. Weighted average 6.8%
PC Insurance			(£214.00)		(£214.00)	£4.28	Based on PYR & Assumes 2% inflation	Actual 24/25 = £214 (6.4.24) - New Provider Zurich
Tree maintenance				(£714.00)	(£714.00)		Contingency sum for emergency works & outstanding works after storms in November 2024	Contingency sum for emergency works & outstanding works after storms in November 2024
Information Commissioner			(£47.00)		(£47.00)	(£12.00)	Budget was based on PYR & assumes no inflation as per last 5 years	Actual 2024-25 = £35 (28.9.23) - £5 discount for completing it online
Website Hosting costs including website and email support			(£59.99)	(£72.00)	(£131.99)	(£14.54)	Actual Inflationary increase = 35% which is ridiculously high but cannot be avoided.	Net Nerd Invoices 24/25 = £25.16 (20.8.24) & £59.99 (4.10.24)
Wallington Insurance			(£230.25)		(£230.25)	£11.03	Likely to increase for full year hosting and annual development of website.	Actual 23/24 = £239.06 (25.9.23)
Staff Costs			(£600.00)		(£600.00)		Based on PYR & Assumes 2% inflation	No Pay Rise anticipated
Dog Bin Emptying				(£328.38)	(£328.38)		£600 PA salary	Based on bill in 2024-25 of £321.94 (27.1.24)
Rushden Insurance		(£312.24)		(£312.24)	(£312.24)		Based on PYR & Assumes 2% inflation	Based on bill in 2024-25 of £321.94 (27.1.24)
Printing & Stationery		(£74.72)	(£12.99)	(£87.01)	(£100.00)		Based on PYR & Assumes 5% inflation for 2024-25 and 2% for 2025-26	Actual 23/24 = £285.82 (4.3.24)
Village Hall Hire		(£150.00)		(£150.00)	(£150.00)		Based on PYR (with no one-off costs)	Actual 2024-25 = £102.57 (one off exceptional IT equipment cost)
Tree inspection and report							Estimated requirement in 2025-26 - Assumes £15 per booking for 10 bookings	Based on 10 Meetings a year @ £15 each (3 PC & 2 PA & 5 Planning)
Election Fee							Updated report required in 2025-26	Updated report required in 2025-26
							New Fee introduced in 2023 - Flat Fee of £250 for 5 seats in an election year	New Fee introduced in 2023 - Flat Fee of £250 for 5 seats in an election year
Sub-Total		(£666.96)	(£2,350.49)	(£1,793.63)	(£4,144.12)	£183.77	Sub-total of regular expenditure	
Available for one-off expenses		(£172.11)		(£172.11)	(£172.11)		Contingency (3.99%) of total budget	Contingency (3.99%) of total budget
Total Precept Required 2023-24		(£839.07)	(£2,350.49)	(£1,965.74)	(£4,316.23)	£183.77	Under or (Over) Budget	
Prior Year Precept 2024-25			£4,500.00		£4,500.00	£350.00	Reduction in Precept Required of -7.2% of total budget, which helps reduce council tax rises 2025-26	
Explanation of Budget Methodology			£2,149.51	(£1,965.74)	£183.77			
This budget has been drafted using Budgeted annotated Spend			Error					
2% inflation has been applied to all			£84.29					
Unforeseen one-off expenditure or								

2026-27 Budget - DRAFT

2026-27 Inflation Assumption 2%

	PYR Income / (Expenditure)	Actual or Estimate			Total (Excl. Inflation)	Inflation %	Inflation £	Total (Incl. Inflation)	SPEND BY PERIOD							ANTICIPATED SPEND TO COME		
			Rushden	Wallington					April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January
Bank Charges	(£51.00)	A	(£34.00)	(£17.00)	(£51.00)			(£51.00)	(£4.25)	(£4.25)	(£4.25)	(£4.25)	(£4.25)	(£4.25)	(£4.25)	(£4.25)	(£4.25)	(£4.25)
Grass Cutting	(£1,235.00)	E	(£1,235.00)		(£1,235.00)			(£1,235.00)	(£130.00)	(£195.00)	(£130.00)	(£130.00)		(£260.00)	(£130.00)	(£130.00)		
HAPTC Membership	(£276.26)	A	(£184.17)	(£92.09)	(£276.26)	6.9%	(£19.07)	(£295.33)	(£295.33)									
PC Insurance	(£214.00)	A	(£142.67)	(£71.33)	(£214.00)	2.0%	(£4.28)	(£218.28)		(£218.28)								
Wallington Tree maintenance - Inspections & Reports	(£700.00)	E		(£700.00)	(£700.00)	2.0%	(£14.00)	(£714.00)						(£714.00)				
Information Commissioner	(£47.00)	A	(£31.33)	(£15.67)	(£47.00)			(£47.00)						(£47.00)				
Website Hosting costs including website and email support	(£83.99)	E	(£55.99)	(£28.00)	(£83.99)	2.0%	(£1.68)	(£85.67)							(£85.67)			
Wallington Insurance	(£230.25)	A		(£230.25)	(£230.25)	2.0%	(£4.61)	(£234.86)							(£234.86)			
Staff Costs	(£600.00)	E	(£400.00)	(£200.00)	(£600.00)			(£600.00)								(£600.00)		
Dog Bin Emptying	(£354.24)	E	(£236.16)	(£118.08)	(£354.24)	2.0%	(£7.08)	(£361.32)										(£361.32)
Rushden Insurance	(£312.24)	E	(£312.24)		(£312.24)	2.0%	(£6.24)	(£318.48)										
Printing & Stationery	(£100.00)	E	(£66.67)	(£33.33)	(£100.00)			(£100.00)										
Village Hall Hire	(£120.00)	A	(£60.00)	(£60.00)	(£120.00)			(£120.00)										
Election Fee																		
Sub-Total	(£4,323.98)		(£2,758.23)	(£1,565.75)	(£4,323.98)	1.3%	(£56.96)	(£4,380.94)	(£429.58)	(£417.53)	(£134.25)	(£134.25)	(£4.25)	(£1,025.25)	(£454.78)	(£734.25)	(£4.25)	(£365.57)
Available for one-off expenses			(£79.37)	(£39.69)	(£119.06)			(£119.06)										
Total Precept Required 2023-24	(£4,323.98)		(£2,837.61)	(£1,605.43)	(£4,443.04)	1.3%	(£56.96)	(£4,500.00)	(£429.58)	(£417.53)	(£134.25)	(£134.25)	(£4.25)	(£1,025.25)	(£454.78)	(£734.25)	(£4.25)	(£365.57)
			63.9%	36.1%	OK		(£56.96)	(£4,500.00)										
					Check		Check	Check										
Prior Year Precept 2025-26	£4,500.00	A	£3,000.00	£1,500.00	£4,500.00			£4,500.00	£2,250.00					£2,250.00				
			66.7%	33.3%														

Explanation of Budget Methodology

This budget has been drafted using the "Incremental Budget" method - i.e. starting with historical figures from the latest invoiced costs

2% inflation has been applied to all general costs unless renewal costs are already known at the time the draft budget is produced.

Unforeseen one-off expenditure or grants by the PC to external organisations could exceed the budget in 2025/26 and dip into reserves, in accordance with the financial regulations.

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2026-27 Budget - DRAF

	February	March	Invoiced Spend To Date	Anticipated Spend to Come	Full Year Forecast	Full Year Forecast Vs Budgeted Good / (Bad)	Comments	Background Information Upon which the 2024-25 Budget was based
Bank Charges	(£4.25)	(£4.25)		(£51.00)	(£51.00)		New Fee introduced in 2025 - £4.25 p/m	New Fee introduced in 2025 - £4.25 p/m
Grass Cutting		(£130.00)		(£1,235.00)	(£1,235.00)		Based on PYR and assumes no inflation in 2026-27 as Greg has not increased prices for a number of years	19 Cuts @£65 = £1,235
HAPTC Membership				(£295.33)	(£295.33)		Actual Fees to be paid in 2026-27	Actual Fees to be paid in 2026-27
PC Insurance				(£218.28)	(£218.28)		Based on PYR & Assumes 2% inflation in 2026-27	Actual 25/26 = £214 (Zurich)
Wallington Tree maintenance - Inspections & Reports				(£714.00)	(£714.00)		Updated report required in 2025-26	Updated report required in 2025-26
Information Commissioner				(£47.00)	(£47.00)		Based on PYR & Assumes no inflation in 2026-27	Actual 25/26 = £47 (30.9.25) - £5 discount for completing it online Price increased from £35 PYR (34% Increase)
Website Hosting costs including website and email support				(£85.67)	(£85.67)		Higher than PYR as PYR had one-off 3 year Domain Renewal @ £25.16 (runs to 2027) and we have the additional cost of the .gov.uk domain name @ £24 per annum instead of £8.39 pa	Net Nerd Invoices - 25/26 - Unlimited Hosting = £59.99 3 Year Domain agreement (2025-27) @ £25.16 Vs £24 per annum for .Gov.uk 1 Year Domain name for .gov.uk @ £24
Wallington Insurance				(£234.86)	(£234.86)		Based on PYR & Assumes 2% inflation in 2026-27	Actual 25/26 = £230.25
Staff Costs				(£600.00)	(£600.00)		£600 PA salary	No Pay Rise anticipated
Dog Bin Emptying				(£361.32)	(£361.32)		Based on PYR & Assumes 2% inflation in 2026-27	Based on bill in 24/25 of £337.37 and anticipated invoice in 25/26 (increasing by 5% Inflation by local authorities)
Rushden Insurance		(£318.48)		(£318.48)	(£318.48)		Based on PYR & Assumes 5% inflation in 2026-27 for 2024-25 and 2% for 2025-26	Actual 24/25 = £290.7
Printing & Stationery		(£100.00)		(£100.00)	(£100.00)		Based on PYR (with no one-off costs)	Based on PYR (with no one-off costs)
Village Hall Hire		(£120.00)		(£120.00)	(£120.00)		Based on 8 Meetings a year @ £15 each (3 PC & 2 PA & 3 EGM Planning)	Based on 8 Meetings a year @ £15 each (3 PC & 2 PA & 3 EGM Planning)
Election Fee							New Fee introduced in 2023 - Flat Fee of £250 for 5 seats in an election year	New Fee introduced in 2023 - Flat Fee of £250 for 5 seats in an election year
Sub-Total	(£4.25)	(£672.73)		(£4,380.94)	(£4,380.94)		Sub-total of regular expenditure	
Available for one-off expenses		(£119.06)		(£119.06)	(£119.06)		Contingency (2.65%) of total budget	Contingency (2.65%) of total budget
Total Precept Required 2023-24	(£4.25)	(£791.79)		(£4,500.00)	(£4,500.00)			
Prior Year Precept 2025-26				£4,500.00	£4,500.00		Reduction in Precept Required of 0% of total budget, which helps reduce council tax rises 2026-27	

Explanation of Budget Methodology

flow Positive / (Negative)
This budget has been drafted using **Budgeted annotated Spend**
2% inflation has been applied to all
Unforeseen one-off expenditure or

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