

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RUSHTON PARISH COUNCIL
held at the Jessie Hughes Village Hall
on Tuesday 16th April 2024 at 7.30pm

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

In Attendance: Lindsey Worrall (Clerk), Charles Hardy (Ward Councillor), Mike Wilson

24.04.01 Apologies for Absence and Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

24.04.02 Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the 19th March 2024 to be agreed and signed.

Proposed: Cllr. Leslie

Seconded: Cllr. Sime

24.04.03 Public Speaking Time

Mike Wilson

The website needs addressing to enable finding of minutes and agendas to be easier, Clerk to ask the website host to assist.

Curbing project at village green, residents would like to assist in the project. Funding options to be assessed.

Theres water flowing from the telephone box down the road, Unities Utilities have confirmed it is not chlorinated and therefore not a water leak. Clerk has already reported this to Highways as a likely drainage fault, awaiting response.

Lower Lane resurfacing, now Scottish Power works undertaken, lower lane from school to village green can be resurfaced. Clerk has contacted Highways Could both the curbing and Lower Lane resurfacing be undertaken at the same time to utilise the same traffic management

Woman Institute are celebrating their 100th year this year, congratulations to all those that have enables this milestone to have been reached and ensuring the Eaton WI remains a well supported group.

Cllr. Charles Hardy

Highways will meet with all the Ward Councillor and representatives of the Parish councils to discuss the priorities, a date has not yet been confirmed, but will liaise with the parish Clerks to cascade this information.

Beech Lane, areas of road surfacing have been removed to identify what is below it before the resurfacing is undertaken.

Charles can work with the Parish Council to get a speed camera, but will need to demonstrate the location that would make the biggest impact on reducing speed within the Parish. There are a lot of parameters that have to be considered to identify where a speed camera can be located, including distance of straight road and risk assessments.

24.04.04

To review the draft budget for 2024-25

The budget was reviewed and agreed.

Councillors would like a table of ring fenced funds for the May meeting

Proposed – Cllr. Leslie

Seconded Cllr. Sime

24.04.05 Planning Matters

1- To note planning decisions received.

None

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

23/03359/FUL

Location- Carters Croft, Sapling Lane, Eaton, Tarporley, CW6 9AE

Proposal – Single Storey rear extension and storm porch to front, alterations to and addition of windows and doors, render. Widening of existing vehicular access gateway and driveway area, photovoltaic panels.

This is a large planning application with many aspects, care has been taken to ensure its in-keeping with the property and village, the extension will not be visible from the road or village and the changes to the driveway will ensure safety when entering or exiting the currently narrow drive.

As trees will be removed from the front to enable the drive alterations, it is suggested that a scheme of replanting is undertaken.

The plans do not appear to show the locations of the solar panels, which the Parish Council would like to see prior to making full comment.

Comments given in November 2023,

The Parish Council has No Objection to this Planning Application

Proposed – Cllr. Thompson

Seconded – Cllr. Vertija

Solar panel details received March 2024.

Emphasis that street scene to be kept and a scheme of tree planting is required to replant those lost in the drive remodelling.

Confirm this re-consultation is just for the solar panel siting, nothing else altered on the application

24/00034/OUT

Location- Land opposite Baytree House, Royal Lane Tarporley,

Proposal – Erection of up to two self-build custom houses with access and layout included, and matters of scale, appearance, and landscaping reserved for future consideration.

Comments given February 2024.

The Parish Council **Objects** to this Planning Application

Proposed – Cllr. Vertija

Seconded – Cllr. Sime

The full comments can be seen on a separate document.

24/00299/CAT

Location- Carters Croft, Sapling Lane, Eaton, Tarporley, CW6 9AE

Proposal – Removal of approximately 60 to 70 trees situated across the grounds of Carters Croft and the field to the south. 2x mature maple trees in garden - reduce in height by 3.5 to 4 metres, along with the radial branches by up to 3 metres. 1x cypress - which screens an electrical transformer and 11kV overhead powerline (in the adjacent field) would be reduced in height by approximately 4 metres.

The parish council would like to understand the rationale behind clearing an entire section of garden of trees and therefore removing these efficient carbon sinks and oxygen producers from the village.

The Parish Council understands and supports the removed of trees within the 3D category of Dead, dying or diseased, the safety around Scottish Power cables and transformer is understandable and accepted as is the need to maintain trees for heath and shape by height reduction and thinning for reduction of wind sail.

The Parish Council would like to be able to see the Tree surgeons report that has been very heavily redacted, as at this point there is no understanding to the reasons why this amount of tree removal needs to be undertaken or could be justified.

Comments given February 2024.

The Parish Council **Objects** to this Planning Application

Proposed – Cllr. Vertija

Seconded – Cllr. Sime

Planning application withdrawn and replaced with 24/00700/CAT

24/00700/CAT

Location- Carters Croft, Sapling Lane, Eaton, Tarporley, CW6 9AE

Proposal – Removal of approximately 60 to 70 trees situated across the grounds of Carters Croft and the field

Check details

The Parish Council objects to this planning application for loss of habitat, change of the village outlook, and view and loss of shelter and noise filtering properties the trees bring

The Parish Council **Objects** to this Planning Application

Proposed – Cllr. Leslie

Seconded – Cllr. Sime

Parish Council placed the comments with the planning Dept after the March meeting, notification from the planning Dept was not received.

On Monday 8th April tree surgeons arrived to begin works on site. The planning portal said the application was still pending. Cllr Leslie attended site and discussed the application and works on site with the tree surgeons, they had received permission from the Tree Officers to undertake the works.

With subsequent conversations with the planning Dept the Clerk resubmitted all comments and the Tree Team have issued their detailed report to explain the processes undertaken.

Application: 24/00665/S73

Proposal: Variation of condition – removal of condition 5 (agricultural occupancy) on planning permissions 4/23618 and 4/23284 (condition 1 Of appeal APP/L0635/A/05/2005162)

Location: Grange House, Mill Lane, Rushton, Tarporley, CW6 9AS

The Parish Council have enquired whether the property is still in use for agricultural purposes?, the application states that it has not been used for/linked to agriculture for ten years, but the property has 18 acres which is grazed by sheep.

Therefore the Parish Council would like to understand whether the agricultural tie is associated purely with the property, or does the land need to be farmed to be deemed as agriculture?, does this land need to be farmed by the owner/tenant of the property to require the tie to remain in place or if the land was rented out would the agricultural tie still be required on the property.

An extension to the comments deadline has been requested

Application: 24/00834/FUL

Proposal: Single storey extension to workshop (Part retrospective)

Location: Racewood, Winterford Lane, Rushton, Tarporley, CW6 9AR
 The Parish Council **SUPPORTS** this planning application.
 Proposed – Cllr. Sime
 Seconded – Cllr. leslie

24.04.06 Highways

Outstanding Road Safety Issues from Previous Meetings

a. Highways Issues

village entry signs images have been previously circulated of designs that could be used for the village entrances. All councillors have looked at these and discussion held.

The design and pricing of both the gates and signs has been obtained, before going ahead with this project the Parish Council has liaised with Highways.

Jerry Gibbs of Highways has clarified the licences required for working on highways land. Highways confirmed that Rushton Parish Council own the signs and can update, maintain them as long as appropriate licences in place to do so.

During discussion of signs being designed by other Parish Councils, Cllr Shaw asked whether some or all of the signs should read 'Rushton and Eaton' if approaching Rushton and 'Eaton and Rushton' if approaching Eaton.

Councillors will review details and assess funding avenues.

Clerk to liaise with Little Budworth and Utkinton and Cotebrook Parish Council's regarding their new signs.

Actions – prepare proposal and continue liaison with Highways Cllrs Sime, Leslie and Vertiga.

Sapling Lane

To enable the United Utilities maintenance work to be undertaken Sapling Lane will be closed for 4-6 weeks between May and July 2024.

b. Road Safety Matters

The Parish Council are awaiting feedback and clarification from highways on several matters

1. 20 MPH signs - Highways have confirmed that the 20mph sign on Royal Lane will be moved to incorporate the Jessie Hughes Village Hall. The 20mph on Eaton Lane is in the incorrect location, going from 20mph in the centre of the village to 30mph and then 40mph heading towards Cotebrook, Highways have confirmed that to move the 20mph sign to incorporate the Jessie Carpark requires Highways to follow the TTRO process and readvertise, consultation is currently underway.
2. VAS On Lower Lane – is a community initiative to slow traffic on a narrow lane with no footpaths next to the busy primary school.
The Parish Council has worked with the Ward Councillor, Highways and the public and have now secured a new location, the pole has been refitted and the VAS unit is undergoing maintenance before it is reinstalled.
3. The Oulton Mill Lane sign, located by the Picnic area was hit and damaged in the autumn 2022, the damage was reported to Highways at the time but no actions taken. The sign then disappeared (summer 2023). Clerk reported this to Highways and a works order placed but no timescales for the replacement given. The sign has now re-appeared but is damaged and dangerous, clerk reported to Highways again.
4. Hall lane, the speed signs are facing the wrong way and need turning correctly, Clerk has reported this to Highways who will adjust the signage, works order in place.

5. Lower lane, has no road markings in some areas due to the narrow nature of the road. Parish Clerk, Highways will undertake new line paintings in due course.' Parish Council to ask for resurfacing to be undertaken before line painting.
6. The road sign on the corner of Hickhurst and Dogmore Lane is broken, a works order is in place.
7. The road sign on the corner of Dogmore and Kings Lane is broken, a works order is in place.
8. The 30mph signs on Eaton lane are the wrong way around
9. Oulton mill lane to Cotebrook junction, visibility is very poor
10. Winterford Lane, large pothole appeared over a drain cover.

Cllr. Neil Thompson left the meeting and Cllr Emma Leslie took over as the Chair of the meeting.

24.04.07 Reports from Working Groups **Communications**

Newsletter

Newsletter articles are required by the 19th April

Thank you to Mike for his editorship and circulation. Mike will continue to undertake this role for this year,

Editor role is still vacant. If anyone would like to now take on the role of newsletter editor, please do contact the Clerk, Lindsey via at e-mail at rushtonclerk@aol.com

To assist Mike a printer would be useful as the 70 copies created each quarter is time consuming. The Jessie Hughes will pay 50% of the printer price up to £150.

Question- are councillors happy to contribute 50% of the cost of a printer up to £150.

Resolved – Unanimously all Councillors present agree

Oulton Mill Picnic Area Project.

The Picnic Area bin has now being emptied by Street Scene. The site is being used regularly.

All councillors agreed that 4 fruit trees should be purchased and planted in the picnic area, to be planted in November.

The picnic area is suffering a mole issue, previously a mole catcher was employed but all his mole traps were stolen, at the moment the moles will not be controlled.

The Parish Council and local birds would like to thank the mystery person who fills the bird feeders at the entrance to the picnic area.

Anyone wishing to volunteer with the picnic area project, please contact the Clerk Lindsey at, rushtonclerk@aol.com

Youth/Social/Community

Play Zone Project

The steps on the junior Tower need replacing or repairing, Olga to contact Creative Play regarding damage.

The gates to the Play Zone are sagging and need realignment, Olga to contact Terry Ball.

The 52 team are working well and we thank everyone involved in keeping the Play Zone a well maintained and enjoyable space for the children of the Parish.

Village Green

The works by O'Connors Utilities to lay underground Scottish Power lines, the village Green was left in a mess. A meeting between Councillors and O'Connors representatives resulted in the village green being tidied, reseeded and bulbs planted.

The Clerk has subsequently bought some snowdrops to plant alongside what have been replanted to ensure the future displays equal what we have been experiencing recently.

Broadband

The Broadband for Hall Lane and outer areas of the Parish will be installed by the end of April.

Along Kings Lane, the poles were removed 15 years ago, but no ducting put in place, 21 poles will now need installation, which will include 2 poles at the start of Kings lane and then underground to Park Wall, whilst Brownhills requires 4 poles,

Dates of road closures to ensure works can occur

Kings Lane -5-9th Feb

Hickhurst Lane 19-27th Feb 2024

Rushton Lane was due to be closed 15-19th Jan, but the company that advertises the closures, forgot to advertise the closure in time. The closure of Hickhurst Lane was not advertised to East Cheshire Council and therefore these two roads will be closed at a latter date to allow the advertising period to be concluded.

Well done to everyone who has worked hard to get this project off the ground.

Oulton Park Resident Passes

The last date for registering for Oulton park Passes is Friday 26th April. To apply for your pass you will need to attend in person and bring:

- two passport photographs of yourself
- a utility bill or bank statement dated within the last three months with your name on as proof of address
- passport or driving licence as identity
- a print out showing eligibility from freemaptools.com (Criteria is living within 1 mile of circuit)

Matters Arising

Councillor Vacancy

The councillor vacancy remains within the Parish,
Anyone interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, please contact the Clerk, Lindsey Worrall at rushtonclerk@aol.com

24.04.08 Correspondence

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

| Reporter | Date | Description | Action |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| Residents | 02/02/24 onwards | Planning application opp baytree Cottage | To be discussed in village meeting |
| Member of Public | 19/03/24 onwards | OCU works in village for SP has caused damage to village Green, needs reinstatement | Meeting with OCU, PC and MOP |
| Highways Notification | | Beech lane Closure on 1 st April The Hall Lane closure on 4 th April and 17 th for resurfacing Rushton lane closure for 22 nd April Beech lane closure 26 th April, 1 st March and 12 th April for resurfacing | Circulated |
| Member of public | 26/03/24 On wards | Village green damage, curbing needs undertaking and maintenance | Circulated |
| Members of | 05/04/24 | Lower Lane Roadworks completed | Highways |

| | | | |
|------------------|------------|--|--|
| the public | | can Highways resurface Lower Lane | notified |
| Member of Public | 05/04/2024 | Water flowing down Lower Lane by village Green. United utilities have investigated and this is not chlorinated, therefore not fresh. | Circulated. Water likely to be from broken drains on Eaton Lane, Highways notified |
| Highways | 08/04/24 | 20mph Royal Lane under consultation | Circulated |
| Ward Councillor | 10/04/24 | Meeting with MP and CWaC to be arranged to discuss Highways and state of the roads | Circulated |

24.04.09 Finance Matters

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

| PAYEE | DESCRIPTION | NET (£) | VAT (£) | TOTAL (£) |
|---------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| CHaLC | Yearly subscription | £149.72 | | £149.72 |
| Cllr. Leslie | A Frame sign | £80.79 | £16.17 | £96.96 |
| Parish Online | Yearly subscription | £45.00 | | £45.00 |
| Zurich | Insurance renewal | £1103.82 | | £1103.82 |

Income

Precept £6500 received 08/04/24

Payments not recorded in previous minutes

| PAYEE | DESCRIPTION | NET (£) | VAT (£) | TOTAL (£) |
|---------------|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| Mr M Wilson | Coronation Costs | £501.69 | £12.51 | £514.20 |
| CPRE | Yearly Subs by Standing Order | £20.00 | | £20.00 |
| Cllr. Hodgson | Gift for contractor | £30.00 | | £30.00 |

24.04.10 External Meeting

Oulton Park Liaison Group

4th May – Super Bikes

This years Villagers day, cost to participate possibly may increase and may have fee for lunch.

24.04.11 Any Other Business

Eaton Village Police Surgeries

May 10th – 12pm

June 9th – 11am

July 17th – 5pm

Aug 17th – 6pm

Sept 5th – 3pm

Oct 25th – 10-am

Nov 8th – 5pm

Dec 14th – 11am

24.04.12 Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 21st May 2024 at 7:30pm at the Jessie Hughes Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 21:04pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

DRAFT