

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RUSHTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
held at the JESSIE HUGHES VILLAGE HALL on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at 7:30pm

**Present:** Cllrs. Arthur Nicholas, Neil Thompson, Graham Sime, Eddie Shaw, Mike Wilson, Emma Leslie, Amy Markham

**In Attendance:** Lindsey Worrall (Clerk),

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

**Resolved:** that Cllr. Markham has a personal and prejudicial interest in Planning application 19/00309/FUL.

**19.03.02 Minutes**

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the 19<sup>th</sup> February 2019 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

**Proposed:** Cllr. Wilson

**Seconded:** Cllr. Nicholas

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the Extra-Ordinary meeting of the 24<sup>th</sup> February 2019 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

**Proposed:** Cllr. Wilson

**Seconded:** Cllr. Thompson

**19.03.03 Public Speaking Time**

**19.03.04 Matters Arising**

**The trees on the green.**

Permission from Cheshire West and Chester Council has been received to enable this essential maintenance work to be undertaken. The work is scheduled for March or early April weather permitted.

**Action- Liaise with tree surgeon**

**Clerk**

**Vehicle Activated Sign**

Cllrs. Sime and Wilson will inspect the Vehicle Activated Sign and remove the solar panel, once this has been undertaken Cllr. Sime will be able to advise on the cost of a new panel and whether a new battery is also required.

**Action – Inspect VAS and solar panel**

**Cllrs. Sime and Wilson**

**Local Elections**

The local elections occur on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, every 4 years the Parish Councillors are elected in as councillors. Each standing councillor will need to complete an application form.

- On Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March the application forms will be received.
- On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March the Notice of Election will be advertised.
- Between Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March and Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April Applications can be delivered to CWaC, these need to be delivered by appointment so they can be checked.
- If more than 7 people apply, Rushton Parish Council will be ‘a contested’ Parish at which point the last seat will be voted upon at the election on 2<sup>nd</sup> May.
- After this date the clerk will receive a ‘Statement of Persons Elected Notice’. This will inform the council who are the new sitting councillors.

Councillors, their proposer and seconder need to be on the electoral register (And the proposer and seconder need to live within the Parish). If you are not already registered you have till Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April to do so, the deadline for postal and proxy applications is Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April.

To find out more, there is a wealth of guidance on Parish and Community Elections on The Electoral Commission Website.

**Any member of the public can apply to be a councillor if they are eligible. If you are interested in becoming a councillor or wish to find out more information please go to the Electoral Commission website or contact the parish clerk, Lindsey Worrall by e-mail at [rushtonclerk@aol.com](mailto:rushtonclerk@aol.com)**

Cllr. Nicholas has decided after 14 years of being a councillor that it is time to stand down, Arthur has been a valued member of the Parish Council and his input will be highly missed.

### **19.03.05      Planning Matters**

#### **1- To note planning decisions.**

None

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

##### **19/00309/FUL**

Proposal – Extension to existing property, and construction of new garage and stable.

Location – Spinney Cottage, Lower Lane, Eaton, CW6 9AN

Within the Design, Access and Planning Statement that accompanied the application form it detailed the extension as Single Storey (Section 3.2) with a living space, lounge, ground floor WC and kitchen diner. Other than plans and drawings (Proposed Floor Plan) there were no details of the upstairs master bedroom or the basement room within the application form or the design, Access or Planning Statement. The siting of the master bedroom and single storey extension is centrally sited from the existing property within this new application, which is very varied from the previous granted application 17/03903/FUL, and sites the extension in a slightly different location.

There is no size or height of the development for either the property or garage and stable within either the application form or Design, Access and Planning Statement or plans supplied. Within the 'Proposed Plans and Evaluations Drawings' the stable also appears to have stairs up to a first floor, there are no details within either the application form or Design, Access and Planning Statement regarding this, or its potential use.

The field where the garage and stable are to be located is potentially of agricultural nature at the moment, this may require a change of use to enable the building of equestrian stables upon it.

Rushton Parish Council believe the extension to the property is in-keeping with the local area and will not interfere with the existing properties, but the aspects raised above need clarification.

### **19.03.06      Highways**

#### **30mph extension along Eaton Lane**

Not all motorists using Eaton Lane remain within the speed limit. The road has numerous concealed entrances and bends which make the road a greater danger.

The current speed limit on Eaton Lane from Cotebrook into the village is 40mph, it would be safer if this was reduced to 30mph. Reducing the speed is very unlikely as the density of houses does not match that required for a 30mph speed area.

Cheshire Constabulary have undertaken speed checks on three separate occasions on Eaton Lane, these have shown that there are vehicles going over the speed limit at various time of the day but especially rush hour.

A meeting with the Highways Department during December has led to Highways agreeing to refresh some of the road markings within the village. It was agreed that the parish council would prepare a plan for the village and hold a meeting to look at proposals to enhance the signage at the entrance to the village, including gates or planters, plus all other outstanding Highway issues. A further meeting with Highways will then take place once the Parish Council have finalised the proposals they wish to put forward.

**Action- Liaise with Highways including a meeting, Cheshire Constabulary and look at ways to enhance the signage in the village**

**Cllr. Leslie, Wilson and Clerk**

#### **Potholes**

Some potholes have been infilled along Royal Lane and Eaton Lane, these are poor quality repairs rather than permanent repairs.

**Lower Lane** is scheduled to be re-surfaced. Scottish Power also plan to undertake works on Lower Lane to place the overhead cable underground, the Clerk has contacted Scottish Power for an update as to when works will begin. Once a timescale of SP Energies works the Clerk will liaise with Highways.

The clerk has met with the contactors who will be undertaking the works, they were unable to give timescales and suggested SP would be best to advise. A representative of Scottish Power has made contact but no details given so far.

**Action- Liaise with SP and Highways**

**Clerk**

### **20mph zone**

The 20mph zone has now been extended to include parts of Royal Lane, Lightfoot Lane and Sapling Lane, the whole of The Green and Lower Lane. Signs are in place and the 20mph speed limit is in place. Driving through the village towards Cotebrook, the speed changes from 20mph to 30mph at the village green, some residents are now experiencing vehicles accelerating out of the village centre past their properties. This will be taken up with Highways.

**Action – liaise with Highways**

**Cllr. Leslie, Wilson and Clerk**

**The 30mph sign on Eaton Lane**, the poles are leaning into the road, the signs are becoming damaged, one in particular has become so damaged it has a hole in it, this will need replacement. Following the meeting with Highways it was decided that that the poles need to be moved to prevent this occurring again. The movement of poles will require advertising to comply with legislation. It is hoped that this will be completed by the end of the financial year.

**Action – liaise with Highways**

**Clerk**

### **Cross**

The Road Safety Team prepared a series of options including signs, road markings and vehicle activated signs. Following the meeting with Highways in December it has been decided that the Parish Council will re-address the proposals and determine the proposal we wish to put forward. Representatives of the Highways Dept. have recommended that the road marking should be re-painted, no dates have been given for this.

**Action – liaise with Highways**

**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**

- The fingerpost sign From Hickhurst Lane to Dogmore Lane has been Knocked around so the sign now to Wettehall now points down Kings Lane.
- On Dogmore Lane at the bend opposite Parkgate Cottage drive, the road is giving way, it has been built up three times by the Highways Dept. and now the water runs the wrong way. There is approximately 35% lying water on the road, half a foot deep. To rectify this a drain needs to be placed down the roadside or new road surface.
- On Eaton Lane, after the Lodge there have been three accidents since September with cars going into the field hedge. The last one was very close to a tree.
- Oulton Mill Lane, a section of hedge approximately 80 metres in length has been removed from a field up to the road. Two accidents have occurred with cars going off the road as they were unable to see the bend in the snow. A marker or signage is required to make the road safe.
- On Winterford Lane a short distance down from the village, there appears to be a blocked drain, the road is a least half covered in water.
- Eaton Lane by the Red Lion development site, drain is blocked under the road and flooding the road.
- Sapling Lane, drain appears to be blocked causing water to run across the road.

## **19.03.07 Reports from Working Groups**

### **Communications**

#### **Superfast Broadband**

#### **Connecting Cheshire Broadband**

Most of the village now has access to Superfast Broadband with speeds up to 100mb, there are a few properties that are not yet possible to connect, and works will continue to provide more secure broadband to these premises.

Works are proposed for the 5<sup>th</sup> April fort Oxheys Lane and Winterford Lane to upgrade the network. There are a few residents who are struggling to get connections.

To determine whether you can access superfast broadband go to [openreach.co.uk](http://openreach.co.uk)

Once broadband is available at your property, the customer can contact the service provider to arrange connection.

Connecting Cheshire have painted a sign onto the paving by the noticeboard advertising Fibre Broadband. Connecting Cheshire have reassured Rushton Parish Council that this marking is part of a 'Clean Ad' that is created using nothing but water and the removal of surface dirt. They do not mark or inscribe upon the highway and the ads typically last a couple of weeks before they wear away with dirt naturally being applied back to the clean area.

## **Development/Planning/Environment**

### **Oulton Mill Picnic Area Project.**

Finances: Mike Wilson and Clerk Lindsey are confirming the balance figures, but it is in the region of £1,800 from the Awards for all grant left and the full £1,000 from the Tesco grant still to be spent. Mike has drafted out a budget of how the £1,800 could be spent.

School Project: Will take place in Spring 2019. A balance of how the £1,000 (Tesco Grant) would be spent has been prepared in case Tesco require this.

The long tree trunk: has been made into seating for the school project, thank you to Martin Boardman for undertaking this.

The CWAC sign: has been taken down by Mike Wilson and has been amended to display Rushton Parish Council.

The Wild Meadow Area for the school project and mini apple orchard has been marked out by Mike Wilson and is in an arc to make it mower friendly. The area that will be planted needs to have the top soil scrapped away.

Cllr. Wilson, Cllr Moore Dutton & Clerk met on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March with Martin Boardman to look at what is required to prepare the wildflower & tree areas. Martin Boardman has sprayed the area and prior to planting the area will be rotavated.

All the fruit trees have been planted into the wild flower area.

Entrance Gate has a steep slope which Cllrs. Shaw and Nicholas have partially filled. This will be completed during March.

School involvement the next meeting with the primary school will be on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March followed by a site visit with children and parents/guardians on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March when the wildflower seed will be sown.

A risk assessment will be required to ensure it is safe for children to go onto the picnic area to help the Parish Council. A Duty of Care document will need to be signed by both the school and the Parish Council. An alternative is to invite parents and children which would require a different risk assessment process which would be much simpler.

A general waste bin has been given to Rushton Parish Council for the Picnic Area, unfortunately it didn't have a key, a free key has been sent from the manufacturer. The bin was damaged when it was received, very kindly David Bloor of DWB Engineering has fabricated a base onto the bin to ensure it can be safely secured at the picnic area.

The Safety of the Copse needs to be assessed – clerk to contact Martin Boardman

Nitrogen Oxide canisters have been found at both the picnic area and the play zone, they cause dizziness and a five-minute-high, using such 'mini highs' could lead to a increase in drug use. If any canisters are found in the parish, please report them to a parish councillor or to the parish clerk at [rushtonclerk@aol.com](mailto:rushtonclerk@aol.com)

## **Youth/Social/Community**

### **Play Zone Project**

The MUGA netting has been repaired.

MUGA is being well used, the committee is aware that the floor will only have 10-15-year, lifespan and may need maintenance during that time. The 52 Team is working well.

### **Youth Club**

Numbers remain good with up to 40-45 juniors and 15-20 seniors attending.

Due to the youth club's popularity more volunteers are needed to help run the club, a rota like the play zone 52 rota has been suggested, if this cannot be arranged, the number of children attending will need to be capped at 30, this is to ensure the adequate number of trained first aiders and helpers are available.

If you would like to volunteer, please e-mail the Parish Clerk Lindsey Worrall at [rushtonclerk@aol.com](mailto:rushtonclerk@aol.com)

A first aid kit has been purchased for the youth club.

### **Transport Survey**

The transport survey has been undertaken, a meeting will now be held to understand the findings. Those that most need the services don't know what is available or how best to use the services.

### **Rose Farm Shop Transport**

Currently Rose Farm Shop provide a mini bus service for Tarporley residents once a week to use all the facilities including;

Post Office

Café

Farm Shop (butchery, deli and fresh produce)

Gift shop

Florist

Rose Farm Shop are thinking of extending this service to neighbouring villages eg. Kelsall, Tarvin, **Eaton** and Bunbury.

If you know someone who would benefit from this service, call 01829 732978

### **Best Kept Village**

Ahead of this year's Best Kept Village Competition, the Parish Council are ensuring the areas that we didn't excel in last year are rectified. Wyevale Garden Centre have very kindly donated two Box ball plants to be placed at the entrance to the Jessie Hughes Village Hall.

### **19.03.08 External Meetings**

Oulton Park Liaison Group was held on 28<sup>th</sup> February, this year's villagers day will be on 7<sup>th</sup> July.

### **19.03.09 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>
Member of public	04/03/19	Connecting Cheshire have painted a sign onto the paving by the noticeboard advertising Fibre Broadband	Photos passed to chair.
Member of public	13/03/19	Very poor Broadband even though centrally located within the village, and Openreach claim not entitled to apply for Fibre as too far from distribution box	Chair and Openreach liaising to resolve the issue

### **19.03.10 Finance Matters**

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

#### **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

<b>PAYEE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>NET (£)</b>	<b>VAT (£)</b>	<b>TOTAL (£)</b>
Miss L Worrall	Q4 Salary	£803.40		£803.40
Miss L Worrall	Q4 Expenses	£14.71	£2.24	£16.95
Mr M Wilson	Picnic Area Project expenses	£191.76	£21.56	£213.32
Mr M Wilson	Youth Club supplies and First aid kit	£67.90		£67.90
Arthur J. Gallagher Insurance Brokers Ltd	Youth Club Insurance	£122.74		£122.74

### **19.03.11 Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at 7:30pm in the Jessie Hughes Village Hall

### **19.03.12 Any Other Business**

**There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:00pm.**

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

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