

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RUSHTON PARISH COUNCIL
held at the JESSIE HUGHES VILLAGE HALL on Tuesday 19th February 2019 at 7:30pm

Present: Cllrs. Arthur Nicholas, Neil Thompson, Graham Sime, Eddie Shaw, Mike Wilson, Emma Leslie, Amy Markham

In Attendance: Lindsey Worrall (Clerk), Eveleigh Moore-Dutton, Paul Healey, Ian Pleasant

19.02.01 Apologies for Absence and Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

Resolved: that Cllr. Leslie has a personal and prejudicial interest in Planning application 19/00519/TPO.

Resolved: that Cllr. Markham has a personal and prejudicial interest in the potential development project within the village.

19.02.02 Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the 15th January 2019 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Cllr. Leslie

Seconded: Cllr. Sime

19.02.03 Public Speaking Time

Speed checks have been undertaken along Royal Lane, more speed checks are likely to be undertaken on Eaton Lane towards Cotebrook.

19.02.04 Matters Arising

Potential village development

Ian Pleasant an architect for Jay Ashall Partnership attended the Parish Council meeting to detail a potential development within the village. The land in question is to the southern and eastern boundary of Eaton Primary School. Some of the land will be utilised for the schools play area due to the limited outdoor space following the recent school expansion.

The development proposes five properties, three detached, two semi-detached, with a drive from the development onto Hickhurst Lane exiting at the bottom of the bend.

The land is classified as Countryside, sitting on the village boundary.

The school provision will be a junior sized football pitch.

The recent 2 developments at the Red Lion site and The Millpool have resulted in 7 rather large houses being built. It was felt that to keep the balance in the village, smaller house would be more appropriate. The more diverse the housing can be, the easier they will blend into the village surroundings, but equally the Parish Council are aware that 3 and 4 bed properties are ideal for families.

Other comments made by the Parish Council included that the developers could look at more terraced, mews style housing along the front to increase the number of lower price point homes.

The development needs to be presented to the school for their input on how they want to use the land provision.

30mph extension along Eaton Lane

Not all motorists using Eaton Lane remain within the speed limit. The road has numerous concealed entrances and bends which make the road a greater danger.

The current speed limit on Eaton Lane from Cotebrook into the village is 40mph, it would be safer if this was reduced to 30mph. Reducing the speed is very unlikely as the density of houses does not match that required for a 30mph speed area.

Community Speed Management has been recommended with the use of a Speed Indicator Device SID, this has been previously used on Eaton Lane.

Cheshire constabulary have undertaken speed checks on three separate occasions on Eaton Lane, these have shown that there are vehicles going over the speed limit at various time of the day but especially rush hour.

A meeting with the Highways Department during December has led to Highways agreeing to refresh some of the road markings within the village. It was agreed that a pre-meeting should be held to look at proposals to enhance the signage at the entrance to the village, including gates or planters, plus all other outstanding

Highway issues. A further meeting with Highways will then take place once the Parish Council have finalised the proposals they wish to put forward.

Action- Liaise with Highways including a meeting, Cheshire Constabulary and look at ways to enhance the signage in the village

Cllr. Leslie, Wilson and Clerk

The trees on the green,

Permission from Cheshire West and Chester Council has been received to enable this essential maintenance work to be undertaken. The work is scheduled for the last week of February weather permitted.

Action- Liaise with tree surgeon

Clerk

Vehicle Activated Sign

Cllrs. Sime and Wilson will inspect the Vehicle Activated Sign and remove the solar panel, once this has been undertaken Cllr. Sime will be able to advise on the cost of a new panel and whether a new battery is also required.

Action – Inspect VAS and solar panel

Cllrs. Sime and Wilson

Local Elections

The local elections occur on May 2nd, every 4 years the Parish Councillors are elected in as councillors. Each standing councillor will need to complete an application form.

- On Monday 4th March the application forms will be received.
- On Friday 15th March the Notice of Election will be advertised.
- Between Monday 18th March and Wednesday 3rd April Applications can be delivered to CWaC, these need to be delivered by appointment so they can be checked.
- If more than 7 people apply, Rushton Parish Council will be ‘a contested’ Parish at which point the last seat will be voted upon at the election on 2nd May.
- After this date the clerk will receive a ‘Statement of Persons Elected Notice’. This will inform the council who are the new sitting councillors.

Councillors, their proposer and seconder need to be on the electoral register (And the proposer and seconder need to live within the Parish). If you are not already registered you have till Friday 12th April to do so, the deadline for postal and proxy applications is Monday 15th April.

To find out more, there is a wealth of guidance on Parish and Community Elections on The Electoral Commission Website.

CWaC are running briefing sessions for candidates, the dates are;

Monday 4th March, 6pm at Winsford, Wyvern House

Tuesday 5th March, 6pm at Chester Race Course

Wednesday 6th March, 6pm at Ellesmere Port, Civic House.

Any member of the public can apply to be a councillor if they are eligible. If you are interested in becoming a councillor or wish to find out more information please go to the Electoral Commission website or contact the parish clerk, Lindsey Worrall by e-mail at rushtonclerk@aol.com

19.02.05

Planning Matters

1- To note planning decisions.

18/03782/FUL
Proposal – Menage

Location – Land to rear of Knowl Cottage, Eaton Lane, Cotebrook, CW6 9DP
Decision -Approved

2- To consider response to planning applications received

19/00519/TPO

Proposal – Various works to trees including felling

Location – Land at former Red Lion Inn, Eaton Lane, Eaton

Due to poor quality maps being supplied by the planning department, it was decided that a site meeting to look at the tree work would be the suitable. 10.00 Sunday 24th February.

19.02.06 Highways

Potholes

Some potholes have been infilled along Royal Lane and Eaton Lane, these are poor quality repairs rather than permanent repairs.

Lower Lane is scheduled to be re-surfaced. Scottish Power also plan to undertake works on Lower Lane to place the overhead cable underground, the Clerk has contacted Scottish Power for an update as to when works will begin. Once a timescale of SP Energies works the Clerk will liaise with Highways.

The clerk has met with the contactors who will be undertaking the works, they were unable to give timescales and suggested SP would be best to advise.

Action- Liaise with SP and Highways

Clerk

20mph zone

The 20mph zone has now been extended to include parts of Royal Lane, Lightfoot Lane and Sapling Lane, the whole of The Green and Lower Lane. Signs are in place and the 20mph speed limit is in place. Driving through the village towards Cotebrook, the speed changes from 20mph to 30mph at the village green, some residents are now experiencing vehicles accelerating out of the village centre past their properties. This will be taken up with Highways.

Action – liaise with Highways

Cllr. Leslie, Wilson and Clerk

The 30mph sign on Eaton Lane, the poles are leaning into the road, the signs are becoming damaged, one in particular has become so damaged it has a hole in it, this will need replacement. Following the meeting with Highways it was decided that that the poles need to be moved to prevent this occurring again. The movement of poles will require advertising to comply with legislation. It is hoped that this will be completed by the end of the financial year.

Action – liaise with Highways

Clerk

Cross

The Road Safety Team prepared a series of options including signs, road markings and vehicle activated signs. Following the meeting with Highways in December it has been decided that the Parish Council will re-address the proposals and determine the proposal we wish to put forward. Representatives of the Highways Dept. have recommended that the road marking should be re-painted, no dates have been given for this.

Action – liaise with Highways

Clerk

Oulton Mill Lane

Flooding occurs from the ditch on Oulton Mill Lane during the wetter months, the clerk is liaising with Highways, the landowner has cleared the drains and confirmed that there is a sandstone drain under the carriage way, there is no headwall to this drainage system.

The Clerk has contacted the Highways team about this again.

Action – Liaise with landowner and Highways

Clerk

- The fingerpost sign From Hickhurst Lane to Dogmore Lane has been Knocked around so the sign now to Wettetall now points down Kings Lane.
- On Dogmore Lane at the bend opposite Parkgate Cottage drive, the road is giving way, it has been built up three times by the Highways Dept. and now the water runs the wrong way. There is approximately 35% lying water on the road, half a foot deep. To rectify this a drain needs to be placed down the roadside or new road surface.

- On Eaton Lane, after the Lodge there have been three accidents since September with cars going into the field hedge. The last one was very close to a tree.
- Oulton Mill Lane, a section of hedge approximately 80 metres in length has been removed from a field up to the road. Two accidents have occurred with cars going off the road as they were unable to see the bend in the snow. A marker or signage is required to make the road safe.
- On Winterford Lane a short distance down from the village, there appears to be a blocked drain, the road is at least half covered in water.

19.02.07 Reports from Working Groups

Communications

Superfast Broadband

Connecting Cheshire Broadband

Most of the village now has access to Superfast Broadband with speeds up to 100mb, there are a few properties that are not yet possible to connect, and works will continue to provide more secure broadband to these premises.

One postcode will be connected by the end of March and further work will be undertaken in June. There are a few residents who are struggling to get connections.

To determine whether you can access superfast broadband go to openreach.co.uk

Once broadband is available at your property, the customer can contact the service provider to arrange connection.

Development/Planning/Environment

Oulton Mill Picnic Area Project.

Finances: Mike Wilson and Clerk Lindsey are confirming the balance figures, but it is in the region of £1,800 from the Awards for all grant left and the full £1,000 from the Tesco grant still to be spent. Mike has drafted out a budget of how the £1,800 could be spent.

School Project: Will take place in Spring 2019. A balance of how the £1,000 (Tesco Grant) would be spent has been prepared in case Tesco require this.

The long tree trunk: has been made into seating for the school project, thank you to Martin Boardman for undertaking this.

The CWAC sign: has been taken down by Mike Wilson who will amend it to read Rushton Parish Council.

The Wild Meadow Area for the school project and mini apple orchard has been marked out by Mike Wilson and is in an arc to make it mower friendly. The area that will be planted needs to have the top soil scrapped away.

Cllr. Wilson, Cllr Moore Dutton & Clerk will meet on Saturday 2nd March with Martin Boardman to look at what is required to prepare the wildflower & tree areas.

Entrance Gate has a steep slope which Cllrs. Shaw and Nicholas have partially filled. This will be completed during March.

School involvement the next meeting with the primary school council will take place on February 28th

A risk assessment will be required to ensure it is safe for children to go onto the picnic area to help the Parish Council. A Duty of Care document will need to be signed by both the school and the Parish Council. An alternative is to invite parents and children which would require a different risk assessment process which would be much simpler.

A general waste bin has been given to Rushton Parish Council for the Picnic Area, unfortunately it doesn't have a key, a free key is being sent from the manufacturer.

The Safety of the Copse needs to be assessed – clerk to contact Martin Boardman

Nitrogen Oxide canisters have been found at both the picnic area and the play zone, they cause dizziness and a five-minute-high, using such 'mini highs' could lead to an increase in drug use. If any canisters are found in the parish, please report them to a parish councillor or to the parish clerk at rushtonclerk@aol.com

Following the meeting with Martin Boardman on 2nd March, the wildflower seed can be ordered to enable the furthering of the project.

Youth/Social/Community

Play Zone Project

The MUGA netting has been repaired.

MUGA is being well used, the committee is aware that the floor will only have 10-15-year, lifespan and may need maintenance during that time. The 52 Team is working well.

Youth Club

Numbers remain good with up to 40-45 juniors and 15-20 seniors attending.

Due to the youth club's popularity more volunteers are needed to help run the club, a rota like the play zone 52 rota has been suggested, if this cannot be arranged, the number of children attending will need to be capped at 30, this is to ensure the adequate number of trained first aiders and helpers are available.

If you would like to volunteer, please e-mail the Parish Clerk Lindsey Worrall at rushtonclerk@aol.com
A first aid kit is needed for the youth club.

Transport Survey

The transport survey has been undertaken, a meeting will now be held to understand the findings. Those that most need the services don't know what is available or how best to use the services.

Rose Farm Shop Transport

Currently Rose Farm Shop provide a mini bus service for Tarporley residents once a week to use all the facilities including;

Post Office

Café

Farm Shop (butchery, deli and fresh produce)

Gift shop

Florist

Rose Farm Shop are thinking of extending this service to neighbouring villages eg. Kelsall, Tarvin, Eaton and Bunbury.

If you know someone who would benefit from this service, call 01829 732978

19.02.08 External Meetings

19.02.09 Correspondence

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

Reporter	Date	Description	Action
Tarporley Transport Working Group	13/02/19	E-mail regarding transport networks in the local area, location of bus stops in village and the possibility of a circular route between; Tarporley, Utkinton, Cotebrook, Little Budworth, Rushton and Eaton, and then to also include Tiverton and Bunbury.	Circulate and discuss in meeting

The best location in the village for a bus stop would be by the noticeboard, as there is a bench and paved area.

The circular bus route will hopefully start on Tarporley High Street, then travel to Utkinton, Cotebrook, Little Budworth, Rushton and Eaton and back to Tarporley. This route takes approximately 45 minutes, its hoped that two can services can run in the morning and two in the afternoon. Currently, the project has half the money that is needed to fund it. It is hoped that the service would also be able to incorporate Tiverton and Bunbury as well.

19.02.10 Finance Matters

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

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	NET (£)	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)
NMC Design and Print	February Newsletter Printing Costs	£131.00		£131.00
Mr Adam Keppel-Green	Website Hosting fee	£40.00		£40.00

19.02.11 Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 19th March 2019 at 7:30pm in the Jessie Hughes Village Hall

19.02.12 Any Other Business

The Rock, Pop and Hotpot on Friday 22nd is a sell-out. Potatoes for the Hotpot to be supplied by Cllr. Shaw.
There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:57pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

DRAFT