

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RUSHTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**held at the Jessie Hughes Village Hall**  
**on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2022 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllrs. Neil Thompson, Ed Shaw, Phil Hodgson, Olga Vertiga, Graham Sime,

**In Attendance:**

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

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

**22.06.02      Minutes**

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the Annual Parish meeting of the 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022 be agreed and signed.

**Proposed:** Cllr. Shaw

**Seconded:** Cllr. Hodgson

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the AGM meeting of the 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022 be agreed and signed.

**Proposed:** Cllr. Sime

**Seconded:** Cllr. Shaw

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022 be agreed and signed.

**Proposed:** Cllr. Hodgson

**Seconded:** Cllr. Sime

**22.06.03      Public Speaking Time**

None

**22.06.04      Planning Matters**

1- To note planning decisions.

None

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

None

**22.06.05      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.

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.

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. Both have been 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** **Cllrs Thompson, Leslie, Hinchliffe and Vertiga**

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.
- local resident had raised a road safety concern about lower lane and cars parking down the side of road during busy times, particularly during school pick up and drops offs, which is causing pedestrians to walk around the cars into the road and there is risk that someone is going to be hit by a car. They also said that they had raised the matter to the police and they had 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 – Clerk to email Police to ask why they have said it is the Parish Council’s responsibility when our understanding was that road/highways safety was the responsibility of police and highways. Also to ask for suggestions/ideas of what can be done to help
- Action – clerk to email highways to share concerns raised and ask for ideas, suggestions
- Oxheys lane lay-by rubbish.- Cllr. Vertiga raised that there has been an increase in rubbish dumping and the sign stating no dumping of rubbish was now faded and illegible. Action – clerk to email highways to request a replacement sign.
- Manhole cover dislodged on winterford lane just as you leave village
  - Action – clerk to email highways
- Lower lane street light has been knocked over several weeks ago and not replaced Action – clerk to email highways for update on repairs/replacement

#### 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.

#### 22.06.06 Reports from Working Groups Communications

##### **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. The fruit trees have been pruned.

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

Cllr. Shaw will approach both Jamie Wright and Nick Rayner to give quotes for mowing the grass every other week.

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.

StreetCare may be able to assist with the emptying of the bin, this may incur a regular cost, so would need consideration.

There is also a tree that fell during the recent storms, StreetCare were asked about removal of the tree, this would only be possible if the tree was overhanging a road. Cllr. Shaw and Hodgson will cut the tree and burn the brash.

Cllr. Shaw will also spray the ragwort and docks at the picnic area, he has the certificates for using a knapsack.

The StreetCare Team have also give valuable contacts of organisations who can potentially offer trees to community groups free of charge and others who have Cheshire apples and pears. Planting will occur in Autumn.

CwaC used to empty the bin. Clerk has e-mail StreetCare regarding the possibility of emptying the bin and gaining a quote for mowing, no response has been received.

Mike Wilson has spoken with a company regarding the mowing of the picnic area and the clerk has e-mailed Nick Rayner. Mike Wilson continues to cut the grass during the process of clarifying a long term solution.

picnic area hedges have been cut – thanks to Cllr. Shaw;

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

## **Youth/Social/Community**

### **Play Zone Project**

The play zone sanitiser is checked regularly to ensure it is kept topped up, a new sanitizer has been purchased. Signage is 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.

A Spring Clean at the Play Zone, Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 4pm till 7pm and Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 10am till 12 was successful.

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.

## **22.06.07    Matters Arising**

1. Jubilee events

- Overall events of Jubilee weekend – Neil 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, in particular, 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 that mug free of charge. Parents of Children U16 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 – Neil presented an update that the Mersey Forest Trust have presented a proposal to fund the planting of 20-30 trees but 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 – Neil presented an update that the organising committee of the jubilee were 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.

### **22.06.08 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>	
Solicitors and councillors	16/03/22 onwards	MUGA agreement update	Responded and Circulate to councillors	
Member of the public	20/05/2022	Verge at Whalley Drive has been ‘ploughed’ and prepared for something, previously had wildflowers. Emails circulated and Cllr Moore-Dutton confirmed CWaC sowing wildflowers at site	Circulated and responded	
Zurich	23/05/2022-onwards	Correspondence regarding whether PC needed any additional cover for Jubilee celebrations. Committee and RA producers should have additional cover.	Clerk confirmed no further cover needed by PC	
Creative Play	25/05/2022	Equipment Failure – Replacement FOC delivery due 07/06/2022. To	Circulated	

		be installed by PC and volunteers		
Clerk	26/05/2022	Confirmation that village green bed has been weeded and planted ahead of Jubilee celebrations	Circulated	
Clerk	30/05/2022	Volunteers from the Gardening Group weeded the Play Zone, in a couple of weeks this will be repeated, and plants added to fill the gaps remaining	Circulated	
Member of Public	03/06/2022	Removed brambles from around the road sign at Hall Lane/Lower Lane junction, bolt is missing from the sign which is now being held up by brambles alone	Clerk to e-mail Highways	
Drays	06/06/2022	Confirmation that the Drays Coffee Shop has raised £102.50 for the Play Zone through sales of apple juice	Replied with much thanks and circulated e-mail	
Nick Rayner Contractor	06/06/2022	Will meet Cllr. Leslie at the Picnic area to give quote for mowing and maintenance	circulated	
JHVI	09/06/22	Committee meeting. Surcharging of electricity causing fuses to trip, if happens call a committee member to rectify Electricity surcharge cost will be halves for summer months to £1 an hour	Circulated	

Correspondence - wildflower planting area – concerns raised about why that area was chosen and how untidy it looks. Action – clerk to email and ask why that area was chosen; also could the council and residents be consulted before another area is chosen?

#### **22.06.09 Finance Matters**

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

- Accounts for payment (below)

<b>PAYEE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>NET (£)</b>	<b>VAT (£)</b>	<b>TOTAL (£)</b>
Cheshire Community Action	Yearly membership 2022-23	£20.00		£20.00
L Worrall	Q 1 Expenses	£207.97	£29.48	£237.46
L Worrall	Q1 Salary	£930.00		£930.00

#### **22.06.10 External Meeting**

Oulton Park liaison Meeting is the week beginning 27<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

#### **22.06.11 Next Meeting**

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 7:30pm at the Jessie Hughes Village Hall.

**22.06.12    Any Other Business**

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

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

DRAFT