

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RUSHTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**held at the Jessie Hughes Village Hall**  
**on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllrs. Graham Sime, Phil Hodgson, Paul Chrisp, Olga Vertija,  
**In Attendance:** Lindsey Worrall (Clerk), Charles Hardy (Ward Councillor) and Mike Wilson.

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

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

**25.02.02**     **Minutes**

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the 21<sup>st</sup> January 2025 to be agreed and signed.

**Proposed:** Cllr. Sime

**Seconded:** Cllr. Chrisp

**25.02.03**     **Public Speaking Time**

**Charles**

Following the meeting with Jamie Barron of Highways, there is a possible follow up meeting in April, will require a priority list beforehand.

Charles investigated why drainage investigations were undertaken on Winterford road and the results of them and why can't Highways also investigate Lower Lane.

The deficit that CWaC will have this financial year will mean a lot of processes and activities expected from CWaC will not be available or PC expected to pay for them.

**25.02.04**

**To review the draft budget for 2025-26**

The budget was reviewed and agreed

**Proposed** - Cllr. Hodgson

**Seconded** -Cllr. Sime

**25.02.05**     **Planning Matters**

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

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

**Notification of a Planning Appeal –**

**Written Representations Site Address:** Spinney Cottage, Lower Lane Rushton Tarporley, CW6 9AN

**Description of development:** Use of land to rear of Spinney Cottage as garden.

**Appellant's name:** Mr J Markham

**Planning or Enforcement ref:** 23/00961/LDC

**Planning Inspector ref:** APP/A0665/X/24/3344341

**Planning Inspector: Appeal reference:** 24/00077/REF

**Appeal start date:** 19 June 2024

**Comment before:** 31 July 2024

The Parish Council re-iterates the Objection and comments that were previously submitted Oct 24- No further updates on the planning Portal or from CWaC Planning Dept.

**Notification of a Planning Appeal –**

**Written Representations Site Address:** Land at Spinney Cottage, Lower Lane Rushton Tarporley, CW6 9AN

**Description of development:** Construction of one new dwelling

**Appellant's name:** Mr and Mrs J Markham

**Planning or Enforcement ref:** 22/02768/FUL

**Planning Inspector ref:** APP/A0665/W/24/3351355

**Planning Inspector: Appeal reference:** 24/000111/REF

**Appeal start date:** 16 October 2024

**Comment before:** 20 November 2024

The Parish Council re-iterates the Objection and comments that were previously submitted

**25/00291/FUL**

**Location-** Eaton Primary School, Lower Lane, Eaton, Tarporley, CW6 9AN

**Proposal –** Installation of air source heat pump and sub station

Additional time has been requested and the below questions raised

Within the application an acoustic fence is details between the school and the property Spinney Cottage, what is the noise level of the heat pump proposed?

Has background noise monitoring been undertaken to determine the noise levels within the village during day and night to determine whether the noise levels will be disturbance to other residents?

If the air source pump is noisy, could other mitigation measures be put in place at source to reduce the noise?

What are the Schools plans for parking issues during the construction phase, with contractors, containers, materials and staff needing to park? It is assumed this will be a lengthy construction which will likely to take place while the school is in term time a traffic plan is required.

A staggered drop off and collection could be introduced or the operation of a one way system. If this is successful during the construction phase these measures could be adopted for all school times to reduce congestion and enable a smoother drop off and collection for the parents, staff and children.

Reply from Planning Dept. – Case Officer not yet assigned to application, e-mail from PC placed on file, PC questions to be addressed once case officer in place.

**25/00131/FUL**

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

**Proposal –** Widening to existing vehicular access point with setting back of gateway.

Alterations to front landscaping to increase driveway area.

The Parish Council has **No Objection** to this Planning Application

Proposed – Cllr. Hodgson

Seconded – Cllr. Sime

Planning query

Martin Boardman has bought 24 acres close to his property, removed a tree and 12m of hedging, installed a gate and hardcore, there is also a new shed at the far corner of the field.

Mr Boardman has contacted planning for retrospective planning for the shed.

Clerk to contact planning to seek guidance for the gateway.

## **25.02.06      Highways**

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

#### a. Highways Issues

village entry signs and road marking at the entrances to the village, images have been previously circulated of designs of signs. All councillors have looked at these and discussion held as to the design preferences.

Clerk and Cllr. Sime has liaised with Utkinton and Cotebrook Clerk regarding the installation of the new signs within their Parish, details have been received and circulated. Pricing will be obtained from this company and liaison regarding designs.

Jerry Gibbs (Highways) 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.

Once proposal in place, to be sent to United Utilities to seek funding revenues.

**Actions – prepare proposal and continue liaison with Highways and UU    Cllrs Sime, Leslie and Vertija.**

#### b. Road Safety Matters

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

1. The Hall lane, the speed signs are facing the wrong way and need turning correctly, Clerk has reported this, works order in place.
2. Lower lane,  
Parish Council has asked for full resurfacing to be undertaken before line painting, Highways have no provision to resurface. If evidence that Highways have previously committed to road surfacing, this can be re-addressed.  
Issues of cars parking outside the school have been reported, cones put in place but now damaged, grass verges are now mud. Highways asked what options available to make safer.
3. The road sign on the corner of Hickhurst and Dogmore Lane is broken, a works order is in place.
4. The road sign on the corner of Dogmore and Kings Lane is broken, a works order is in place.
5. The 30mph signs on Eaton Lane are the wrong way around and one missing, a works order is in place
6. Oulton mill lane to Cotebrook junction, visibility is very poor especially in large vehicles, Highways do not believe there are any safety issues with this junction
7. Eaton Lane Drainage issues 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, Highways believe its just water flowing from Higher Ground or even from the well. Clerk has contacted UU to ask how to proceed with this, who have confirmed there are no assets leaking within the village.

Highways have visited the site on 15th October, believe its ground water, questions have been asked to help determine source and remedial actions.

Parish Councillors attended site 23rd November to undertake initial investigatory work and engage with a drainage contractor. Subsequent dye tracing has shown that outflow by Rock Cottage is not flowing down Lower Lane and therefore not contributing to any drainage.

Scottish Power undertook works in road starting 20th January but the locations of the excavations did not give any satisfactory assistance to these investigations

Drainage Contractor has been engaged and has a satisfactory action plan to rectify the situation, no works can begin until the village green is drier, if works begin while it is wet the damage to the village green will be irreparable.

8. Beech Lane Layby has a sign which is in need of replacement, a bin would also be a great asset to the layby. A school bus was observed having to reverse as they couldn't pull out of the layby due to the concrete posts and soil that have been deposited. Bin assessment undertaken but this site does not fit the criteria, further information requested to understand how decision was taken in a conservation area. Further bin assessments will be undertaken to determine whether a bin would be of benefit. The sign has been removed, we await its return.... And the concrete posts and soil was removed since the inclement weather, but now returned.... Clerk has e-mailed Highways regarding Bin and Signage to determine outcome of the assessments.
9. Sapling Lane, water running down both sides of road, created a ravine, water running into field, dangerous if two vehicles meet as the drop off the road is deep. Some pothole repairs have been undertaken but not addressing the deep drop on either side of the road.
10. The hedge on Eaton Lane at the corner opposite the monument is overgrown, to approach homeowners to ask for the hedge to be cut back.
11. The 20mph signs on Winterford lane are the wrong way around, work order in place
12. The 20mph signs on Sapling lane are the wrong way around. Work order in place
13. Dogmore Lane fingerpost is broken, to determine ownership.

Following the Clerk reporting to Highways that the gully and drains on Winterford Lane where blocked, they have been and undertaken some investigatory works. Charles Hardy (Ward Councillor) enquired why this has been prioritised over Lower Lane.

There have been works undertaken privately on Winterford Lane to clear the ditches on both sides of the road, the spoil has been piled on either side of the road on the verges, resulting in no passing places. The amount of silt removed is quite significant and was questioned whether some of this is coming from Sapling Lane.

Highways have a new volunteering scheme, to enable working parties to undertake voluntary work. Highways insure the scheme and supply PPE. Cllr. Chrisp to be lead coordinator and apply for the scheme. This scheme will allow residents to undertake small projects such as correct signs that have been turned by passing vehicles. Cllr Chrisp liaising with Highways and creating a priority list of projects. Cllr. Chrisp will take some of the items listed above for the volunteer scheme.

The VAS on Eaton Lane, the SIM will no longer be supported by the company who supplied it, to fully operate the VAS a new SIM will be needed, Cllr Sime to coordinate.

The Grit boxes have not been refilled this year, Clerk to report to CWaC as there is still many weeks of winter left.

## **25.02.07 Reports from Working Groups** **Communications**

### **Newsletter**

Cllr. Chrisp is preparing the parish councils element of the newsletter.

The February edition of the newsletter has been circulated and has received good feedback, thank you to all those involved in putting the newsletter together and especially 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](mailto:rushtonclerk@aol.com)

### **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, the Clerk gained quotes, but when ordering found that only the most expensive were left in stock. Agreed that this should be left until October, purchased early and members of the Gardening Group will plant them.

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.

Great thanks to Nick Rayner who has cut the hedges at the picnic area

The information board needs updating, this will be undertaken when the spring arrives.

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

## **Youth/Social/Community**

### **Play Zone Project**

Wet pour sealing repairs have been undertaken

More repairs are required, a new system of repair has been developed and hopefully this will be quicker and result in longer lasting repairs.

Thanks to the Play Zone floor repair team these repairs have been much better than those undertaken by Creative Play.

School side repair really good, but still a trip hazard to right of entrance and area in the MUGA are lifting.

The flower bed has been in place for 9 years and the sleepers used as a retaining wall have begun to rot. Two quotes has been received for the replacement of the sleepers.

Greenspaces – Remove current sleepers, place new sleepers flat (not on ends), line and anchor.

Cost - £1520 plus VAT

Proposed - Cllr. Hodgson

Seconded -Cllr. Vertija

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**

Drainage - As detailed within Road Safety

Trees on the Green – concerns were raised that the high winds from the winter storms and the high water table had caused the roots of one of the trees to appear higher and protruding out of the ground, raising concerns for the safety of the tree. A tree surgeon was asked to attend and assess the trees from this point of view but also for their general health. Both trees are in good health and do not require any works at the moment. The Parish Council will continue to assess the trees with the tree surgeon and when works are required this will be undertaken in a timely and safe fashion.

### **The Jessie Hughes Village Hall centenary**

The Jessie Hughes Village Hall will celebrate its centenary in 2026. In fact, Jessie Hughes laid the foundation stone on 6 September 1926 and the hall was open before Christmas!

The JHVH committee are keen for 2026 to be a great year of celebration and we are already thinking about some ideas for that year.

As with the Jubilee we think the best way forward will be to set up a small working sub group, **a centenary committee**, to plan and action things for the year. The plan is for the group to comprise JHVH Committee members, St Thomas Church, WI members and Cllr Chrisp representing the Parish Council.

First meeting is scheduled to be on 7<sup>th</sup> January in the Ron Chisnall Room at 7.30pm.

### **Matters Arising**

The main road (Eaton Road) through Eaton is covered by a “7.5 tonne accept for access” weight limit (signed from A49/Eaton Road & A49 Nantwich Road/Eaton Road junction). The weight limit does not cover agricultural vehicles.

Given the “accept for access” element it is worth noting that many vehicles observed may be using Eaton Road legitimately. Enforcement of this restriction would be a matter for the Roads and Local Policing Units within Cheshire Constabulary.

### Church Heating Project

Oulton park have very kindly donated £500 towards the new heating scheme at the Church.

### Oulton Park Visit

David Nicholls will attend an upcoming meeting to discuss the details of the upcoming visit of 25 families of American soldiers who were posted at Oulton Park during World War 2.

The families will be visiting between 11th and 14th July 2025, they intend to visit Oulton Park on 13th July and will take in some of the other locations where their loved ones trained.

### 25.02.08 Correspondence

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

Reporter	Date	Description	Action
Highways	20/11/24	Eaton Village utility plans	Circulated
UU	20/11/24 onwards	Drainage issues at village green, and road markings needed in village Liaison for funding for projects	On going liaison
TWM	14/01/25	VAS on Eaton Lane, SIM no longer supported by TWM	Ongoing Liaising with TWM. Cllr. Sime to Liaise
Ward Councillor	23/01/25	Contacted Highways to understand the investigation into Winterford Rd drainage issues	Ongoing liaison
Member of public	29/01/25	Concerns about parking outside school and condition of the verges, can double yellow lines be installed and stones on the grass triangle	Replied Contacted Highways
Highways	07/02/25	Cant place double yellows outside a school as its a fluctuating issue	Circulated
Parish Online	07/02/25 onwards	Resetting of password and username for Parish Online account	Liaison with Clerk

### 25.02.09 Finance Matters

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

Cheque No.	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	NET (£)	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)

**25.02.10 external Meeting****25.02.11 Any Other Business****Priorities for the Parish Council regarding Highways**

The road surface of Lower Lane is terrible and needs resurfacing.

Sapling Lane, resurfacing once works complete

Drains at bottom of the village green

Cleaning of gullies and manholes

Hickhurst Lane- road surface needs repairing

Cllr. Hodgson would like to thank Charles Hardy (Ward Councillor) for his attendance and help at the Chester Farm Inheritance Tax awareness day.

**Eaton Village Police Surgeries**

\*Please note times and dates for next police drop in sessions. These are important opportunities to build relationships with our community police officers and share any issues. Note that while members of Cheshire Constabulary always intend to be present, they will understandably prioritise urgent call outs. Thank you for your understanding"

**2025 Dates**

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February 11am

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 10am

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April 4pm

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 4pm

**25.02.12 Next Meeting**

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7:30pm at the Jessie Hughes Village Hall.

**The meeting closed at 20.35pm.**

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