

**RUSHTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Annual Parish Meeting – 2018/2019**  
Held Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2019

## **Chairman's Annual Report**

Please note that the official Annual Report will be posted on the Parish Website

Cllr. Neil Thompson - Chairman, presented the annual report.

### **Parish Councillors**

- The Council were very sad to hear of the recent passing of villager Ken Parker. Ken was not only a past Chairman of Rushton Parish Council, but also a keen member of many local organisations including Chair of Tarporley Parish Council. In 2006 Ken designed and project managed the replacement of our Jessie Hughes Village Hall, producing a building which is now loved and used by many. Our condolences have been sent to wife Brenda.
- This year also saw the retirement of Arthur Nicholas from our Parish Council after 14 years of committed service. Arthur's vast experience of the local area, people and history will be sorely missed and we thank him for all he has done for the Parish and residents over the last 14 years.

### **Communications**

- The website has continued to be developed by Parish Clerk, Lindsey Worrall.
- The Parish Newsletter continues to go out quarterly to all 200+ dwellings in the Parish and via email to circa 180 "Friends of Eaton". Thanks to our team of distributors co-ordinated by Mary Wilson. The Newsletter is professionally printed with the cost shared between the Parish Council and the Village Hall. Editor Phil Allcock has been diligently chasing up the various contributors each quarter and is developing the publication into a truly quality product.
- Parish Publicity Officer Mike Wilson continued to produce flyers etc for the Jessie Village Hall and Parish Council, along with producing content for the Parish Newsletter.
- Super-fast Broadband - Progress has been made this year with pushing Connecting Cheshire and BT Openreach to deliver upgrades to the Broadband network with most parts of the village now able to get access to fibre broadband following Eaton Primary School getting access to the Fibre network at Tarporley. There are some residents that still don't have access and the Parish Council will work with them, in conjunction with BT and Connecting Cheshire, to try and get the issues resolved - in some instances a Community Fibre Partnership may need to be explored if no further work is planned by BT/Connecting Cheshire.

### **Environment and Development**

The Red Lion Site - Apex Construction continued work on the site throughout the year and we can now see the majority of the house builds completed, with some residents already moved in. Work will continue into the summer of 2019 to complete the remaining build and landscaping.

- Last year saw the installation of an AED device on the outside wall of the Village Hall which was jointly funded by the Parish Council and the Village Hall, along with a grant from the British Heart Foundation. The device continues to be available and maintained should it be required. Further CPR training sessions for the village will be arranged in 2019, although over 40 residents have already been through the training process.
- The initiative of co-ordinating hedge cutting for residents on busy roads was offered in 2018 but there was not enough take up. The initiative will be offered again in 2019.
- Oulton Mill Picnic Area purchased from CWaC by the Parish Council in 2015 continues to be well maintained and no reports of feared mis-use in the evenings have been received. A

Tesco funded £1,000 project with the Primary School entitled Bugs, Butterflies and Birds co-ordinated by Mike Wilson and teacher Miss Berry completed its first phase in the Spring of 2019. This involved a number of bird boxes being installed, wild flower meadow being created and a number of fruit trees planted to create our very own "Mill Pool Orchard". The Primary School children are due to visit again later in the summer to see how the flowers and trees have grown along with what birds, butterflies and bugs have been attracted to the site. Alongside the horticulture, a new bin, sign and information board have been installed to support the growing number of visitors to the site. All this has been achieved through the amazing work of Mike Wilson in conjunction with the children and teachers at Eaton Primary School. Councillors Eddie Shaw and Arthur Nicholas also contributed a great deal of their time and support in mowing the grass area on a regular basis, cutting hedges and laying groundworks to improve the slope into the area for tractors that need access for mowing. Our Ward Councillor, Eveleigh Moore Dutton must also be thanked for all the support she has provided in many areas of the Council work but particularly her support, guidance and hours of work provided on this Picnic Area project.

- The leaf collection on the village green was repeated this year and again circa 30 volunteers turned out with refreshments supplied by the "Burgons".
- Mary Wilson continues as "litter picker co-ordinator" and the Council would like to thank all volunteers who continue to work to keep the Parish tidy and free from litter.
- The Telephone Box on the Green is well established now with resident John Freeman maintaining an information centre inside.
- Eaton Primary School Extension - 2018 saw the opening of the new Primary School extension which has provided some lovely new facilities and classrooms for the children of the school.
- The role of Footpaths Officer has been taken on by Paul Healey this year, who has been walking the paths of the Parish and reporting back any work required (so far all looking ok).
- Best Kept Village Competition - the village had another successful showing coming second for our category and also picked up the Little Gem award for the Telephone Box. The Council has entered the competition again this year and is hoping to go one better and pick up the winner's medal!

### **Road Safety for All**

The following projects have continued this year:

- A vehicle activated sign was installed in the hedge-row at David Edge Garage. This will help slow traffic on Lower Lane which hopefully will assist with the extra traffic that will be generated at the school with its expansion.
- 20mph speed limits on Eaton Lane, the extra parts to make this a rectangle of safety, were completed but concerns have been raised by residents as to the positioning of the signs. These concerns have been raised to Highways who have this on their list; the Parish Council will continue to work with Highways to try and get these concerns addressed.
- The Cross: Again, accidents and near misses have occurred at this junction. The Council have put forward a list of possible improvements which Highways have said that they will look at.
- Brownhills - work to improve the road markings at the junction were completed this year which should help motorists approaching the junction see the markings more easily and reduce the risk of accidents.

### **Youth and Social**

- The annual Village Fun Day had a revival in September. The Parish Council & the Jessie Village Hall jointly ran the fun day in celebration of the 10 years that the new Village Hall has been open with a special Village Fun Day on 2nd September. Mike & Mary Wilson who ran the event for the previous 6yrs helped run this special celebration which was enjoyed by a huge number of residents. Thanks also to the other members of the organising committee including Ron Chisnall, Paul Healey, Jan and Jon Freeman.

- The youth club continues to be a great success with the team involving more parents to accommodate the increased numbers (circa 40+ in the summer).
- The Play Zone and MUGA installed and opened October 2015 has continued to be a popular and attractive part of our Village that is also enjoyed by the pupils of Eaton Primary School. A magnificent team of 52 helpers (co-ordinated by Mike and Mary Wilson) continue to look after the inspection / maintenance of the facility with someone going down every day when on their duty week. The children and working group have decided to put planned improvements to the equipment on-hold as the children are happy with the equipment already in place. The annual fund raising event this year was a 'Mamma Mia' themed night held at the Jessie Hughes Village Hall which raised just over £900 for the Playzone.
- The Village Golf Day (another PC initiative) happened again this year and was enjoyed by a number of residents. The 2019 Golf Day is due to take place in June.

### **Finances**

With increasing needs due to projects etc, the precept had been raised in previous years and it was therefore decided not to raise the precept in this financial year. The accounts are shown at the AGM which follows this meeting.

### **Help & Volunteers.**

Over the past 5 or 6 years, the Parish Council have been pleased to arrange and promote projects etc which enhance the village. Youth Club, Play Zone; Picnic Area; Road Safety are all relatively new initiatives. However, they do entail quite a lot of work and an increasing need for volunteers. We are lucky & grateful that many do come forward but often it is the same people and the Council would like to see even more volunteers who perhaps have not been involved before. Contacting our Clerk Lindsey is the best way to start helping.