

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RUSHTON PARISH COUNCIL  
held Via Zoom on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 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)

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

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

**21.01.02 Minutes**

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the 17<sup>th</sup> November 2020 be amended to show "with a reading by Ivy Thompson of those killed in both wars, followed by a playing of the Last Post by Freddie Dunne" This was agreed and the minutes were then signed as a correct record.

**Proposed:** Cllr. Wilson

**Seconded:** Cllr. Sime

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the planning meeting of the 5<sup>th</sup> December 2020 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

**Proposed:** Cllr. Thompson

**Seconded:** Cllr. Wilson

**21.01.03 Public Speaking Time**

**21.01.04 Matters Arising**

**Village Design Statement**

The Village Design Statement has not progressed since summer 2020 Cllr. Thompson has e-mailed the members of the VDS team to arrange a meeting in the next few weeks 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 Clerk to chase the contractor to get a date that is accurate for the repair.

**Corona Virus Buddy Update**

Cllr Wilson gave an update: The mini-Christmas Newsletter sent out was well received and many replied that they were still looking out for their buddies. The 1<sup>st</sup> February Newsletter will be 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.

**Budget for 2021-2022**

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 2021-2022 the Precept will not alter.

**Proposed** – Cllr. Shaw

**Seconded** – Cllr. Wilson

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 Truecam, a speed camera that enables enforcement to be taken. Each road used with this technology requires special coding, which Eaton Lane is now undergoing.

**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, SP Energy have been contacted as Power cables run through the tree branches and 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. The order will be placed in February.

**Actions** - To contact the contractor who supplied quote (£1250, plus VAT), ask for a meeting on site to clarify the extent of work. **Cllr Graham Sime**

**Actions** – Contact contractor to arrange meeting. **Clerk**

**21.01.05 Planning Matters****1- To note planning decisions.****20/0364/FUL**

**Location** -Sapling Cottage, Sapling Lane, Eaton, CW6 9AE

**Proposal** – Two Storey Side extension, outbuilding and new retaining wall.

**Approved**

**20/02308/FUL**

**Location** – 4 Oulton Mill, Beech Lane, Rushton CW6 9BF

**Proposal** – Two Storey Side extension, outbuilding and new retaining wall.  
**Approved**

**20/02780/LBC**

**Location** -The Old School House, Lightfoot Lane, Eaton, CW6 9AF

**Proposal** – Subdivision of the Old School House to form separate dwellings and provision of vehicular and pedestrian access.

**Approved**

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

**20/04459/FUL**

**Location** -Sapling Cottage, Sapling Lane, Eaton, CW6 9AE

**Proposal** – Two Storey Side extension, outbuilding and new retaining wall, amendment to application 20/00364/FUL for outbuilding revision.

Rushton Parish Council has **No Objections** to this Planning Application.

Proposed – Cllr. Thompson

Seconded – Cllr. Sime

**APPEAL**

**Appeal Ref** – 21/00002/REF

**Planners Ref No.** APP/AO665/W/20/3264271

**Location** -Land Adjacent to Hill House Farm, The Hall Lane, Rushton

**Proposal** – Erection of one holiday let

Rushton Parish Council has **No Further comments** to add to this Planning Application Appeal.

**20.11.06      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 ref 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 repairs which has improved the situation, but the drains are blocked or broken and causes flood water to accumulate and back up the drainage system. Cllr. Shaw is happy to meet Highways 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 and Cllr Wilson has produced photographic evidence to show that the leak is a Highways Dept. issue and not Private issue. Along with 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, water has not been flowing through the drainage system due to broken drains. To rectify the situation Highways will need to dig up the road at the junction and replace the drains, this will then redirect the water through the drains and prevent the water flowing under ground and causing the ‘uplift’ and potholes that are currently occurring on Lower Lane. No timescale has been given to undertake the work.

On Eaton Lane opposite Eaton Green, a flood has appeared, operatives working on the Eaton Green Properties believe it is a drain that is blocked, they will be working on the restoration of the verges in the coming weeks and will also see if they can remediate the drains at the same time.

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.

### **21.01.07 Reports from Working Groups Communications**

#### **Newsletter**

The February edition of the Newsletter deadline for submissions is 25<sup>th</sup> January, it will then be electronically circulated to over 200 residents of the village and paper copies made available to those known not to use the internet.

#### **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 to be 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

### **21.01.08 Correspondence**

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

<b>Reporter</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Action</b>	
Eaton Primary School	26/11/20	Problem with MUGA, escape holes in netting identified – netting replaced.	Repair undertaken	
Cheshire Constabulary	27/11/20	Meeting between Cheshire Constabulary and Councillors, the Truecam that enables speeding tickets to be issued will be available to Eaton		
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	04/12/202	Garden Waste collection will be suspended- further updates to this have been received to confirm suspension till 8 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2021	Circulated to councillors	
CWaC	22/12/2020	Precept request documents	Calculate figures and circulate	
Fasthosts	23/12/2020	Confirmation that Domain renewal has been successful		
JHVI	30/12/2020	Covid update	Circulate to councillors	
Member of the Public	30/12/2020	Blockage of drains on Eaton Lane causing water to flow under the road causing damage to the road surface on Lower Lane. Broken drains on Eaton Lane to be replaced	Forward to Highways and circulate response to Councillors	
Drays Coffee	08/01/2021	Broadband help needed	Circulate to	

Shop			Councillors	
CWaC	08/01/2021	Census 2021 to occur in March 21	Newsletter article to be prepared	
CWaC	11/01/2021	The Location of the 20mph sign on Royal Lane outside the JHVI to be re-assessed and moved if found to not be where originally proposed	Circulated to Councillors	
CWaC	11/01/2021	Confirmation that Eaton Lane/ Lightfoot Lane junction flooding caused by broken drains and excavation of road required to replace broken pipe work. No timescales given	Circulated to Councillors	

### **21.01.09 Finance Matters**

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

- Accounts for payment (below)

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	NET (£)	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)
L. Worrall	Q3 Salary (includes Q1 and 2 backpay)	£947.70		947.70
L. Worrall	Q3 Expenses (includes Fasthost domain renewal)	£39.97	£7.98	£7.95
Mr Adam Keppel-Green	Website hosting fee	£40.00		£40.00

### **21.01.10 External Meeting**

The next Oulton Park Liaison Committee meeting is scheduled for January 2021.

Oulton Park will hold some practice days for professional/elite sports during February.

### **21.01.11 Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 7:30pm via Zoom.

### **21.01.12 Any Other Business**

The roadside hedges cutting for residents occurred on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020. Thank you to Cllrs. Shaw and Wilson for organising this important village event and to Mrs Wilson for assisting in traffic management.

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

**There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:46pm.**

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