

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RUSHTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**held at the Jessie Hughes Village Hall**  
**on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllrs. Neil Thompson, Emma Leslie, Ed Shaw, Phil Hodgson, Olga Vertiga, Graham Sime

**In Attendance:** Lindsey Worrall (Clerk), Cllr. Moore-Dutton (Ward Councillor) Harry Caton and Chris From United Utilities and six members of the public

**22.04.01      Apologies for Absence and Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests**

**Resolved:** that the apologies from Cllr. Hinchliffe be received and accepted

**22.04.02      Minutes**

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2022 be agreed and signed.

**Proposed:** Cllr. Leslie

**Seconded:** Cllr. Hodgson

**22.04.03      Public Speaking Time**

**UU Vyrnwy Aqueduct Maintenance Project – Rushton Area 4**

United Utilities attended the Parish Council meeting to give an overview of the Vyrnwy Aqueduct to Prescott maintenance project. Three 42-inch water pipes run to Prescott, with 18 take offs along the route. The first pipe was built in 1880 and the last completed in the 1930's, minerals have been deposited in the pipes and when disturbed causes discoloration of the drinking water.

The two oldest cast iron pipes will be slit lined with new pipe and the newest pipeline will be cleaned out.

The slit lining uses 800 metre lengths of pipe, along this route there will be launch, intermediate and winch locations.

Within Rushton, there will be 6 access points:

Eaton Lane -3 access points

Royal Lane – 1 access point

Sapling Lane – 2 access points

These access points and working locations will require 3 planning applications to be submitted within the area of Rushton Parish Council, its hoped they can be submitted within Spring/Summer 2022. The planning applications will show the locations of the compounds. Compounds are likely to be on site for 18 months with peaks and troughs of activity

Temporary traffic management will be necessary at access points on Royal Lane and Sapling Lane,

The main compound for the area will be in Beeston

The compounds within Rushton will be approx.. sized:

Wynch site -50m x 50m

Double launch site is the size of a double football pitch.

**Timescales for the maintenance.**

2022 – engagement with communities

2023 – contractors appointed

2024 – works commence

2026 – works complete

2028 – all works must be complete.

The site investigations that are ongoing includes ground investigation, ecology, utilities, archaeology, along with stakeholder engagement, many landowners are involved in this engagement.

The vehicles on site will cause some vibrations, therefore UU are offering a free survey to homeowners before the ground investigations begin, a report will be written and a further survey conducted after the works are completed, the results of both surveys will identify whether the impact of the activities on site have caused any damage to property.

#### **22.04.04      Planning Matters**

##### **1- To note planning decisions.**

###### **Oulton Mill Lane**

Enforcement case has been opened for this planning permission.

Permission was granted for an agricultural building under permitted development.

The beauty spot has been spoilt by the actions of the applicant. The applicant would need evidence that the activities on the site are agricultural to support the permission granted.

CwaC Planning Enforcement Team have visited the site at Oulton Mill Lane and enforcement action is ongoing. The owners of the site have been told to apply for planning permission for some of the activities taking place on site.

##### **2- To consider response to planning applications received Applications received since the last meeting.**

###### **22/01105/CAT**

**Location** – 26 Elm Tree Court, Lower Lane, Eaton

**Proposal** – Crown Lift and Crown reduce two birch trees in garden

The Parish Council has No Objection to this Planning Application –

Proposed – Cllr. Hodgson

Seconded – Cllr. Leslie

###### **22/01021/FUL**

**Location** – Beech Lane Cottage, Beech Lane, Eaton

**Proposal** – Erection of greenhouse and gazebo

The Parish Council has No Objection to this Planning Application –

Proposed – Cllr. Shaw

Seconded – Cllr. Sime

#### **22.04.05      Highways**

##### **Outstanding Road Safety Issues from Previous Meetings**

There has been little progress on the following issues but they remain our objectives for completion in 2021 and 2022.

A full list of the council's objectives can be found in the May 2021 Meeting minutes.

a. Highways Issues

Oulton Mill Lane, the tarmac has been undermined and there is now a 6 foot drop, the road is narrow anyway, if two vehicles meet at this point one could end up seriously damaged. Highways have been made aware, but as no highways drainage is in place on the road they are not in a position to undertake any remedial works. Cllr. Moore-Dutton will try to further this investigation.

Sapling Lane carriage way is subsiding, this is in the centre of the carriage way and could become very hazardous to motorists if the road surface becomes more damaged. Highways have been made aware of this and have undertaken an assessment, they have concluded that at the moment no action is required.

The 20mph limit currently sited before the Village Hall should be put out to where the current 30mph limit changes to 50mph (at the bottom of the hill; the originally agreed position). The Design has been prepared by CwaC Highways and once approved this work will be undertaken. The 20mph sign by the Green, should be moved out to where the 30mph sign is. This is being assessed by Highways and we await a decision.

40mph sign on Whalley Drive is missing, and the other one is pointing the wrong way. Clerk to contact Highways and ask for a replacement.

The Fingerpost on Dogmore Lane is facing the wrong way, to contact Highways and ask for this to be corrected. Both have been reported to CwaC and are awaiting replacements and repair.

The Eaton Sign at Winterford Lane is in need of re-painting, this is owned by CwaC, Clerk to ask for this to be undertaken before it degrades further. Highways have conformed that these signs belong to the Parish Council, the repaint or replacement would be at our own expense. The Parish Council will look at a design for a new sign after liaising with Little Budworth Parish Council who are in the process of renewing signs. Once designs in place, Oulton Park could be approached to help with fund raising this project.

**Actions – prepare proposal by June**

**Cllr Thompson**

There is a large pothole at Stages Platt (Back Lane/Winterford Lane), Clerk to Report this to Highways for immediate repair.

Highways has proposed to further the 20mph project with a traffic calming scheme in some villages, it had been hoped that Eaton would fall into this category. Highways have now confirmed that due to reductions in budgets this project will not go ahead.

In the last couple of years there have been an increase in the number of HGV's that have become stuck at the village green junction when taking the wrong turning. After the last incident the Clerk enquired with Highways whether some signage could be placed on Lower Lane before the village green to indicate the route to take. Highways have responded saying that any sign placed on an adopted highway would need to meet Traffic Signs Regulations.

Alternatively, the Parish Council could commission the AA to produce temporary signage and apply to the council for permission to site them on an adopted highway.

A sign on a lamp column would need approval from Street Lighting.

Cllr. Sime has a website link to a company that makes signs, he will circulate the link and produce a suitable design. Oulton Park could be approached with regards to funding or assisting the project.

**Action – Circulate website and sign design**

**Cllr. Sime**

Hall Lane has been closed for works undertaken by United Utilities; very little notice was given. It would be useful to have signage in place before the closure to assist businesses and residents.

b. Road Safety Matters

Convictions – after 10 years of working with Cheshire Constabulary the Parish Council now have regular convictions for speeding motorists travelling through Eaton. Thanks to PSCO Jorge and PC Paul.

Cllr. Tunney of Utkinton and Cotebrook Parish Council has corresponded with the surrounding Parish Councils regarding a Community Speed Watch. Data from our Vehicle Activated Signs would help to determine the route forward.

**Action – ask for a data download**

**Clerk**

Serious accidents have occurred on Royal Lane just outside the village, a total of five accidents in four years have occurred including a car hitting a tree. These accidents need to be reported to Highways when they occur to re-enforce how dangerous the lanes of the Parish are and that speed is often a factor in car accidents.

The Clerk will report all Flood issues potholes and Highways issues, but if residents also report them the issues will be dealt with quicker, the number of times issues are reported the higher ranked an issue becomes (a bit like points makes prizes). Go onto the Cheshire West and Chester Council Website,

click onto **Report a Highway Fault**, then **Report a Fault**

You will be able to detail the fault, including the exact location and attach up to five photos.

#### **22.04.06 Reports from Working Groups Communications**

##### **Oulton Mill Picnic Area Project.**

The Picnic Area is being used well. Thank you to Mike Wilson and others who check on the site/bin regularly. The picnic area has a reinvigorated 12 team to empty the bin weekly.

The fruit trees have been pruned.

Cllr. Shaw will be the main contact for the picnic area going forward.

Cllr. Shaw will approach both Jamie Wright and Nick Rayner to give quotes for mowing the grass every other week.

CwaC StreetCare Services have met Mike Wilson on site and given great advice about tree planting and wildflower planting, including the rates of seeds per square metre they apply, the methods of ground cultivation and new technology they are trailing to make the projects easier and even more environmentally friendly.

StreetCare may be able to assist with the emptying of the bin, this may incur a regular cost, so would need consideration.

There is also a tree that fell during the recent storms, StreetCare were asked about removal of the tree, this would only be possible if the tree was overhanging a road. Cllr. Shaw and Hodgson will cut the tree and burn the brash.

Cllr. Shaw will also spray the ragwort and docks at the picnic area, he has the certificates for using a knapsack.

The StreetCare Team have also give valuable contacts of organisations who can potentially offer trees to community groups free of charge and others who have Cheshire apples and pears. Planting will occur in Autumn.

CwaC used to empty the bin, Clerk to enquire whether this could begin again.

Anyone wishing to volunteer with the picnic area project, please contact the Clerk Lindsey at, [rushtonclerk@aol.com](mailto:rushtonclerk@aol.com)

The wildflower area to be rotavated and resown, costing approx.. £50 on annual flower seeds

Six new fruit trees to also be purchased

**Proposed: Cllr. Shaw**

**Seconded: Cllr. Sime**

#### **Youth/Social/Community**

##### **Play Zone Project**

The play zone sanitiser is checked regularly to ensure it is kept topped up, a new sanitizer has been purchased. Signage is in place.

The Play zone management committee are all happy to continue in their roles.

The 52-rota team is in place and working well.

There will be a Spring Clean at the Play Zone, Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 4pm till 7pm and Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 10am till 12. The list of jobs to be done will be circulated nearer the time.

The annual inspection by Creative Play is yet to be undertaken, this will happen in due time

Cllr. Vertiga will take over the Play Zone Management and sit on the committee.

### **Eaton Primary School conversion to Academy**

Eaton Primary School has converted to an Academy as part of Tarporley High School and Sixth Form College Multi-Academy Trust.

The current agreement between Eaton Primary School and Rushton Parish Council in respect of the MUGA requires renewal which will now be between the Parish Council and the Academy.

Agreement has been reached with the Academy regarding the £500 per year maintenance fee and wording of relevant agreement paragraphs including aspects of liability. This will need to be clarified by Parish Councils Solicitor.

Ongoing liaison between the School Academy, Parish Council and legal teams will occur until the new agreement can be implemented.

**Action** – liaison until new agreement can be put in place.

**Cllr. Thompson**

The invoice for the MUGA use for the year beginning January 2021 has been sent to Eaton Primary School

The invoice for the Year beginning January 2022, will be sent shortly, this will be adjusted to include RPI.

### **22.04.07    Matters Arising**

#### **Corona Virus Buddy Update**

The buddy system is still working well, thank you to all the angels who assisted over the past year. The Parish Council hopes everyone is keeping safe and well, but if anyone needs any help or assistance please do not hesitate to make contact.

### **22.04.08    Correspondence**

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

<b>Reporter</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Action</b>	
Solicitors and councillors	16/03/22 onwards	MUGA agreement update	Responded and Circulate to councillors	
Member of public	17/03/22	HGV incident at Village green	Circulated	
Your Streets	18/03/22	Mill pool picnic area, wildflowers, tree planting etc.	circulated	
Highways	21/03/22	Response about signage options in Eaton village to prevent further HGV incidents	Circulated	
CWaC	21/03/22	CIL correspondence	Circulated	
Highways	23/03/22	Hickhurst Lane, can't find location of missing sign	Circulated	
Highways	23/03/22	20mph speed reduction project has been cancelled due to budget constraints	Circulated	

United Utilities	05/04/22	UU Stakeholders update	Circulated	
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#### **22.04.09 Finance Matters**

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

- Accounts for payment (below)

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	NET (£)	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)
ChALC	Subscription charge 2022-2021	£136.44		£136.44
L Worrall	Q4 Salary	£917.28		£917.28
Zurich	Insurance policy 2022-2023	£898.98		£898.98

#### **To record accounts previously passed for payment and not minuted.**

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	NET (£)	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)
Mr M Wilson	Rotavator Hire (cheque 972)	£60.00		£72.00
Mrs S Bennett	Plants for entrances (cheque 987)	£22.00		£22.00

#### **22.04.10 External Meeting**

##### **Platinum Jubilee Meeting**

Meeting was held at the Jessie Hughes village Hall, approx. 20 people attended.

- There will be village events on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday of the Jubilee weekend
- A working group will be set up to sew bunting to help decorate the village and houses.
- A scarecrow competition will be held, Cllr. Moore- Dutton will judge this.
- The Parish Council will make Jubilee mugs
- Friday – Bake off and Tea Party at The Drays
- Saturday – Party and Treasure Hunt, with the official celebrations being shown on screen at the Jessie Hughes
- Sunday – ‘Bring your own Picnic’, at the school
- There will be a scarecrow competition, Cllr. Moore-Dutton will be the judge.
- A competition for the children to design the jubilee mugs will be run, with judging occurring over the jubilee weekend and the mugs being ordered and circulated after the event.

#### **22.04.11 Next Meeting**

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 7:30pm at the Jessie Hughes Village Hall.

#### **22.04.12 Any Other Business**

**There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:10pm.**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_