

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RUSHTON PARISH COUNCIL
held Via Zoom on Tuesday 21st July 2020 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs. Neil Thompson, Mike Wilson, Suzanne Hinchliffe.

In Attendance: Lindsey Worrall (Clerk), Eveleigh Moore- Dutton (Ward Councillor), Mr Mike Scott, Mr Steve Perry, Mr David Lilley and Mr David Wood

20.07.01 Apologies for Absence and Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

Resolved: that the apologies from Cllrs. Leslie, Sime, Markham and Shaw be received and accepted

20.07.02 Minutes

Resolved: that the amended minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the 19th May 2020 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Cllr. Wilson

Seconded: Cllr. Hinchliffe

Resolved: that the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the 16th June 2020 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Cllr. Thompson

Seconded: Cllr. Wilson

Resolved: that the minutes of the Planning meeting of the 29th June 2020 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Cllr. Wilson

Seconded: Cllr. Thompson

20.07.03 Public Speaking Time

20.07.04 Matters Arising

Village Design Statement

Members of the Village Design Team Joined the Zoom meeting to discuss the process of finalising the Village Design Statement into a complete document that can be used by the village.

The Village Design Team members present, suggested that a review of the document could be undertaken by the Parish Council, including, further comments, consultation, and a public meeting. This could then be classified as Review 1.

Members of the Parish Council acknowledged the level of hard work that had gone into the creating the document, especially the historic documentation. All Councillors have been very surprised to receive the completed document that they have not had any input into and then asked to take responsibility for. The document has been logged with the Parish Council without reviews by the community even when these were requested.

This document would be used for planning applications and to aid how the village develops. Therefore the process for the VDS had to show it has been through the community and considered their comments whether used or not. If this document does not follow the correct procedures for its implementation it will easily become shelved as not helpful for developers. Clarification is needed to ensure all points are useful.

The village Design Statement Team assured the Parish Council that during the process of putting together the document, the village was consulted and that public meetings were undertaken when

78% of the village responded. The VDS team followed the process undertaken by the village of Whitegate (undertaken a year previously) who did not go back to the community or Parish Council before printing or presentation to Cheshire West & Chester (CWaC).

Having looked at the VDS for Whitegate, Rushton Parish Council can confirm that this is not the process that was undertaken with page one of the Whitegate VDS stating that it was agreed by the Parish Council and Borough Council before completion & printing.

The process that should be followed for the VDS to be validated is to compile the document and then return it to both the village for consultation and to the Parish Council for comment prior to it being printed and submitted to CWaC. Unfortunately this did not occur.

The Parish Council want to move forward and accept the VDS, but for them to take ownership it does require that the following is completed:

The VDS team should, with assistance by the Parish Council;

- Go to the community for comments (suggest using the newsletter and the e-mail groups)
- Utilise the Community & Parish Council Comments where thought appropriate
- Once completed the Parish Council will take ownership.
- Cllr. Thompson to work with the VDS team to undertake this process.

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 Clerk has instructed the insurance company to undertake the repair and try to reclaim cost from the haulage company. The Insurance company are in the process of sending the repair costs to the Parish Council, once received works will commence.

Corona Virus Buddy Update

Cllr Wilson gave an update on how the Buddy System and Local News Update were being handled. There was an excess of volunteers (over 90) offering to help and all those considered “vulnerable or shielded~” (over 50) within our Parish from the outset in March were given a “Buddy Angel” to do shopping, prescriptions and being there as a contact.

Residents of Eaton have mown the grass on the green, picnic area and the school, whilst other volunteers have made Scrubs for Leighton Hospital.

CWaC have been made aware that residents were undertaking the mowing, the Clerk has recently tried to contact CWaC to request that they undertake the regular mowing again, but due to their working policies under Covid it is proving difficult to actually speak to anyone about this, the Clerk will continue to try to make contact with CWaC to make arrangements.

The Buddy updates will now be circulated when there is a need rather than on a weekly basis.

The Playzone has now reopened, with signage and hand sanitizer for those using the facility.

The Jessie Hughes Village Hall is hoping to re-open in September.

Speeding in Eaton

A lot of residents are approaching Councillor Wilson regards to the speed of vehicles travelling through the village.

PC Monks acknowledges that there have been issues and is engaging with the councillors and will push for assistance with enforcement methods.

The Cheshire Rural Crime Unit of Cheshire Constabulary have begun an Operation called ‘Hairspring’ PCSO’s in rural locations such as Wrenbury, Barbridge can engage with the rural community and encourage safer speeds and safer vehicles.

The Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) on Eaton Lane is not supported data that the Police would be able to use for enforcement but indicates there is an issue in the village of some motorists travelling at unacceptable and dangerous speeds.

On the morning of 21st July, Cllrs. Wilson, Leslie and Hinchliffe along with Eaton resident Graham Bennett, met with PC Monk. A very constructive meeting was held at the village green, with PC Monk believing that speed checks could be undertaken along Eaton Lane, and one option would be to stand at the Vehicle Activated Sign. The options of traffic calming was discussed along with the installation of a Radar Camera. Fixed Radar Cameras cost between £27,000 and £50,000 but handheld units costing much less are typically used by Community Speed watch Groups. If a group could be established and funding for a camera raised, training would be given to operate the cameras, which can then be used in random locations through out the village by the Community Speed Watch Group.

Trees on the Green

The trees on the green received regular maintenance during 2019, to ensure the trees do not outgrow the space they occupy. The Parish Council have requested reports from two local specialists to prepare reports as to whether work is required immediately and what future works should be undertaken on the trees to ensure they do not outgrow the space they occupy for the local residents.

19.07.05 Planning Matters

1- To note planning decisions.

19/00568/FUL Amendment /additional information

Proposal – Sub-division to form separate dwelling with vehicular and Pedestrian access

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

Approved

20/01208/FUL

Proposal – Addition of two front dormer windows

Location – Linden House, Eaton Lane, Eaton, CW6 9YN

Approved

20/00885/FUL

Proposal – Erection of one holiday let

Location – Land adjacent to Hill House Farm, The Hall Lane, Rushton, CW6

Refusal

2- To consider response to planning applications received

20.07.06 Highways

Outstanding Road Safety Issues from Previous Meetings

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).
- 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. It was agreed to hold this meeting last year and the Clerk was asked to expedite this which may have to be a Zoom type meeting.

ACTION: RPC to arrange meeting with Dave Reeves. Clerk to Chase.

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 (see examples)

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

Sapling Lane, the flooding issue is becoming worse than ever with water visible on dry days. Mr Bert Platt is very knowledgeable of the area as is Cllr Shaw who may be able to assist Highways in determining the cause of the leaks. Photographic evidence should be gathered to show that the leak is a Highways Dept. issue and not Private issue. Even if the leak does originate from Private property the Highways Dept. should ensure that the owners undertake the repairs.

The PSCO regularly undertakes speed checks within the village using a speed gun, he stops motorists who are travelling above the limit.

In December with the help of the PSCO we requested the Police undertake speed checks with the Camera van on Eaton Lane, after the initial assessment of Eaton Lane it became apparent that The Camera Van would not be able to use the Layby on Eaton Lane or any other location along the stretch because a van needs to be visible for 100 metres within a 40 mph zone to avoid issues with motorists braking.

We have requested a meeting with Highways to follow up from our last meeting with them in December 2019, one of the items we want to discuss with them is the possibility of a speed survey

and the financial costs involved, this meeting is on hold until the Coronavirus pandemic has passed.

20.07.07 Reports from Working Groups **Communications**

August Newsletter

The August edition of the newsletter will be circulated by e-mail only. All articles need to be submitted by July 25th.

Oulton Mill Picnic Area Project.

School Project – Birds Bugs & Butterflies project was completed in July 2019 with Eaton Primary School.

The project was to be repeated with Eaton Primary School in Spring 2020, it is currently on hold and will re-run in Spring 2021.

The Tesco Grant for the Bees, Bugs and Butterflies Project has a balance of £412.66 which could finance more work on the project.

The original Grant balance is £1,832.83

The Picnic Area has been well used during lockdown. Thank you to Mike Wilson and Simon Corradine for looking after the site during this time.

Notices have been renewed around the site.

Youth/Social/Community

Play Zone Project

Play Zone to re-open on Friday 24th July 2020

The school have use of the MUGA during school hours. Cllr Wilson and Mrs Wilson have recently cut the hedge, removed mushrooms and closed an 'escape hole' that had appeared. Gardening Group members have weeded the bed and cleared weeds including nettles and bindweed from the hedge.

Cllr. Mike Wilson is standing down from managing the Play zone in September 2020, having been actively involved from the early stages of fund raising for the play zone to be built. A Councillor will need to become involved in the management of the Play zone as this is a Parish Council initiative.

Cllr. Thompson has taken over the management of the Play zone in the interim.

Youth Club

Currently Closed, but hopefully to re-open in September.

The Tuck shop boxes have all passed their expiry date, these have been disposed off and new items will be purchased when the Youth Club re-opens.

Cllr. Mike Wilson is standing down from being the Committee Chair and organising the rota of leaders in September 2020, having been actively involved from the set up of the youth club. A Councillor will need to become involved in the running of the Youth Club as this is a Parish Council initiative.

Village Fun Day

This year's village fun day will hopefully go ahead on Sunday 6th September, if allowed by government guidelines, it may be that this year the fun day could involve Eaton Primary School.

Fruit, Veg and Plant Exchange

Eaton Gardening Group (Up the Garden Path) would usually have a stall at Tarporley Carnival and a proportion of the money raised from the event donated to Tarporley War Memorial Hospital. This year to enable some form of socially distanced event, whilst supporting a local business and the Hospital the Gardening Group have begun their Fruit, Veg and Plant Exchange.

On the first Saturday of July, from 10-12, the gardening group members met at The Drays Coffee Shop, for coffee and Cake (served through the hatch), members brought a selection

of fruit, veg and plants, Tarporley Garden Centre very kindly donated some plants and bulbs and the first ever exchange took place. The idea of the exchange is that for every item you bring you can take home an item for free, if you wish to take home additional fruit, veg or plants, a donation is to be given to the Hospital. With thanks to everyone who donated produce, to Tarporley Garden Centre for their kind donations of plants and bulbs and to The Drays coffee shop for hosting the event.

A staggering £305, was raised in just 2 hours.

The next fruit veg, and plant exchange will take place on Saturday 1st August 10-12, all are welcome to come along with Bacon Butties being served along with tea, coffee and cakes. We will then host the third event on Saturday 5th September from 10-12.

20.07.08 Correspondence

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

Reporter	Date	Description	Action
Dave Reeves	Highways Transportation Dept.	Update on Speed issues on Eaton Lane and the involvement that Highways can offer.	circulated to councillors
Tarporley Tree Services	18/06/2020	Details from Tarporley Tree Services detailing the good health of the trees at the village green and options available if the PC wish to trim them	Circulated to Councillors
Speed Initiative team	17/06/20	Numerous e-mails from Cheshire Constabulary and the Speed Initiative Team	Circulated around Councillors and team
Member of Public	28/06/2020	Anti-social Behaviour, eggs thrown at home windows by youths in cars	Circulated to councillors and Police for information
Member of public	03/07.2020	Tree on Elm Tree Court, becoming tall and overhanging gardens, request to CWaC to look at ownership and who responsible for maintenance	Circulate to councillors for information
Member of public	06/07/2020	New Fence has been erected at prominent property in the village	Circulate to councillors
Cllr. Wilson	07/07/2020	Issues associated with re-opening youth club, Standing down of Cllr. Wilson and Mrs Wilson from the management teams of the Play Zone and Youth Club	Circulate to Councillors

20.07.09 Finance Matters

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

- Accounts for payment (below)

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	NET (£)	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)
L Worrall	Q1 Salary	£832.52		£832.52
L worrall	Q1 Expenses	£94.78	£13.98	£108.76
Mr. P Sanders	Internal Audit	£51.00		£51.00
Cheshire Community Action	Yearly Subs	£20.00		£20.00

Clerk's Pay – Every Year in April the Clerk has a small pay rise, this year, the Clerk forgot to give herself the pay rise!. The Q1 pay for the Clerk is the same as 2019-20 pay.

Actions – Are the Parish Council happy that the Clerk receives a pay rise of 55p an hour per hour, which equates to £42.64 per quarter, or £170.56 for the full year.

Are Councillors happy that the Q2 pay for the clerk includes the missed pay for Q1?

Resolved that; All councillors present happy that Clerk received a pay rise for the year 2020-2021, and that the Clerks pay in quarter 2 includes the lost pay from Quarter 1.

Proposed: Cllr. Wilson

Seconded: Cllr. Hinchcliffe

To agree accounts and audit:

- to review and agree risk assessment
- to review and agree asset register
- to agree 2019/2020 accounts
- to agree 2019/2020 audit
- to review and agree bank signatories

Proposed: Cllr. Wilson

Seconded: Cllr. Hinchcliffe

20.07.10 Next Meeting

The next Oulton Park Liaison Committee meeting will be held in October. Currently Oulton Park are holding Track Days.

20.07.11 Any Other Business

8 properties on Oxheys Lane and Hickhurst Lane are struggling with Broadband issues, BT Openreach could undertake a Community fibre Project which uses Government Vouchers to part fund the project. BT have now found that there are more properties that could be included in the community fibre project and will only undertake the project if all are incorporated.

The wildflower project at the picnic area has been very successful and the Parish Council are considering whether wildflowers could be sown on part of the village green. Cllr. Wilson will speak to the residents around the village green to assess the positives and negatives of such a project. Cllr. Moore- Dutton will donate £500 towards this project.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:39pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____