

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RUSHTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**held at the Jessie Hughes Village Hall**  
**on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllrs. Neil Thompson, Ed Shaw, Emma Leslie, Suzanne Hinchliffe,

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

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

**Resolved:** that the apologies from Cllrs. Hodgson and Sime be received and accepted

**22.01.02      Minutes**

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the 16<sup>th</sup> November 2021 be agreed and signed.

**Proposed:** Cllr. Thompson

**Seconded:** Cllr. Shaw

**22.01.03      Public Speaking Time**

**Mr M Wilson**

Planting has been undertaken by Mr and Mrs Bennett around the village entry signs. Thank you for undertaking this activity, it has brightened up the village immensely.

A lot of people enjoyed the Carol Service on the green and have enquired whether this could be a yearly activity.

The Jessie Hughes has no landline, it now has a 4G router.

**Cllr. Moore-Dutton**

There will be a broadband extension to remote area, grants of £1,500-£2,500 per property will be available. Work begins in April.

The Rural Bus service may be funded by the reducing loneliness fund and green fund. Still a lot of work to be done, but not a forgotten project.

Beeston Train station have received £50,000 from Government to enable the project to reach the next stage, again, a project that will take a significant time but will connect villages if successful.

**22.01.04      Vacancy**

The Vacancy for Parish Councillor has been advertised through the noticeboard, newsletter and website.

A vote was undertaken during the January meeting of Rushton Parish Council, with Cllr. Moore-Dutton acting as the independent adjudicator, following the vote we are pleased to welcome Olga Vertija onto the Parish Council.

The Parish Council is very fortunate to be in a position where more people wish to join the council that there are current vacancies, this is a situation we are very grateful to be in. Those not successful have been asked to assist in the numerous projects around the village and we encourage all enthusiastic members of the Parish to volunteer to get involved in the varied projects we have.

**22.01.05      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

**21/00348/FUL**

**Location** -Brownhills, Brownhills Road, Rushton, CW6 9

**Proposal** – Garage with home office above.

**Withdrawn**

**21/00418/FUL**

**Location** -Tree Tops Bungalow, Eaton Lane, Eaton, CW6 9AG

**Proposal** – Single Storey rear extension, reclad existing building in black timber, re-tiling roof, paint existing render, new windows throughout with some new openings, removal of chimney breast.

**Approved**

**21/00475/FUL**

**Location** -Land at Oak Tree Farm, Edgewell Lane, Eaton. CW6 9

**Proposal** – Erection of Steel Portal framed Building

**Approved**

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

**Applications received since the last meeting.**

**21/04557/FUL**

**Location** – Oxheys Farm, Oxheys Lane, Rushton, CW6 9AT

**Proposal** – Construction of portal frame agricultural building for milking parlour and associated facilities.

The Parish Council **Supports** this Planning Application –

Proposed – Cllr. Shaw

Seconded – Cllr. Leslie

Pre- application submission

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

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

This application will be discussed in full once received from CWaC Planning Dept.

**22.01.06**      **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 and 2022.**

**A full list of the council's objectives can be found in the May 2021 Meeting minutes.**

a. Highways Issues

The Highways dept have undertaken CCTV works on Sapling Lane and observed that a section of drain needed replacing, these works were carried out in October, so far this repair appears to be satisfactory, the parish council will assess the road over the winter months.

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.

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.

Police Surgeries – after a request from the new PC for more involvement with the community, there will be regular police surgeries at the Jessie Hughes on the following dates;

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November 11.00 – 12.00 noon

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 5.00 -6.00pm

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.

**22.01.07 Reports from Working Groups Communications**

**Newsletter**

Newsletter contributions are due by the 25<sup>th</sup> January for inclusion in the February edition

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.

Contact has been made with the wildflower seed company with regards to the seed mix used this year as it contained mainly yellows rather than the full mix previously experience.

The fruit trees are in need of a prune during the winter months.

Thank you to Cllr. Shaw for organising the hedges to be cut.

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

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

Options will be considered how to best manage the mowing of the picnic area.

## 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.

There has been some damage to the wooden structures and also shrinkage to wetpour floor. The damage has been reported to Creative Play (manufacturer) with concerns that the floor damage was not expected until at least year ten.

Creative Play have offered to undertake the repairs required at substantial reduction.

- Wooden damage to small activity unit (Clatterbridge walkway) replace for £495 +VAT
- Fixing for above £125
- Wood damage to large activity unity (Heartwood) – FOC
- Parasol Teens Bench – replace seat layer - £750 +VAT
- **Total £1370 +VAT 50/50 discount £685 +VAT Charge to Parish Council**
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- Wetpour Flooring- normal price £1250 +VAT for 5m2 or less
- Offer (Quote 21098 21/06/2021) is to repair 3m length free of charge.

**Resolved** – To place order with Creative play to undertake the repairs at a cost of £685 +VAT. The repair works are scheduled for January 24<sup>th</sup>

Cllr. Sime will take over the Paly 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

A quote has been received from a local company to replace the broken glass, sand all metal and re-paint. It was felt by all councillors present that the quote was quite large, and this could be undertaken by the community as a project.

Cllr. Sime will replace the glass.

To advertise for volunteers in the next newsletter.

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

## **22.01.08 Matters Arising**

### **Budget for 2022-2023**

Councillors looked over the draft budget. The budget will be voted on in the February meeting

### **Precept for 2021-2022**

After much discussion, the councillors decided that for the year 2022-2023 the Precept will increase by 3.5% to £5800.

The money raised by the precept is used for many projects in the village, including litter picking equipment for volunteers, wildflower seeds for the picnic area and many others.

**Proposed** – Cllr. Thompson

**Seconded** – Cllr. Hinchliffe

### **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 February 2022 meeting.

### **Village Green fence/handrail damage**

Village Green Damage, Mike, Mary and Richard Potton to repair, will cost approx. £50-£75. Will also ask Terry Ball for some free Tarmac to repair the footpath.

**Proposed** – Cllr. Shaw

**Seconded** – Cllr. Thompson

### **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.

**Actions-** gain new quotes for pruning the trees as those available were raised several months ago.

### **22.01.09 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 to be created	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	
Creative Play	13/07/2021	Repairs to wet pour flooring	Circulated	
Member of Public	21/10/21 onwards	Concerns about the Oulton Mill Lane site	Concerns passed to Planning Dept	
Planning Dept.	16/11/21	Old School House, garden structure not part of original planning application. To b passed to enforcement team.	Details passed to the Planning Dept.	
Cllr. Wilson	7/10/21	Leaf collection	Circulated	
Member of public	25/11/21	Contacted regarding resident vacancy for Oulton park liaison Group.	circulated	
Cllr. Moore-Dutton	25/11/21	Members briefing, wildflowers and grass management	Circulated	
Highways	11/01/2022	Closure of Eaton Lane to enable replacement of BT Pole	Circulated	
Highways	12/01/2022	Closure of Lower Lane on 28 <sup>th</sup> January for one day to enable replacement of UU assets	Circulated	

### **22.01.10 Finance Matters**

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

- Accounts for payment (below)

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	NET (£)	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)
Miss L Worrall	Q 3 salary	£917.28		£917.28
Miss L Worrall	Q3 Expenses	107.02	£19.85	£126.87
ChALC	Training Course – Cllr. Thompson	£30.00		£30.00
ChALC	Training Course – Cllr. Thompson	£90.00		£90.00
JHVI	Hall Hire Nov 2021	£21.00		£21.00
TP Construction	Re-issue of Cheque for wall repair	£803.00	£160.60	£963.60

### **22.01.11 External Meeting**

Oulton Park Liaison Group, 8<sup>th</sup> December.

The park opens on 26<sup>th</sup> March with a busy calendar of events,

Superbikes May

BTCC 11-12 June

Villagers Day early July

Gold Cup in July

Christmas lunch was very good and well attended by both Parishes, Children from the primary school sang carols. Much thanks to David Lilley for organising the tickets for the parish and to Oulton Park for putting on such a lovely event.

Next Liaison group meeting 9<sup>th</sup> March.

**22.01.12    Next Meeting**

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

**22.01.13    Any Other Business**

Jubilee weekend, bank holiday weekend 2-5<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

Ideas for the village to take part in so far include.

Lighting a beacon

Vintage tea party

Planting trees

Pram race down Royal Lane

**There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:30pm.**

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

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