

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RUSHTON PARISH COUNCIL
held Via Zoom on Tuesday 16th February 2021 at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllrs. Neil Thompson, Mike Wilson, Suzanne Hinchliffe, Graham Sime Ed Shaw

In Attendance: Lindsey Worrall (Clerk), Eveleigh Moore- Dutton (Ward Councillor)

21.02.01 Apologies for Absence and Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

Resolved: that the apologies from Cllr. Leslie, be received and accepted

21.02.02 Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the planning meeting of the 19th January 2021 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Cllr. Sime

Seconded: Cllr. Hinchliffe

21.02.03 Public Speaking Time

21.02.04 Matters Arising

Village Design Statement

The Village Design Statement has not progressed since summer 2020 Cllr. Thompson and the VDS team will meet during March to discuss the process of finalising the Village Design Statement.

Village Green Wall Repairs

A quote has been received for the repair to the damage that occurred to the wall of the Village Green following the Road Traffic Accident. The quote is; £803.00 plus VAT. This quote is sizable due to the traffic management element required to ensure the repairs can be undertaken safely.

The repairs were not undertaken on the date supplied. The Contractor has explained that it needs to be dry weather and above 7degrees Celsius for a few days to enable the lime in the mortar to set. As soon as the weather is suitable the repairs will be undertaken.

Corona Virus Buddy Update

Cllr Wilson gave an update: The February Newsletter included an update that has been well received, it is another opportunity to remind folk to look after each other particularly those who live alone.

The Jessie Hughes Village Hall re-opened in September but due to new restrictions, is currently closed.

The Play Zone is open and sanitiser regularly refilled.

Budget for 2021-2022

Councillors discussed the draft budget; all were happy with the content and approved the budget for the Year 2021-2022.

Proposed- Cllr. Wilson

Seconded- Cllr. Shaw

Speeding in Eaton

Concerns continue to be raised by residents over the speed of vehicles travelling through the village. Issues continue to be worked on as follows:

1. Further to the meeting held in July with the Police, a further site meeting was held on 3rd September with the new PCSO JORGE FERREIRA; PC Monks & Councillor Mike Wilson. A zoom meeting will also be held with PC Monks.
2. PCSO Jorge has promised to be more visible in Eaton, to carry out increased speed checks.
3. PC Monks is arranging for special extra attendance by the Road Traffic section focusing on Eaton Lane.
4. The provision of a speed camera is still being looked at. The big issue here is the funding.
5. A Community Speed Watch Groups will be considered once training is available. (stopped due to COVID).
6. PC Monks is discussing with Highways, the need for more "reminder 40mph signs" along Eaton Lane.
7. "Calming" the approaches to the village is still on the wish list.

PSCO Ferreira has confirmed that Eaton Lane has been assessed for use with The Trucam, a speed camera that enables enforcement to be taken. Each road used with this technology requires special coding, which Eaton Lane is now undergoing.

PC Monks has confirmed that 10 vehicles were stopped during January 2021 for speeding, the locations were not given.

Action – Chase Community Speed Watch Group to enable training when available, **Clerk**

Action – another virtual meeting to be set up with police and Parish Council. **Cllr. Wilson**

Trees on the Green

The trees on the green received regular maintenance during 2019, to ensure the trees do not out-grow the space they occupy.

Two reports have been received from local specialists, the Tree Officer for Cheshire West and Chester Council has been contacted to seek advice regarding the tree growth and maintenance that should be undertaken.

Quotes have been received from companies who are fully authorised by Scottish Power to work next to power lines, and authorisation from CWaC has been received to undertake the maintenance work within a Conservation Area. Local resident and specialist Martin Boardman produced a report in January that will be used to ensure that a detailed specification is used when placing the order. The work will entail a crown lift, crown reduction and crown thin on both the trees on the village green.

A meeting has been arranged with one of the Contractors to discuss the specification for Thursday 18th February at 10.00am.

Martin Boardman will create a detailed specification for the works to be undertaken prior to the meeting and will be available to be on site when the works are undertaken.

Rushton parish Council are grateful for the invaluable level of advice and support that Martin Boardman has given, without his knowledge this would have been a very difficult process.

Re-distribution of Cllr. Markham's Duties

Following Cllr Markham stepping down from the Parish Council her duties need to be re-distributed between the councillors. Cllr. Markham was the Dog Warden and also had recently taken on the responsibility of collating the Parish Council element for the Newsletter. These duties will be picked up by the current councillors.

Vacancy

The Vacancy for Parish Councillor will be advertised through the noticeboard and website. The official paperwork is still being prepared by CWaC who will give the date at which if an election has not been called a New Councillor could be co-opted onto the Council.

Anyone wishing to become a Parish Councillor, please contact the Clerk, Lindsey Worrall at rushtonclerk@aol.com

1- To note planning decisions.

2- To consider response to planning applications received

21.02.06 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.

1. Proposals suggested by the Parish Council & Responses from Highways

a. Speed Limits (see marked up map used).

- i. The 20mph limit currently on the Village Green, should be moved out to where the existing 30mph limit is situated (the originally agreed position).
- ii. The 30mph limit in i. above should be moved out to the current "Eaton Village Sign" towards Cotebrook.
- iii. 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). This is being assessed by Highways and we await a decision.
- iv. The 30mph limit in ii. Should go out to the "Eaton Village Sign" at the hill-top
- v. The current 20mph sign 50m below the school (Lower Lane), should be moved out to existing 30mph signs at the far end of Whalley Drive.
- vi. The 30mph signs from v. to be moved to junction with Dogmore Lane.

vii. Response by Highways

The proposal was understood by Highways but involved many issues. It was agreed that RPC will contact Dave Reeves (Road Safety Engineer) of Highways Ellesmere Port office to arrange a visit and possible re-assessment. Further speed assessments will be undertaken during October

ACTION: RPC to arrange meeting with Dave Reeves. Clerk to continue to liaise.

b. Actions to try and reduce the number and / or speed of vehicles using Eaton as a "rat run" between the Alvanley Arms (A49) and the "Red Fox" (A49/A51).

i. Village Approaches

On Eaton Lane and Royal Lane ("Eaton" Sign Board) the Parish Council would like to create "You Are Entering a Rural Village" structures with flower beds, beware signs; gated impression. The structure would be fastened to the "Eaton" village signs and not require digging out for supports etc.

ii. Response by Highways

No initial objection. Various forms are now online for "addition of street furniture" etc and RPC were advised to look-into this and before submitting, send a draft to them for comment

ACTION: RPC to complete documentation and submit with layout etc to Highways for comment. Cllrs. Wilson, & resident Graham Bennett

Thompson to create the plans, with drawings, dimensions and approx. costings for the planters.

iii. Road Marking

Existing & new road marking e.g. “dragons-teeth” need to be investigated and renewed where appropriate.

iv. Response by Highways

This can be looked at after the decisions are made re new speed limit positions.

Smaller Issues requiring attention

Dogmore Lane, the edge of the road had eroded away, flooding occurs frequently causing the road to collapse. Highways have now undertaken the repair which has improved the situation, but the drains are blocked or broken and causes flood water to accumulate and back up the drainage system. Highways have indicated that the drains in question are United Utilities (UU) assets. UU has been contacted, awaiting a response.

Cllr. Shaw is happy to meet Highways or United Utilities operatives on site.

Sapling Lane, the flooding issue is becoming worse than ever with water visible on dry days. Mr Bert Platt has produced a document showing where he feels the efforts should be placed, Cllr Wilson has produced photographic evidence to show that the leak is a Highways Dept. issue and not Private issue. Details of how long the drains remain flowing once cleared by Highways operatives, this evidence will enable the Parish Council to prove that the leak is causing significant harm and danger and needs addressing. Additional concerns arise when freezing temperatures occur making this an accident hot spot.

Action: A comprehensive plan of works required has been drawn up, these are to be sent to Highways to assist them in their understanding of the issues.

Eaton Lane/Lightfoot Lane Junction, the works have now been undertaken to replace drains, a culvert and then relay the tarmac and even sow grass seed where the ground had been disturbed. The work was a bigger job than initially anticipated, it appears to have been done to a high standard and has rectified the drainage issues in the area of Lightfoot Lane and Eaton Lane.

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.

21.02.07 Reports from Working Groups Communications

Newsletter

The February edition of the Newsletter was electronically circulated to over 200 residents of the village and 24 paper copies made available to those known not to use the internet, a further 25 paper copies have been placed in the telephone box.

Advertising Local Business

Within the Parish there are numerous businesses, a separate newsletter could be generated to advertise these businesses and service providers. Companies will be contacted to ask whether they would like to be included and if there is enough interest, the process will be discussed at the next meeting.

Actions – contact businesses within Parish to gain their input in the project Cllr. Wilson

Oulton Mill Picnic Area Project.

The Picnic Area has been well used during lockdown. Thank you to Mike Wilson and others who check on the site/bin during this time.

Notices have been renewed around the site.

Before the new spring growth begins some work will be required at the picnic area to remove last years growth.

Cllr. Shaw will undertake any spraying that is required as he has all the spray licences that are required and speak to his contacts to get all of the grass mown before the real growing season.

New wildflower seed will be ordered to ensure that the wildflower meadow continues to be enhanced.

Youth/Social/Community

Play Zone Project

During the summer months the MUGA was used very well, there was increased noise observed due to the hard cushioning losing its effectiveness. Sound absorption material has been installed and a 10 decibel reduction has already been observed. The far end of the MUGA still needs the repair work to be undertaken, it is approximately a full day's work to fully fit the sound absorption material.

An 'escape hole' was recently reported by the school and a new length of fencing has been purchased by the parish Council and installed.

The play zone sanitiser is checked regularly to ensure it is kept topped up. The recent frost damaged the sanitiser holder, this has been repaired. Signage is in place.

The Play zone will remain open during this national lockdown following The Government Directive that allows Play Areas to remain open.

The Playzone rota or 52 rota has been suspended during the pandemic, this rota will resume in the near future.

Eaton Primary School conversion to Academy

Eaton Primary School is converting 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 has to be renewed which will now be between the Parish Council and the Academy.

The Parish Council have produced a draft of this new agreement and included a financial contribution for wear due to school use (e.g. local repairs and long-term replacement of the expensive flooring) and clarification on liabilities. During the school extension the MUGA was used extensively as the playing field was out of use and this has continued making it a key facility of the school.

Contact has been made with the Legal Representatives who assisted with the arrangements when prepared in 2015.

Contact has been made with the School Academy to discuss the previous legal agreement and scope of the new agreement.

Youth Club

Currently Closed, not expected to re-open at the moment.

Cllr. Mike Wilson & Mary Wilson have stood down from the Committee, having been actively involved from the set up of the youth club 10yrs ago. A Councillor will need to become involved in the running of the Youth Club as this is a Parish Council initiative when it is deemed safe for the youth club to reopen. Others will have to step up to assist the small remaining leadership team, some taking on Leadership roles

Grit Bins

Within the Parish there are three grit bins, Located on Edgewell Lane, Kings Lane and previously on Sapling Lane. The Bin that had been on Sapling Lane had been in summer storage, it has now been positioned on Lower Lane because of the water issues that were being experienced at the time.

Grit and a shovel have been purchased and the new location has been requested to be included on the filling programme by Cheshire West and Chester Highways Dept.

Litter Picking

The Parish Council have a team of volunteers who regularly undertake litter picking around the roads of the Parish. The equipment that the Parish Council have previously bought has now all been distributed, and new equipment is required for new members.

Actions -complete the Members Budget application, to enable some new litter picking equipment to be purchased
Cllr Wilson and Clerk

Dog Waste

There is an increase in the number of people out walking within the Parish. There is a dog waste bin on Whalley Drive that is used and emptied by CWaC. Oxhey's Lane is particularly bad for dog waste, often on the grass verge, but as there is no footpath, the verge is often used for walking on especially by children.

Cllr. Moore- Dutton, explained that the Parish Council could buy a bin, but it would be unlikely that CWaC would want to empty it.

21.02.08 Correspondence

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

| Reporter | Date | Description | Action | |
|-----------------------|------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| Councillors | 28/01/21 | Grit bin move to Lower Lane, needs purchase of grit and shovel | Move undertaken | |
| Cheshire Constabulary | 23/01/21 | E-mails between Cheshire Constabulary and Councillors, the Truecam that enables speeding tickets to be issued will be available to Eaton. | E-mails circulated to councillors | |
| Multi-Academy Trust | 29/10/20 onwards | Use of MUGA by school when transferred to Multi-Academy Trust, new agreement to be created | Circulate to councillors | |
| CWaC | 04/02/2021 | Garden Waste collection will be suspended- further updates to this have been received to confirm suspension till 1 st March 2021 | Circulated to councillors | |
| Member of Public | 01/02/2021 | Interest in becoming a Parish Councillor | Circulate to Councillors | |
| Member of Public | 02/02/2021 | HGV turning around in Village Centre, trying to get to Portal Business centre | Circulate to Councillors | |
| Member of Public | 06/02/2021 | Dog faeces on Oxheys Lane | Circulate to councillors | |

21.02.09 Finance Matters

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

- Accounts for payment (below)

| • PAYEE | DESCRIPTION | NET (£) | VAT (£) | TOTAL (£) |
|----------------|--|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| Mike Wilson | Netting for MUGA and grit and scoop for grit bin | £54.11 | £10.84 | £64.95 |

21.02.10 External Meeting**21.02.11 Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 16th March 2021 at 7:30pm via Zoom.

21.02.12 Any Other Business

Cheshire West and Cheshire have suspended the collection of green waste until March 2021.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:46pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____