

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RUSHTON PARISH COUNCIL
held at the JESSIE HUGHES VILLAGE HALL on MONDAY 16th February 2015 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs. J.O'Shea, S. Roberts, E. Shaw, M. Wilson (Chair)

In Attendance: A. Stubbs (clerk) Cllr. E. Moore-Dutton (CWAC)
Mr. J. Dwyer (Police Commissioner)
Mr. K. Parker (Chair of Tarporley Parish Council)
Mr. P. Howson (Chair of Alpraham Parish Council)
7 Residents

15.02.01 Apologies for Absence and Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

Resolved: that the apologies be received and accepted from Cllrs. Nicholas, Scott and Lilley.

There were no additional apologies and no disclosures of interests.

15.02.02 Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 26th January 2015 be agreed and signed as a correct record. Proposed Cllr. O'Shea, seconded Cllr. Shaw and all agreed.

15.02.03 Public Speaking Time

It was with sadness that Cllr. Wilson reported the death of Mr. Colin Lloyd, who had always taken a great part in events in the parish and had also been a former member of Rushton Parish Council.

Cllr. Wilson then welcomed Mr. John Dwyer, who had attended to hear the views of the Parish Council and residents with regards to road safety throughout the parish. Cllr. Wilson explained that concerns regarding road safety had featured heavily in the Parish Plan and that a Road Safety group had been set up with the aim of slowing down and discouraging traffic especially through Eaton Village. It had been hoped that the Police Commissioner's fund would provide some funding for a second Vehicle Activated Speed device to complement the one that the Parish Council could afford, but this had been refused.

Mr. Dwyer explained that the Local Authority has the duty to maintain roads and provide equipment and he felt that this was not a good use of his fund, but he was happy to consider other requests for funds as long as these could be matched. He asked that he could be provided with the figures from the SID so that these could be raised with the Roads Policy Unit.

Cllr. Moore-Dutton suggested that the speed limit within the village should be set to 20mph and also the use of traffic calming measures such as cobbled areas was discussed.

Cllr. Wilson also drew attention to the issue of "suspicious activities", probably related to drug taking, that go on between parked cars at a layby on Oxheys Lane. This has been the subject of meetings with local residents of the area and PC Ged Gigg. In answer to the request to involve other agencies that may help, Mr Dwyer promised to look into any help he could give.

Cllr. Wilson thanked Mr. Dwyer for his attendance.

15.02.04 Matters Arising

Picnic Area

We are still waiting for CWAC to make progress with legal matters but Cllr. Roberts now hopes to obtain a Letter of Intent from CWAC which should allow applications for grants to be made.

ACTION – with Cllr. Roberts

Plaque for trees on Kings Lane/Edgewell Lane

Awaiting delivery.

ACTION – With Cllr. Scott to progress

Path to the Village Hall

The preferred option for this is a new kerb and a better grass finish. Highways are unable to provide any funding for this so the Parish Council will put forward £1,800 with the rest of the cost funded by the Jessie Hughes Village Hall.

ACTION – With Cllr. Wilson

Provision of affordable housing

The draft of the letter to send to landowners was discussed and amended.

Resolved: that this now be sent to 3 local landowners.

ACTION – Clerk

Red Lion Pub

Cllr. Wilson had been in touch with the developer who confirmed that the site is now fenced and demolition will take place soon with building to start later in 2015.

The developer is happy to meet the Parish Council and this will take place later in the year when they are in the area.

ACTION – Cllr. Wilson to keep chasing

Succession Plan for current projects

Several potential councillors have now indicated that they are prepared to be nominated.

Hedge Trimming

It has been agreed that this will now take place in September/October.

Resolved: that this should be put on the August agenda and in the August newsletter.

Lay-by in Oxheys Lane

It has become apparent that the preferred option for this is to reduce the width of the lay-by by using posts. However, as neither Highways nor the Parish Council have any budget for this, the project will be put on hold for the time being. Residents will be encouraged to report any suspicious vehicles by dialling 101.

Highways have replied regarding the large verge on The Hall Lane, saying that it can be transferred to the neighbouring landowner but only if a Stopping Up order is passed. This is a lengthy and expensive legal process and cannot be engaged in at present by the Parish Council.

Resolved: that the landowner be informed of the decision of the Parish Council

ACTION - Clerk

Royal Lodge

A complaint has been sent to CWAC regarding the decision to move Royal Lodge into Tarporley Parish. No response has been received.

Community Pride

There was some discussion on whether to enter the competition this year. Mr. K. Parker, who acts as a judge for the competition, confirmed that the Red Lion site should not affect any result and also that the whole Parish will be judged not just Eaton Village.

Resolved: that an entry will be done and publicised in the next newsletter. The litter pickers will also be asked to be extra active.

ACTION – Cllr Wilson

15.02.05 Reports from Working Groups

Communications

Website

Work has begun on populating the new website.

Newsletter

February issue now distributed.

Superfast Broadband

Andrew Arditti from Connecting Cheshire is to attend the April Parish Council meeting.

Development/Planning/Environment

No issues to report.

Road Safety

RS Working Group Progress

A possible site for the new vehicle activated sign has been identified by the Red Lion site on Oulton Estate land. Cllr. Wilson is checking with the estate office that they are happy for the sign to be installed. The land is rented by Cllr. Nicholas who has agreed the position.

Resolved that the sign is now to be ordered.

ACTION – Cllr. Wilson receive a reply from the estate office and will also forward quotation to Clerk for ordering

Services

Electricity sub-station

We are awaiting confirmation of dates for the project. A programme of installation has been promised by Mr Penn for the March Council Meeting.

ACTION – Cllr. Wilson to progress

Youth/Social/Community

Play Zone

The barn dance was very successful and raised over £826 for the Play zone. The Parish Council thanked the Jessie Hughes Village Hall Committee who did not charge for the hire of the hall. A Letter of Intent has been signed by CWAC which can be forwarded to grant agencies. It was noted that Rushton and Alpraham Parish Councils are both hoping to install play areas and are working together to make sure that equipment is not duplicated.

15.02.06 Planning Matters

a) Applications since the last meeting:

None

b) Decisions made:

None

c) Other

Nial Casselden, the Planning Manager, has now confirmed that he will attend the March meeting.

With regards to the proposed caravan site at Eaton Fisheries which will go before the Planning Committee, Cllr. P. Howson of Alpraham Parish Council requested that Cllr. Moore-Dutton outline the concerns the Parish Council about the possible use of Brains Lane and Back Lane for access.

15.02.07 Highways

All discussed earlier

15.02.08 Correspondence

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

SENDER	DATED	DETAILS	ACTION
Cheshire Rural Touring Arts		Programme Spring 2015	Passed to Village Hall Committee

15.02.09 Finance Matters

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

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	NET (£)	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)
Cheshire West and Chester Council	Youth Club rent (partially funded by Youth Club)	171.00		171.00
Getmapping PLC	Parish Online subscription	28.00	5.60	33.60

15.02.10 Quality Parish Scheme

Now re-issued as the Local Council Award Scheme which is being investigated.

ACTION - Clerk

15.02.11 External Meetings

The Oulton Park Liaison meeting to take place on 25th February. Cllr. Roberts will accompany Cllr. Shaw if Cllr. Lilley is unable to attend.

15.02.12 Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday, 16th March 2015 at 7.30pm in the Jessie Hughes Village Hall.

15.02.13 Any Other Business

Cllr. O'Shea confirmed that the proposed expansion of Eaton Primary School is not going ahead due to a lack of funding at CWAC.

The timetable for the May election was discussed. The dates of the Parish Council Annual meeting and Parish meeting will be confirmed in March.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____