

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RUSHTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
held at the JESSIE HUGHES VILLAGE HALL on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at 7.30pm

**Present:** Cllrs. Neil Thompson, Eddie Shaw, Mike Wilson, Graham Sime

**In Attendance:** Eveleigh Moore-Dutton

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

**Resolved:** that the apologies from Clerk Lindsey Worrall be received and accepted.

**Resolved:** that all Councillors do not have Pecuniary Interests in subjects on tonight's agenda.

**19.07.02      Minutes**

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the 18th June 2019 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

**Proposed:** Cllr. Shaw

**Seconded:** Cllr. Thompson

**19.07.03      Public Speaking Time**

**Eaton Primary School:** In response to a request from the Parish Council, Eaton Primary School Governor Paul Healey was present to give an update on the current status of the school. The following are the highlights of Mr Healey's response:

- 2013 - March: under the headship of Mr Paul Mitchell, the school had achieved the status of "Outstanding" after an OFSTED inspection
- 2016 - Mr Mitchell left the school and deputy Mrs Nikki Duffell was appointed Head Teacher
- 2016 – 2018: an unfortunate series of circumstances happened:
  - serious problems occurred with the building work of the school extension and revised Playing Field
  - Mrs Duffell signed off and subsequently resigned due to bad health
  - The deputy head and then the remaining senior manager took maternity leave
  - Very disappointing SATS KS2 results
- 2018 November. – given the lack of senior management, the head teacher of Tarvin Primary School, Mr Andy Davies, accepted the request to take the role of acting head; the governing body continued to discuss closer liaison with Tarvin.
- 2019 - February- after an OFSTED visit, the school was put into a status of "Special Measures"
- 2019 – looking forward:
  - the school will be forced to undergo a process of "academisation". While their preferred option would put Eaton Primary School under an umbrella with Tarvin Primary School, with Mr Davies responsible for both schools, it is up to the Regional Schools Commissioner to decide upon the final sponsor for the school.
  - Academies are independent schools, financed by Central Government rather than the Local Authority and report to the Regional School Commissioner. Eaton would be part of a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) and thus inevitably lose some autonomy in its decision making.
  - The above process will take time to put into place and is expected to be in place by September 2020.
  - 3 new members of staff have been appointed; in September the current deputy head at Tarvin will take over as head of Eaton

- **Mr Healey's Summary** : Mr Healey feels that current measures being undertaken will have a speedy positive effect on the school and it is felt that Eaton Primary School will soon progress to the status of "Good"; this judgement is validated by external assessment.

**Chair Neil Thompson** thanked Paul for the update and assured him that the Parish Council would be happy to assist the school in any way that they could.

#### **19.07.04      Matters Arising**

##### **The Village Design Statement (VDS) for Eaton**

Having read the new Village Design Statement recently received from the group set up some 3 or 4 years ago under Michael Scott, Councillors agreed to invite Mr Scott to the September PC meeting to clarify aspects regarding responsibilities.

**ACTION:** Mr Scott to be invited to the September PC Meeting.    **Clerk**

##### **Vehicle Activated Sign – Eaton Lane**

The order was placed on TWM (original installers) to repair the sign based on quotations received. On their 2<sup>nd</sup> visit they found that replacing the battery alone was not effective and the fault was in the solar panel that also had to be replaced. This they said was unusual and was unfortunately outside of the guarantee period.

The sign is now repaired and working satisfactorily.

There was a concern that the total invoice cost was more than the quotations and Cllr Wilson who had received the papers from Clerk Lindsey, could not find the necessary detail at the meeting. It was agreed not to sign the cheque until the amount had been justified.

**Note: After the meeting ended Cllr Wilson found the paper and the costs are explained below:**

##### **Initial Visit** – Feb 2019

Site Visit	-	£150.00 plus vat	
New Battery	-	£ 63.50 plus vat	

##### **Second Visit** – July 2019

Site Visit	-	£150 plus vat	
Solar Panel	-	£400 plus vat	
Battery Free			

<b><u>Totals</u></b> – Visit 1	£213.50 plus £ 42.70 vat	=	£256.20
- Visit 2	£550.00 plus £110.00 vat	=	£660.00
	<b><u>Invoices Total</u></b>	=	<b><u>£916.20</u></b>

**Note: VAT will be reclaimed giving a total cost to the PC of £763.50**

All the above are as per the quotations received before the order to complete the work.

**Action:** Costs to be approved by Councillors and payment to be made    **Clerk**

#### **19.07.05      Planning Matters**

**1- To note planning decisions.**

**Appeal Ref: APP/A0665/W/19/3224003 Hill House Farm; Hall Lane – Dismissed.**

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

**None received.**

#### **19.07.06      Highways**

**Residents Concerns & Damage to Wall on the Green:** Emails have been received from Mr & Mrs McCourty highlighting dangers around the Village Green, particularly when large trucks & trailers are concerned. Recent damage to the “stone “Eaton” rockery wall (the trucks insurance company have agreed to pay) and damage to their own property wall are included.

**Action –** Response to Mr & Mrs McCourty with list below: **Clerk**

**Action –** Obtain 3 quotes for wall repair and submit to insurance company. **Clerk**

**Lower Lane** is scheduled to be re-surfaced but only when Scottish Power have finished their underground cable laying work. From last months PC meeting, Clerk Lindsey has contacted Scottish Power who will get back to her after vacation leave next week.

**Action- Continue to Progress contact with SP and Highways** **Clerk**

The speed of vehicles, particularly around school time, is still excessive. Agreed to notify public. The Speed Sign requires the hedge trimming at The Garage.

**Action:** Item to be included in August Newsletter

**Cllr Wilson**

**Action:** Hedge to be trimmed around sign

**Cllr Wilson**

### **Outstanding Road Safety Issues from Previous Meetings**

At the June PC meeting, it was agreed that Cllrs Wilson & Leslie would compile a list of the important issues which remain outstanding with Highways. This list was presented and discussed, and modifications made. See below:

## **MAJOR ISSUES THAT RUSHTON PARISH COUNCIL WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS WITH HIGHWAYS REPRESENTATIVES – July 2019**

**Note: The last meeting with Highways - held at the Phoenix House, Winsford on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2018 at 10:00am attended by Jerry Gibbs, Ian Lovatt, Cllr Emma Leslie, Cllr Mike Wilson & Clerk Lindsey Worrall,**

### ***Introduction:***

*Many issues were raised in the meeting above and as recorded in the minutes.*

*However the Parish Council would like to focus on fewer areas for discussion with Highways such that the key problems of residents can be addressed.*

*These areas are shown below:*

### **1. Actions to lower the speed of vehicles within the Village of Eaton**

#### **a. Speed Limits**

*The 20mph limit currently on the Village Green, should be pushed out to where the existing 30mph limit is situated.*

*The 20mph limit currently sited before the Village Hall should be put out to where the current 30mph limit changes to 50mph. These were originally agreed positions!!*

#### **b. Road Marking**

*Improvements / maintenance is needed on all junctions but particularly the Cross Area and by the school. The proposals for the Cross made by RPC are still outstanding.*

### **2. 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).**

#### **a. Village Approaches**

*On Eaton Lane and Royal Lane the Parish Council would like to create “You Are Entering a Rural Village” structures with flower beds, beware signs; gated impression.*

#### **b. Speed Limits**

*The Eaton Lane northern 30mph speed limit should be pushed further out of the*

village to include the new Red Lion development houses. (note: the current pole is still not fixed after over 2 years. The landowner wishes Highways to discuss "cranked arm").

**c. Road Marking**

More road marking is required on the approaches to the village with raised red areas, hatching etc added to again stress that this is a non pavement village with pedestrians walking between facilities. More smaller "repeater" 40mph signs should be erected.

**3. Smaller Issues requiring attention**

The Parish Council have a list of other issues (as itemised in the June Parish Council minutes) that need addressing but it is felt that progress on the above is more important and those smaller issues can be discussed later.

**Action:** Above list to be discussed at a meeting with Highways **Cllrs Wilson & Leslie**

**Action:** Arrange meeting over 30mph cranked arm. Highways and Mr Furness **Clerk**

**Oulton Mill Lane**

Flooding occurs from the ditch on Oulton Mill Lane during the wetter months, the clerk is liaising with Highways, the landowner has cleared the drains and confirmed that there is a sandstone drain under the carriage way, there is no headwall to this drainage system.

The Clerk has contacted the Highways team about this again.

**Action – Liaise with landowner and Highways**

**Clerk**

**19.07.07 Reports from Working Groups**

**Communications:** August Newsletter. Being compiled by Phil Adcock. Pc Contribution required.

**Action:** Send in approved PC Contribution

**Cllr Wilson**

**Development/Planning/Environment**

**Oulton Mill Picnic Area Project.**

**School Project – Birds Bugs & Butterflies:** Cllr Wilson held a summing up meeting with the School Council (6 to 11yr old reps) on the 27<sup>th</sup> June and arranged a site visit for 8<sup>th</sup> July. This took place at the Picnic Area and thanks to resident Simon Corradine for hosting it.

The project is now concluded for this school year but may be taken up again in Spring 2020. Any balance of the Tesco Grant will be held for this or other related issues that crop up.

**The Meadow Flowering Area-** this has been a great success with many positive comments sent in by visitors and the new fruit trees continue to grow. An email has been sent to village residents suggesting that they may wish to visit. This area will require grass clearing at the end of August.

**Cllr Wilson**

**The Grass in the user/table areas** is being mown every 10 days by Cllr Wilson.

The larger overgrown grass area will need mowing in August.

**Cllr Shaw**

**Hedge cutting:** agreed that the top roadside hedge be cut in the next 10 days. The remaining hedge to be cut in Oct/Nov.

**Cllr Shaw**

The "12 team" is still to be set up, 12 volunteers to look after the picnic area, each responsible for one month, visiting once a week.

**Cllr Wilson**

**Youth/Social/Community**

**Play Zone Project**

The Report from Annual Inspection of the Play Zone has been received and shows a "clean bill of health" with no issues to be addressed.

**Youth Club**

Sion Roberts has joined Ed Harris in undertaking his Duke of Edinburgh award. As part of this they will both be helping at the youth club until the end of the year.

Extra Outdoor Play equipment has been received.

The “seniors” section will be joining the Juniors throughout the summer with both groups finishing at 7.30pm. This is due to shortage of helpers. A new initiative with “WhatsApp Groups”; rota sheets etc. is being initiated.

### **Annual Village Fun Day**

Cllr Wilson proposes that the event, popular last and previous years, will be held on a bi-annual basis. With no other councillors wishing to take on the responsibility for this year, the next such event will be in 2020.

### **19.07.08 Correspondence**

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

Reporter	Date	Description	Action
Amelia McCourty	14/15th July '19	Collision damage around the Green & general Road Safety	Discussed at July PC meeting.

### **19.07.09 Finance Matters**

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

#### **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	NET (£)	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)
TWM	Outstanding costs for VAS maintenance / repair on Eaton Lane	763.50	152.70	916.20
L. Worrall	Q1 Salary	832.52		832.52
L. Worrall	Q1 Expenses	86.48	15.82	102.28
JHVH	Hall Hire Charge May / June	38.00		38.00
M. Wilson	Picnic Area Expenses – Noticeboard UV film	52.00		52.00
M. Wilson	Youth Club Expenses – outdoor equipment	82.66	2.76	85.42
CWaC	Youth Group Rent 1 <sup>st</sup> Sept – 31 Dec 2018	144.00		144.00
CwAC	Youth Group Rent 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan – 31 <sup>st</sup> July 2019	255.00		255.00

### **19.07.10 External Meetings**

Oulton Park Villagers Day was held on Sunday July 7<sup>th</sup> with many villagers attending. This was again superbly organised, with a good lunch and rides, a generous gesture by owner Jonathan Palmer.

**Action: A letter of thanks to be sent**

**Clerk**

### **19.06.11 Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at 7:30pm in the Jessie Hughes Village Hall

### **19.06.12 Any Other Business**

**There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:20pm.**

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

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