

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RUSHTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**held at the Jessie Hughes Village Hall**  
**on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllrs. Ed Shaw, Suzanne Hinchliffe, Graham Sime, Phil Hodgson, Olga Vertiga

**In Attendance:** Lindsey Worrall (Clerk), Cllr. Moore-Dutton (Ward Councillor), Mike Wilson

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

**Resolved:** that the apologies from Cllrs. Thompson and Leslie be received and accepted

In the absence of both the Chair and Vice Chair, Ed Shaw chaired the meeting

Olga was welcomed to the Parish Council and all councillors present introduced themselves.

**22.02.02      Minutes**

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022 be agreed and signed.

**Proposed:** Cllr. Hinchliffe

**Seconded:** Cllr. Shaw

**22.02.03      Public Speaking Time**

**Mr M Wilson**

On the 1<sup>st</sup> March there will be a meeting held at the Jessie Hughes Village hall, commencing at 7pm to begin the jubilee celebration preparations.

The Eaton sign requires painting, Mike has purchased the paint to do this and will ensure this is undertaken during the spring.

**Cllr. Moore-Dutton**

West Cheshire Crowd, match funding deadline is 23<sup>rd</sup> March  
 CWaC has been given money/grants to promote the arts.

**22.02.04      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.

Currently a case officer has not been assigned to this site as the planning enforcement team are suffering a backlog. A site visit will be conducted in due course.

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.

Action -Letter to be written to CwAC, include photos of site and include some of before when it was a meadow. Clerk

**2- To consider response to planning applications received**

## **Applications received since the last meeting.**

### **21/05048/FUL**

**Location** - Hares Form, Winterford Lane, Rushton

**Proposal** – Erection of Rural Workers Dwelling.

This application was discussed, it was determined that without the full Parish Council an extension from CWaC Planning Dept. should be sought.

### **22.02.05      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.

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, works will be carried out to repair the carriageway.

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 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. Clerk to chase the delivery team.

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.

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.

#### 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.

## **22.02.06 Reports from Working Groups Communications**

### **Newsletter**

The February edition of the newsletter was circulated electronically, 60 printed copies were delivered out, these all included notes saying it would be the last paper version to be circulated. Newsletter contribution from the Parish Council will be collated by Cllr. Thompson going forward.

### **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 will have a reinvigorated 12 team to empty the bin weekly. The fruit trees are in need of a prune during the winter months.

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

Jamie Wright will give a quote for mowing the grass every other week.

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. Signage is in place. The Playzone management committee are all happy to continue in their roles.

The repairs previously detailed were undertaken by Creative Play on 24<sup>th</sup> January.

During these repairs it was noted that there was damage occurring to the lean shelter, caused by rain, a small extension to the roof would rectify this issue. Creative Play have given a quote of £2,000 for this which is far beyond what was expected.

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 and Parish Council will occur until the new agreement can be implemented.

**Action** - liaison until new agreement can be put in place. **Cllr. Thompson**

**Village Green Phone Box**

Following an advert in the November newsletter a member of the Parish has kindly agreed to re-paint the telephone box once the spring weather has arrived.

Footpath Officer, Cllr. Shaw will become the council point of contact and will liaise with Paul Healey who is the footpath Officer.

Cllr. Shaw will continue to organise the cutting of hedges for the village.

Cllrs. Hinchliffe and Leslie will remain the contacts for Road Safety.

Councillor Thompson will be the Parish Council contact for organising village events such as the village fun day

**Oulton Park Liaison Group**

A resident representative for the Oulton Park Liaison Group is required as advertised in the November newsletter.

Simon Roberts applied for the position.

Proposed – Cllr. Shaw

Seconded – Cllr. Thompson

**22.02.07 Matters Arising****Budget for 2022-2023**

All councillors present were happy with the budget presented.

**Proposed: Cllr. Sime**

**Seconded: Cllr. Hodgson**

**Village Design Statement (VDS)**

A meeting with the Village Design Group was held in June and the actions can be seen in the Parish Council minutes for June

Cllr. Thompson has liaised with CWaC to determine the weight given to the VDS document if it is acknowledged or adopted by the council.

- Adopted holds more weight.
- VDS needs to be adopted/acknowledged and then reviewed periodically
- The VDS is a material consideration in the planning process
- Currently Eaton falls under the CWaC Local Plan
- A neighbourhood plan could be developed by incorporating the VDS, funding is available.

**Actions**

All councillors to review the VDS and look at the objectives and responsibilities within it.

Going forward members of the VDS group will assist individually if their expertise is required.

A vote will be undertaken in the March 2022 meeting.

**Village Green fence/handrail damage**

Village Green Damage, Mike, Mary and Richard Potton have undertaken the repair, thank you so much for this great team effort, showing community spirit.

**Corona Virus Buddy Update**

The buddy system is still working well, thank you to all the angels who assisted over the past year.

**Trees on the Green**

Following the meeting with CWaC Tree Officer on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> June, Ryan McConnell has rejected the Parish Councils proposal to remove one tree from the village green.

Having viewed that the Tree officer may place TPO's on the trees if the Parish Council pursue the issue of tree removal further, all Councillors present accept the decision of CWaC and will undertake pruning work with approval under Conservation Area Permit.

The quote received is £1250 + VAT, it is recommended that pruning works occur every 3-5 years.

**Proposed: Cllr. Hinchliffe**

**Seconded: Cllr. Sime**

### **22.02.08 Correspondence**

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

Reporter	Date	Description	Action	
Multi-Academy Trust	29/10/20 onwards	Use of MUGA by school when transferred to Multi-Academy Trust, new agreement created and circulated	Circulate to councillors	
Councillors	24/02/2021 onwards	Maintenance of trees on the green, emails between residents, contractors, and CWaC Tree Officer	Circulate to Councillors	
Cllr. Tunney	29/01/2022	Community Speed Watch	Circulated to Councillors	
Member of public	31/01/2022	Increase in large vehicles turning at village green, can CWaC produce signage to indicate routes to M6 North and South	Circulate to councillors	
Creative Play	01/02/2022	Modification of teens shelter, quote included	circulated	

### **22.02.09 Finance Matters**

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

- Accounts for payment (below)

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	NET (£)	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)
Creative Play	Play Area repairs	£685.00	£137.00	£822.00
Mr M Wilson	Repairs to handrail at village Green	£112.11	£7.66	£119.77

### **22.02.10 External Meeting**

### **22.02.11 Next Meeting**

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 7:30pm at the Jessie Hughes Village Hall.

### **22.02.12 Any Other Business**

**There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:25pm.**

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