

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RUSHTON PARISH COUNCIL
held at the JESSIE HUGHES VILLAGE HALL on TUESDAY 19th April 2016 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs. Julie O'Shea, Jade Plumbley, Simon Roberts, Neil Thompson, Mike Wilson

In Attendance: Alex Stubbs (Clerk)
 Aaron Briggs – Connecting Cheshire
 Dean Burrows – Connecting Cheshire
 Andrew Arditti - Connecting Cheshire
 Residents

In the absence of Cllr. Shaw, Cllr. Wilson took the chair.

16.04.01 Apologies for Absence and Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

Resolved: that the apologies received from Cllrs. Shaw and Nicholas be received and accepted.

There were no disclosures of interests.

16.04.02 Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 15th March be agreed and signed as a correct record. Proposed Cllr. O'Shea, seconded Cllr. Plumbley.

16.04.03 Public Speaking Time

Three members of the Connecting Cheshire team were in attendance to discuss the project and the problems in getting better broadband speed to the Parish in general.

Catherine Rayner, a resident who runs a business in the Parish, outlined the problems she has because her broadband speed can be as low as 0.07Mbps.

Andrew Arditti pointed out that Rushton was a difficult area to supply with superfast broadband as the nearest cabinet was in Tarporley. He outlined the project phases which showed that, while Little Budworth will see an improvement shortly, there is still no timescale for Rushton – only the promise that the parish might be included in future phases.

Other solutions for the Parish were discussed including –

- 1) Asking BT to set up a Community Fibre Partnership to explore the cost of providing a solution. It was agreed that this would be a way forward and that BT would be contacted to start this process.
- 2) Satellite – it was pointed out that this is a stopgap not a total solution and that there may be grants available towards the installation costs.
- 3) Wireless solutions – most of these need a line of sight back to the cabinet although some communities in Cheshire are pursuing these.

Cllr. Wilson thanked Andrew, Dean and Aaron for their attendance although he expressed his disappointment that there would be no improvement in the near future.

16.04.04 Matters Arising

Communication with other Parishes within Ward

The next meeting is 27th April at Eaton. Cllr. Wilson has produced an agenda which focuses on issues that affect all of the parishes involved.

ACTION – Cllr. Wilson to report back.

Red Lion Pub

It is believed that this site has now been sold but we are awaiting confirmation of who the new owner is.

BT pole on Dogmore Lane

There was some discussion about whether the removal of the pole was a viable solution for the problem of lorries within the village or whether it was just moving the problem to a different part of the parish. It was generally agreed that this issue needs further investigation.

Resolved: that this will be removed from the agenda and raised with the Road Safety working group to ask that further investigative work is done before a solution is proposed.

Grit Bins

Resolved: that the grit bins would be removed on May 15th for summer storage. Also, that Cllr. Wilson to get costs for a new grit bin for The Hall Lane.

ACTION – Cllr. Wilson

16.04.05 Reports from Working Groups

Communications

Website

Several organisations have requested pages on the website or links to their websites.

Newsletter

Next newsletter is due out in the first week in May. It was agreed that a potential Community Fibre scheme should be included in the newsletter and then residents encouraged to volunteer to help at the parish meeting.

The scarecrow competition to be advertised in the newsletter.

Superfast Broadband

Discussed earlier.

Development/Planning/Environment

Kerb on Village Green

This has been delayed at present due to personal commitments but it is hoped it will be done later in the year.

Picnic Area

The clerk confirmed that the Parish Council has now received a grant of £250 from Cllr. Moore-Dutton's budget for the new community orchard at the picnic area.

Cllrs. Wilson and Roberts presented their proposals for the picnic area incorporating the community orchard, some simple picnic tables and paths. It was also proposed that the entrance on the top road be closed with parking and access on the bottom road. Highways have supported this change. Cllrs. Wilson and Roberts put forward a budget of £10,582 for the works and hoped to apply for a grant from Awards for All for £10,000.

Resolved: that the Parish Council agreed with the proposals for the picnic area and also that the grant application be submitted. It was agreed that these should be presented to parishioners at the parish meeting. Proposed Cllr. Wilson, seconded Cllr. Thompson and all agreed.

The Parish Council expressed its thanks to Richard Line of Tarporley who produced computer generated designs of the proposals.

The cutting of the grass was discussed.

ACTION – Cllr. Roberts to get quotations with the aim of setting up a contract as soon as possible.

Road Safety

RS Working Group Progress

A meeting with Highways had taken place which ranged over many issues including that Lower Lane will be included in the new 20mph speed limit and also that Highways will address the condition of Lower Lane.

ACTION – Cllr. Wilson

Path to the Village Hall

The proposition for this is now that plastic chevrons will be used to create a safer walkway on the verge.

Services

Electricity sub-station

Cllr. Wilson confirmed that the new sub-station is now up and working and many overhead cables have been removed. The removal of further overhead cables will be done in the next phase of the project scheduled for after March 2017. We are still awaiting the installation of the some of the streetlights. Thanks were given to Cllr. Wilson for all his hard work on this project.

Youth/Social/Community

Play Zone

Netting is being fitted over the MUGA to prevent balls being kicked over. This is being funded by the school.

Following the inspection report, maintenance has been done on the equipment. Sadly the proposed barn dance was cancelled due to poor ticket sales.

Highways have looked at different options to make the entrance to the play zone safer and have suggested double yellow lines on the corner of Winterford Lane and also a internal path from the school.

Youth club

Cllr. Wilson confirmed that he and Mary would be giving up as regular helpers and that the parents had been asked to volunteer to help.

16.04.06 Planning Matters

a) Applications received since the last meeting:

None

b) Decisions made:

None

c) Other

No issues to report.

16.04.07 Highways

Flooding on Sapling Lane

This has been discussed with Highways. It is thought that a collapsed road drain is to blame and the network steward has agreed to investigate further and repair if required.

It was noted that following the resurfacing of The Hall Lane there are no white lines at the Hickhurst Lane end. Also a pile of tarmac has been left on the verge.

ACTION – Cllr. Wilson to email highways.

16.04.08 Correspondence

Resolved: that correspondence received as detailed below be noted and the action list be agreed:

SENDER	DATED	DETAILS	RECOMMENDED ACTION
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Mrs B James	17/03/16	Email regarding verges after changes to streetlights	To be sent to SP Energy Networks
CWAC	21/03/16	Confirmation of £250 grant funding	Noted
CHALC	29/03/16	Notification of Chester and Vale Royal area meeting on 27 th April	Noted
INEOS	31/03/16	Invitation to meeting in Frodsham on 10 th May	Noted
CPRE	31/03/16	Notice of stand at Cheshire Show plus Spring newsletter	Noted

16.04.09 Finance Matters

Resolved: that the following net accounts are passed for payment:

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	NET (£)	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)
Jessie Hughes	Hall Hire Jan/Feb	38.00		38.00
Alex Stubbs	4 th Quarter expenses	33.96	5.49	39.45
Mike Wilson	refund for Community pride entry	45.00		45.00
CWAC	Youth club rent	108.00		108.00

that the fourth quarter financial statement be received and accepted.

16.04.10 Local Council Award Scheme

The Parish Council is continuing to work on this.

ACTION - All

16.04.11 External Meetings

None

16.04.12 Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 3rd May 2016 at 7.00pm in the Jessie Hughes Village Hall and will consist of the Parish meeting and Parish council AGM.

16.04.13 Any Other Business

It was noted that the Parish Council had been involved in a meeting regarding the school expansion and totally supported the original plans for access and egress, making it safer for all.

It was noted that a caravan had been dumped on Brownhills Lane but this had now been removed by CWAC.

Mary Wilson has volunteered to co-ordinate the litter pickers and recruit new volunteers if required.

A query was raised regarding Beech House Farm which has been empty for a number of years. The clerk to investigate if this is a listed building.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.00pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____