

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RUSHTON PARISH COUNCIL
held at the JESSIE HUGHES VILLAGE HALL on TUESDAY 17th January 2017 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs. Jade Plumbley, Eddie Shaw, Julie O'Shea, John Sellers, Arthur Nicholas, Simon Roberts, Neil Thompson

In Attendance:	Lindsey Worrall (Clerk)	Mr Mike Wilson (Picnic Area WG)
	Mr Paul Healey	Mr David Jones
	Mr Bert Platt	Mr Colin Booth
	Mr Keith Walker	Mr Al Walker
	Mr Martin Jones	Mr Malcolm Laws
	Mr Max Harris	Mrs Helen Laws
	Mr Dennis Jarvis	

17.01.01 Apologies for Absence and Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

There were no apologies

17.01.02 Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 20th December 2016 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Cllr. Shaw

Seconded: Cllr. O'Shea

Resolved: that the minutes of the Oulton Mill Picnic Area Project meeting held on 11th January 2017 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Cllr. Sellers

Seconded: Cllr. Thompson

During Public speaking time, Mr Bert Platt, raised that the minutes of December 2016, were incorrect and should read.

Mr Bert Platt, representing the Road Safety Working Group.

Today (20th December), Highways have been erecting the poles for the 20mph signs, The signs should be 21 metres from the top of Edgewell Lane. The placing of the signs were calculated using a formula and detailed within the documentation sent out by Highways. The Highways Team were going to place the signs 50 metres down the road, but this was resolved and is now in the best place for the sign.

The Highways representative said, they own the verge up to the boundary of the properties and parking was not permitted on the verge.

17.01.03 Public Speaking Time

Oulton Mill Picnic Area Project

Mr Mike Wilson, Picnic Area Working Group (PAWG), gave a Power Point presentation, detailing the project objective and options considered. The presentation included work that has already been undertaken to open out the two end copse and make them safe along with the future aims to incorporate benches, a path, wildflower area, orchard and have bug boxes etc and a nature trail through the copses.

All the entrance options to date were shown and the rationale/concerns behind them. The Entrance to the picnic area will be situated at the top of the site where the gate is currently. Entrance option Plan 3A, gives a lay-by for horizontal parking for 3-4 cars requiring circa 19m of hedge removal. This reduces the view for those who wish to just sit in their cars, but the increased seating space available on the picnic area itself will go towards resolving this.

The lay-by will be surrounded by Bird Mouth Fencing, and possibly shrubs. The existing gate will be moved back for maintenance access, next to this will be a pedestrian gate which will also allow access for wheelchairs, pushchairs and bicycles. Another pedestrian gate may be installed towards Beech Road junction. Bike racks will be provided along with rubbish bins and a notice board.

During Public Speaking time concerns were raised such as: *if people wanted to drive to the picnic area in the past, why haven't they done it before now?, are we in the wrong century? what families want now are places with facilities, like Cheshire Oaks and the Trafford Centre. The only way to get kids there is to have a wifi signal in the middle; will 'dodgy dealing' occur there, will trucks and tractors park on the verge. Will the school really want to use it and how would they get there?*

Mike Wilson responding suggested that the current concerns *that children were watching too many screens is all the more reason why when an opportunity like this crops up, the community surely would appreciate a wonderful nature area such as is envisaged. Programmes like Countryfile & Winterwatch show that in fact, interest in nature is increasing.*

Cllr. Neil Thompson felt that people with young families such as his, may be excited at the thought of furthering their education with wildlife and butterflies etc.

Cllr. O'Shea: The school currently have a nature class and gardening class and they are actively involved in educating about nature. Pupils will travel to the picnic area by mini bus, Both Cllr. O'Shea and Mr Healey (a teacher) reassured that the school can manage pupils needs when on a field trip.

Cllr. Shaw felt that we should be encouraging young children to go out into the countryside.

Mr Colin Booth, representing the development of the Mill Pool Restaurant.: As the council have now bought this land they have a responsibility to maintain it. He felt that something needs to be done with the land and the current proposal looks interesting. There are issues with the parking, but there does need to be parking to attract visitors. If it is maintained correctly, it will be good.

Mr Mike Wilson, responded by saying that last year the Parish Council arranged removal of dead and damaged wood, cut all the hedges and every two weeks mowed the grass during the growing months. In fact it was better maintained last year than it has been for a long time.

Bins will be emptied weekly. The Parish has a voluntary litter picking team which could in the future be extended with more volunteers to cover the area.

Cllr. Sellers: We can't just leave this picnic area and neglect it. It's surely worth a try. The police have been contacted and possible concerns raised with Inspector Snasdell who felt that the proposed lay-by should not cause issues particularly if it is open and not allowing cars to "hide"..

Nearby residents Keith and Al Walker,; felt that re-furbishing the site with the suggested lay-by is a great idea, no-one can hide, no-one can drive in. At least if someone is on the lay-by you can drive past, get the registration plate number, go home and ring the Police. It's a much better idea than previous options. It would be nice to see it being used again.

Mr David Jones: it's a much better idea than parking for a lot of cars, this will solve the problems, much better than original car park idea.

Following the discussions a vote was taken for all none councillors to assess the feelings of the public present:

Picnic Area to proceed following the current layout and lay-by option (Plan 3A).

In Favour -8

Against - 1

Abstains -2

Concern was raised about the suitability of the Birds Mouth fencing, whether it would withstand vandalism by those attempting to break in to the site, with vehicles. This and other fencing options need to be assessed for strength, and prevention of vehicle penetration

17.01.04 Matters Arising

Communication with other Parishes within Ward

- None

Defibrillator for the Parish

There is currently a defibrillator at the School.

If a Defibrillator could be installed on the exterior wall of the Jessie Hughes Village Hall it would serve a large part of the community and visitors.

Cllr. Thompson to look at funding option, free training is available.

Liaison with Jessie Hughes Committee required.

Transparency Code Funding

Transparency Code requires, financial information, parish council minutes, Standing Orders, Code of Conduct and other documentation to be freely available on a website that is easy to use.

Transparency Code Funding enables Parish councils to have a website and software that meets the codes requirements.

Action- Apply for funding for new website and parish laptop for clerk to use Clerk

Training for Clerk

Four courses are being run by Chalc, each costing £35, these give the basic tools for a Clerk to carry out her role.

Action- Clerk to book courses, spread between financial years Clerk

17.01.05 Planning Matters

a) Applications received since the last meeting

17/00044/FUL Oak Tree Farm, Edgewell Lane, Eaton, CW6 9AD

To Erect a steel portal framed building for agricultural purposes.

The Parish Council has no objections to this planning application.

Landscaping is required to soften the visibility of the building.

Proposed : Cllr Shaw

Seconded: Cllr Plumbley

b) Other

17.01.06 Highways

The Road Safety Working Group is to meet this month, topics to include:

- Interactive road sign, discussion of interesting data
- 20mph zone now activated, needs to be shown as a pedestrian precious zone.
- Cross roads at Beech lane and Brownhills needs to be more visual
- 40mph sign on Eaton Lane has been knocked sideways, this has been reported to Highways via the Clerk and will be repaired in due course.

16.12.07 Reports from Working Groups

Communications

Website and Facebook

On-going

Superfast Broadband

Connecting Cheshire has this week secured funding for phase three of the superfast broadband project. Mr Andrew Arditti of Connecting Cheshire will be attending the February Parish Council Meeting to give more detail of the proposed coverage and impact upon Rushton Parish.

A Community fibre option has been put forward to Connecting Cheshire, the council are awaiting costings.

If a member of the parish would like to become actively involved in this project, please contact the parish clerk by e-mail at rushtonclerk@aol.com

Development/Planning/Environment

Picnic Area

Having heard the views of the residents, a concern that needs to be addressed is the suitability of the fencing. Other fencing options need to be assessed for strength, and prevention of vehicle penetration.

Agreed to have a piece in the next Newsletter and to include that if a member of the parish would like to become actively involved in this project, please contact the parish clerk by e-mail at rushtonclerk@aol.com to join the Working Group.

Following all the discussion a vote was taken for all councillors.

Picnic Area to proceed to the next phase following the current layout and lay-by option (Plan 3A).

In Favour – 7

Against -0

Road Safety

Update as Highways

Youth/Social/Community

Play Zone

New bench, fence panel and replacement MUGA back board have been installed.

New equipment has now been quoted for, a risk assessment will be needed before the order can be placed. All costs will come out of the “contingency” saved from the original grants etc.

Youth club

The Youth club remains very busy.

17.01.08 Local Council Award Scheme

The Parish Council is continuing to work on this. The Clerk is reviewing the information that needs to be added to the website. This is interlinked with the website, as the website is developed the information available to the public will grow and therefore the LCAS will become an achievable step.

17.01.09 External MeetingsFuture Meetings

Oulton Park liaison committee to meet on January 26th 2017.

17.01.10 Correspondence

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

SENDER	DATED	DETAILS	RECOMMENDED ACTION
Local Residents	21/12/16 03/01/17	Raising concerns about picnic area project	Comments already passed to councillors. Discussion held with residents and councillors in meeting.

17.01.11 Finance Matters

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

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	NET (£)	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)
Miss L. Worrall	Q3 Salary	£483.56		£483.56
Grosvenor Construction	Monument repair minus Insurance excess	£1912.66	£382.54	£2295.20
Jessie Hughes Institute	Hall Hire November and December 2016	£38.00		£38.00
Mrs A Stubbs	Fasthosts, Domain renewal	£13.98	£2.80	£16.78
Creative Play	MUGA Fence panel, park bench (PO 2016/001 Play)	£375.00	£75.00	£450.00

that the third quarter financial statement be received and accepted
that interim finance meeting to be called to discuss the budget and precept

Action- Chair to call meeting

Cllr Plumbley

17.01.12 Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 21st February 2017 at 7.30pm in the Jessie Hughes Village Hall.

17.01.13 Any Other Business

There is currently a consultation from CWaC about proposed charging for car parking at any CWaC owned car park.

Education funding cuts mean there will be significant loss of funding at Eaton Primary school.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:10pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____