

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RUSHTON PARISH COUNCIL
held at the Jessie Hughes Village Hall
on Tuesday 19th July 2022 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs. Neil Thompson, Ed Shaw, Phil Hodgson, Emma Leslie Graham Sime,

In Attendance: Alex Stubbs (CB Homes), Eveleigh Moore-Dutton (Ward Councillor), Lindsey Worrall (Clerk)

22.07.01 Apologies for Absence and Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

Resolved: that the apologies from Cllrs. Vertiga and Hinchliffe along with the Clerk be received and accepted

22.07.02 Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the 21st June 2022 to be agreed once the Clerk has had sufficient time from receiving the notes of the meeting to collate.

22.07.03 Public Speaking Time

Alex Stubbs CB Homes

Lower Lane will be closed the week 8th August to enable essential works to be carried out, these works will probably take 3 days. CB homes will notify interested parties as soon as the works are completed

The diversion will be along Winterford Lane, no driveways will be blocked during the closure..

Alex will E-mail myself and Councillor Moore-Dutton once works complete and ensure the signage is removed to open the road to the businesses that rely upon it.

Cllr. Moore-Dutton will contact the Countess of Chester hospital to ask when they will integrate with Tarporley Hospital.

22.07.04 Planning Matters

1- To note planning decisions.

None

Ask United Utilities to attend in September to give an update on progress, very little or no updates to landowners.

**2- To consider response to planning applications received
 Applications received since the last meeting.**

22/01430/FUL

Location – Red Beech Farm, Dogmore Lane, Rushton, CW6 9BD

Proposal – Single storey side extension to commercial building.

Proposed – Cllr. Leslie

Seconded – Cllr. Sime

22.07.05 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

Oulton Mill Lane, the tarmac has been undermined and there is now a 6 foot drop, the road is narrow anyway, if two vehicles meet at this point one could end up seriously damaged. Highways have been made aware, but as no highways drainage is in place on the road they are not in a position to undertake any remedial works. Cllr. Moore-Dutton will try to further this investigation.

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, they have concluded that at the moment no action is required. Clerk has contacted them again, awaiting response, August 2022.

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 Design has been prepared by CwaC Highways and once approved this work will be undertaken. 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.

Winterford Lane goes from a 60mph to a 20mph on the bend as you enter the village, the speed should be reduced in increments as you enter the village.

A Manhole cover has been dislodged on winterford lane just as you leave village

Action – Clerk has emailed highways, awaiting response

The Fingerpost on Dogmore Lane is facing the wrong way, to contact Highways and ask for this to be corrected. Reported to CwaC and are awaiting replacements and repair.

The Eaton Sign at Winterford Lane is in need of re-painting, this is owned by CwaC, Clerk to ask for this to be undertaken before it degrades further. Highways have conformed that these signs belong to the Parish Council, the repaint or replacement would be at our own expense. The Parish Council will look at a design for a new sign after liaising with Little Budworth Parish Council who are in the process of renewing signs. The village of Huxley have just installed entry styles, either side of the road. Close to the primary school.

Once designs in place, Oulton Park could be approached to help with fund raising this project.

Actions – prepare proposal by June
Hinchliffe and Vertiga

Cllrs Thompson, Leslie,

There is a large pothole at Stages Platt (Back Lane/Winterford Lane), Clerk to Report this to Highways for immediate repair.

In the last couple of years there have been an increase in the number of HGV's that have become stuck at the village green junction when taking the wrong turning. After the last incident the Clerk enquired with Highways whether some signage could be placed on Lower Lane before the village green to indicate the route to take. Highways have responded saying that any sign placed on an adopted highway would need to meet Traffic Signs Regulations.

Alternatively, the Parish Council could commission the AA to produce temporary signage and apply to the council for permission to site them on an adopted highway.

A sign on a lamp column would need approval from Street Lighting.

Cllr. Sime has a website link to a company that makes signs, he will circulate the link and produce a suitable design. Oulton Park could be approached with regards to funding or assisting the project.

Action – Circulate website and sign design

Cllr. Sime

Lower lane resurfacing – it was discussed that lower lane is badly in need of resurfacing. Action – clerk to email highways.

Concerns have been raised over road safety on Lower Lane and cars parking down the side of road during busy times, particularly during school pick up and drops offs, causing pedestrians to walk around the cars into the road and there is risk that someone is going to be hit by a car. The

matter has been raised with the police who said it was a matter for the Parish Council. Councillors discussed and noted concerns, possible suggestions were discussed, including painted pavement; also that the council have implemented safety measure on that stretch of road in recent years to slow traffic – 20 mile an hour speed limit and vehicle activated sign and would look at further ideas.

Action – Contact Police and Highways to discuss responsibilities for road and highways safety and seek suggestions/ideas of what can be done to help, awaiting response.

A street light on Lower Lane has been knocked and not replaced

Action – email highways for update on repairs/replacement , now replaced

Clerk

On Oxheys lane rubbish has been dumped in the lay-by. There has been an increase in rubbish dumping and the sign stating no dumping of rubbish was now faded and illegible.

Action – email highways to request a replacement sign.

Clerk

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.

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.

Many members of the public use the lanes for recreational purposes, for example, running, walking or cycling. As the roads are narrow and often have blind bends it is very important that residents ensure they make themselves as visible as possible when out enjoying the countryside and remain vigilant to the vehicles traveling on the roads.

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.

22.07.06 Reports from Working Groups Communications

Newsletter

Phil Allcock the editor of the newsletter will stand down after the August edition after many years of dedicated and professional service, to which the Parish owe him a massive thank you. If anyone would like to now take on the role of newsletter editor, please do contact the Clerk, Lindsey via at e-mail at rushtonclerk@aol.com

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 has a reinvigorated 12 team to empty the bin weekly.

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

CwaC StreetCare Services have met Mike Wilson on site and given great advice about tree planting and wildflower planting, including the rates of seeds per square metre they apply, the methods of ground cultivation and new technology they are trailing to make the projects easier and even more environmentally friendly. This will not occur until 2023.

There is a tree that fell during the spring storms, Cllr. Shaw and Hodgson will cut the tree and burn the brush.

Nick Rayner will mow the grass at the picnic area

Anyone wishing to volunteer with the picnic area project, please contact the Clerk Lindsey at, rushtonclerk@aol.com

Youth/Social/Community

Play Zone Project

The play zone sanitiser is checked regularly to ensure it is kept topped up and signage remains in place.

The Play zone management committee are all happy to continue in their roles.

The 52-rota team is in place and working well.

The annual inspection by Creative Play is yet to be undertaken, this will happen in due time

Cllr. Vertiga will take over the Play 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 document is in the hands of the Parish Councils Solicitor who has agreed a fee of £1100 plus VAT for her work.

Ongoing liaison between the School Academy, Parish Council and legal teams will occur until the new agreement can be implemented.

Action – liaison until new agreement can be put in place.

Cllr. Thompson

The invoice for the MUGA use for the year beginning January 2021 has been sent to Eaton Primary School

The invoice for the Year beginning January 2022, will be sent shortly, this will be adjusted to include RPI as it was in January 2022.

22.07.07 Matters Arising

Jubilee events

Cllr. Thompson gave summary of events that were held over the Jubilee weekend which were very well attended in a true Jubilee spirit. This was only made possible with help of many volunteers in the village community – thanks to all those who helped Jan Freeman for chairing the organising committee, Mike and Mary Wilson for running the Saturday and Sunday activities and Declan and Anne for arranging the Friday afternoon Tea at the Drays

Jubilee Mugs – it was agreed that every child who attended the Sunday event and did a drawing for a mug will be provided a mug free of charge. Parents of Children under 16 who live in the Parish will be given the opportunity to order a mug free of charge. Mugs will be available to order for £6 for anyone else. Mugs can be ordered via the clerk by sending an email to the clerk's email address. A communication will be sent out with further details.

Tree Planting at the Picnic area – Mersey Forest Trust have presented a proposal to fund the planting of 20-30 trees, the council would need to look after long term maintenance. There was discussion about how that number of trees would fit into the picnic area, potential impact on view and local residents' considerations, and also longer-term maintenance costs that the council would have to pay for. Other options discussed were a smaller number of trees such

as 2 English oaks or expanding the fruit tree planting into a 'jubilee orchard'. Action – arrange a meeting at picnic area to look at planting sites and invite Mersey Forest along with local residents/other interested parties (Neil).

Village Celebration Feature – the jubilee committee are raising money for a village feature in celebration of the Jubilee and are looking for contributions from Jessie Hughes Hall and Parish council. So far £300 has been raised from donations from residents. after much discussion it was concluded that due to concerns over rising costs of maintenance of existing assets and commitments that the council has that currently the decision was that the council would not be contributing to the costs of the feature at this time.

22.07.08 Correspondence

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

Reporter	Date	Description	Action	
Solicitors and councillors	16/03/22 onwards	MUGA agreement update	Responded and Circulate to councillors	
Nick Rayner Contractor	06/06/2022 onwards	Cllr. Leslie met at the Picnic area to discuss a quote for mowing and maintenance, subsequent e-mail offering FOC mowing and hedge cutting for the community space	circulated	
UU	23/06/2022	Vyrnwy Aqueduct maintenance programme – planning applications will be in the process of being submitted for Eaton	Circulated	
Cheshire Constabulary	02/07/2022	Police surgeries for the remainder of 2022	Circulated, details included in agenda and placed on noticeboard	
Member of public	11/07/2022	Speed of vehicles travelling through village and lack of footpaths	circulated	
Member of public	11/07/2022	Wild Camping has become a regular occurrence at the picnic area over the last month, including all last weekend	circulated	
Member of public	11/07/2022	The sign on Lower lane indicating the route to the M6 North and South is becoming worn The 20mph sign has also become damaged	circulated	

22.07.09 Finance Matters

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

- Accounts for payment (below)

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	NET (£)	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)
Adam Keppel-Green	Yearly website hosting 2022-23	£42.00		£42.00

JHVI	Hall Hire April and May 22	£48.00	£48.00
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22.07.10 External Meeting

Oulton Park liaison Meeting is the week beginning 27th June 2022.

Resident in Little Budworth has asked for a weight limit to be applied to the local roads, Highways will not apply limits to the local roads beyond the '7.5tonne limit except for access', this does not apply to agricultural vehicles.

Oulton Park have renovated West Lodge which is now available for rent, minimum of 4 night hire, £1500 for 2 couples.

Next Oulton Park meeting is 12th October.

22.07.11 Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 20th 2022 at 7:30pm at the Jessie Hughes Village Hall.

22.07.12 Any Other Business

Cllr. Hodgson, a broadband meeting will be held, 9th August at Utkinton Village Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:30pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____