

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RUSHTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**held at the Jessie Hughes Village Hall**  
**on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7.30pm**

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

**In Attendance:** Lindsey Worrall (Clerk), Charles Hardy (Ward Councillor), Mike Wilson, Nick and Wendy Parker, John Freeman, Penny Musgrove and Mike Scott

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

**Resolved:** that the apologies from Cllr. Vertija be received and accepted.

**Resolved:** that Cllr. Shaw has a pecuniary interest in Planning application 22/02503/FUL.

**Resolved:** that Cllr. Leslie has a pecuniary interest in Planning application 24/00190/FUL.

**24.03.02      Minutes**

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024 to be agreed and signed.

**Proposed:** Cllr. Sime

**Seconded:** Cllr. Shaw

**24.03.03      Public Speaking Time**

Nick Parker representing members of the village, John Earl commissioned a report by SCP to address the Transport Technical Note recently supplied by the applicant for planning application 23/0034/OUT, land opposite Baytree cottage. Residents are asking the Parish Council to pay the £525 plus VAT for the report as it is seen as being beneficial for the entire community.

There was an incident in the recent roadworks involving a tractor and trailer and a vehicle, Nick felt it showed the road to be narrow, car speeding and the planning application is for an inappropriate development.

Photographs of the small amount of property damage could be used to show the narrow road, and the increasing risk of incidents and hazards with increased drive numbers.

Traffic count undertaken.

The technical note produced for the applicant says there have been no accidents for a long time, but residents have photographic evidence on numerous incidents over the years.

Village Green

Scottish Power works have made a mess of the village green, dug up grass and bulbs carefully planted by residents. Parish Council to ask for reinstatement and also funding towards curbing.

Lower Lane resurfacing, now Scottish Power works undertaken, lower lane from school to village green can be resurfaced. Clerk to contact Highways

**24.03.04**

**To review the draft budget for 2024-25**

**The budget was reviewed and will be re-assessed at the April meeting**

**24.03.05      Planning Matters**

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

None

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

**23/01876/LDC**

**Proposal:** Existing use of land as a domestic garden

**Location:** Brownhills, Brownhills Road, Rushton, Tarporley, CW6 9BQ

The plans supplied appeared confusing and difficult to read along with the photographic evidence supplied.

The Parish Council require more information on the area marked blue on title deed CH170667.

Visit was undertaken on 28<sup>th</sup> February. Clear on site that the land was domestic garden.

The Parish Council has No Objection to this Planning Application

Proposed – Cllr. Shaw

Seconded – Cllr. Leslie

**23/03359/FUL**

**Location-** Carters Croft, Sapling Lane, Eaton, Tarporley, CW6 9AE

**Proposal** – Single Storey rear extension and storm porch to front, alterations to and addition of windows and doors, render. Widening of existing vehicular access gateway and driveway area, photovoltaic panels.

This is a large planning application with many aspects, care has been taken to ensure its in-keeping with the property and village, the extension will not be visible from the road or village and the changes to the driveway will ensure safety when entering or exiting the currently narrow drive.

As trees will be removed from the front to enable the drive alterations, it is suggested that a scheme of replanting is undertaken.

The plans do not appear to show the locations of the solar panels, which the Parish Council would like to see prior to making full comment.

Comments given in November 2023,

The Parish Council has No Objection to this Planning Application

Proposed – Cllr. Thompson

Seconded – Cllr. Vertija

Solar panel details received March 2024.

Emphasis that street scene to be kept and a scheme of tree planting is required to replant those lost in the drive remodelling.

Confirm this re-consultation is just for the solar panel siting, nothing else altered on the application

**22/02503/FUL**

**Location-** Land at Oulton Mill lane, Rushton, Tarporley

**Proposal** -Engineering works and construction of hardstanding associated with the agricultural development approved under 21/00145/AGR (retrospective)

Parish Council have previously commented on this application, planning officer has contacted the parish council to ask whether it is still necessary for the application to be determined by full council.

Any change of use would require a new planning application

The hedging along the roadside is not a planning matter, the applicant has planted leylandii, mixed native hedging would be more environmentally and wildlife friendly but grows slower.

The trailers on site will be removed.

**Action -**

Once the curtain sided trailers are removed from site the planning officer will remove the 'calling-in' to full council, if the trailers remain on site, action can be taken to ensure they are removed, All councillors present agreed.

Proposed – Cllr. Hodgson

Seconded – Cllr. Sime

Further to this, the planning officer has contacted the Clerk to explain that the applicant does not own the land, they incorrectly completed the application form which has made it invalid and therefore the application has been returned to the Enforcement team.

Item to be removed from agenda until planning Dept makes further contact with Clerk.

Enforcement Report received detailing that trailers and hardstanding must be removed from site.

#### **24/00034/OUT**

**Location-** Land opposite Baytree House, Royal Lane Tarporley,

**Proposal** – Erection of up to two self-build custom houses with access and layout included, and matters of scale, appearance, and landscaping reserved for future consideration.

The Parish Council **Objects** to this Planning Application

Proposed – Cllr. Vertija

Seconded – Cllr. Sime

The full comments can be seen on a separate document.

During public speaking, residents asked for a report to be paid for by the Parish Council.

Councillors pointed out that, during the village meeting there were no promises of money given, that by paying for this report the Parish Council could be asked to pay for reports during similar future planning applications (setting a president).

The parish Council should have been approached before the consultants were appointed.

The Parish Council, when spending public funds need to obtain three quotes prior to instructing any contractor (Governance).

**Question** – Councillors have been asked to pay £525+VAT for a report commissioned by residents to answer/address the Technical note submitted by the applicant for the above planning application

In Favour of covering cost/ give contribution – Cllr. Leslie

Against – Cllrs. Thompson, Shaw, Sime, Hodgson

#### **24/00299/CAT**

**Location-** Carters Croft, Sapling Lane, Eaton, Tarporley, CW6 9AE

**Proposal** – Removal of approximately 60 to 70 trees situated across the grounds of Carters Croft and the field to the south. 2x mature maple trees in garden - reduce in height by 3.5 to 4 metres, along with the radial branches by up to 3 metres. 1x cypress - which screens an electrical transformer and 11kV overhead powerline (in the adjacent field) would be reduced in height by approximately 4 metres.

The parish council would like to understand the rational behind clearing an entire section of garden of trees and therefore removing these efficient carbon sinks and oxygen producers from the village.

The Parish Council understands and supports the removed of trees within the 3D category of Dead, dying or diseased, the safety around Scottish Power cables and transformer is understandable and accepted as is the need to maintain trees for heath and shape by height reduction and thinning for reduction of wind sail.

The Parish Council would like to be able to see the Tree surgeons report that has been very heavily redacted, as at this point there is no understanding to the reasons why this amount of tree removal needs to be undertaken or could be justified.

The Parish Council **Objects** to this Planning Application

Proposed – Cllr. Vertija

Seconded – Cllr. Sime

#### **24/00700/CAT**

**Location-** Carters Croft, Sapling Lane, Eaton, Tarporley, CW6 9AE

**Proposal – Removal of approximately 60 to 70 trees situated across the grounds of Carters Croft and the field**

**Check details**

The Parish Council objects to this planning application for loss of habitat, change of the village outlook, and view and loss of shelter and noise filtering properties the trees bring

The Parish Council **Objects** to this Planning Application

Proposed – Cllr. Leslie

Seconded – Cllr. Sime

**24/00190/FUL**

**Location-** Roman View, Sapling Lane, Rushton, Tarporley CW6 9AE

**Proposal** – Operational development following approval of application 22/03903/PDR (Part 3 Class R of the Town and Country Planning (GDPO) 2015 (as amended).

The planning application **has already been granted permission** under Part 3 Class R of the Town and Country Planning 2015. they have permission for an Aparthotel, which is a short or long term let.

The application under consideration is the internal layout, its a three bed with ensuite and downstairs there is a kitchen/diner and a lounge.

The Parish Council **Supports** this Planning Application

Proposed – Cllr. Sime

Seconded – Cllr. Hodgson

**24.03.06      Highways**

**Outstanding Road Safety Issues from Previous Meetings**

a. Highways Issues

village entry signs images have been previously circulated of designs that could be used for the village entrances. All councillors have looked at these and discussion held.

The design and pricing of both the gates and signs has been obtained, before going ahead with this project the Parish Council has liaised with Highways.

Jerry Gibbs of Highways has clarified the licences required for working on highways land. Highways confirmed that Rushton Parish Council own the signs and can update, maintain them as long as appropriate licences in place to do so.

During discussion of signs being designed by other Parish Councils, Cllr Shaw asked whether some or all of the signs should read 'Rushton and Eaton' if approaching Rushton and 'Eaton and Rushton' if approaching Eaton.

Councillors will review details and assess funding avenues.

Clerk to liaise with Little Budworth and Utkinton and Cotebrook Parish Council's regarding their new signs.

All councillors to undertake research prior to the February meeting.

**Actions – prepare proposal and continue liaison with Highways      Cllrs Sime, Leslie and Vertiga.**

Purchase sign for direction to M6 north and South for placement near village green – Cllr. Leslie has undertaken a lot of work on this and selected the most appropriate sign for purchase.

Councillors present an A frame sign was most suitable and Cllr Leslie could purchase.

**Action** – sign selected and Cllr Leslie to purchase      **Cllrs. Sime, Leslie and Vertija**

Sapling Lane

To enable the United Utilities maintenance work to be undertaken Sapling Lane will be closed for 4-6 weeks between May and July 2024.

## b. Road Safety Matters

The Parish Council are awaiting feedback and clarification from highways on several matters

1. 20 MPH signs - Highways have confirmed that the 20mph sign on Royal Lane will be moved to incorporate the Jessie Hughes Village Hall. The Clerk has asked for a timescales for this work. The 20mph on Eaton Lane is in the incorrect location, going from 20mph in the centre of the village to 30mph and then 40mph heading towards Cotebrook, it is apparent this does not occur in other villages and the Clerk has asked for the 20mph to be extended. Highways have confirmed that to move the 20mph sign to incorporate the Jessie Carpark will require Highways to follow a TTRO process and readvertise, with consultation. This process will take until the new financial year.
  2. VAS On Lower Lane – is a community initiative to slow traffic on a narrow lane with no footpaths next to the busy primary school, unfortunately the VAS was on private land and had to be removed, the unit has been safely stored and the pole has been removed by contractors with 'Street licence' to work on a Highway. The Parish Council has worked with the Ward Councillor, Highways and the public and have now secured a new location, the pole has been refitted and the VAS unit is undergoing maintenance before it is reinstalled.
  3. The Oulton Mill Lane sign, located by the Picnic area was hit and damaged in the autumn 2022, the damage was reported to Highways at the time but no actions taken. The sign has now disappeared (summer 2023). Clerk has reported this to Highways and a works order placed but no timescales for the replacement have been given. The sign has now re-appeared but is very damaged and dangerous, clerk to report to Highways.
  4. Hall lane, the speed signs are facing the wrong way and need turning correctly, Clerk has reported this to Highways who will adjust the signage.
  5. Lower lane, has no road markings in some areas due to the narrow nature of the road. Parish Clerk, Highways will undertake new line paintings in due course.'
  6. The road sign on the corner of Hickhurst and Dogmore Lane is broken, a works order is in place.
  7. The road sign on the corner of Dogmore and Kings Lane is broken, a works order is in place.
  8. The 30mph signs on Eaton lane are the wrong way around
  9. The signs on Hall Lane are the wrong way around
  10. Oulton mill lane to Cotebrook junction, visibility is very poor
  11. Winterford Lane, large pothole appeared over a drain cover.
  12. Cllr Hardy has contacted Highways regarding Hickhurst Lane and Kings Lane but has been told that aesthetics of a road are not an issue.
- Items 7-11 to be reported to Highways buy Clerk.

## 24.03.07 Reports from Working Groups Communications

### **Newsletter**

Thank you to Mike for his editorship and circulation. Mike will continue to undertake this role for this year, but to assist him a printer would be useful as the 70 copies created each quarter is time consuming. Mike will discuss this with the Jessie Hughes and it will appear on the agenda of the April meeting.

Editor role is still vacant. 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](mailto:rushtonclerk@aol.com)

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

The Picnic Area bin has now being emptied by Street Scene. The site is being used regularly. Nick Rayner mows the grass every two weeks through the growing season and has cut the hedges.

Thank you for your continued support in keeping this community asset looking beautiful for the parish and visitors from afar.

All councillors agreed that 4 fruit trees should be purchased and planted in the picnic area this year.

The picnic area is suffering a mole issue, previously a mole catcher was employed but all his mole traps were stolen, at the moment the moles will not be controlled.

The Parish Council and local birds would like to thank the mystery person who fills the bird feeders at the entrance to the picnic area.

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**

Climbing frame needs attention, Olga to contact Creative Play regarding damage.

The 52 team are working well and we thank everyone involved in keeping the Play Zone a well maintained and enjoyable space for the children of the Parish.

### **Broadband**

The Broadband for Hall Lane and outer areas of the Parish will be installed by the end of April.

Along Kings Lane, the poles were removed 15 years ago, but no ducting put in place, 21 poles will now need installation, which will include 2 poles at the start of Kings lane and then underground to Park Wall, whilst Brownhills requires 4 poles,

#### **Dates of road closures to ensure works can occur**

**Kings Lane -5-9<sup>th</sup> Feb**

**Hickhurst Lane 19-27<sup>th</sup> Feb 2024**

Rushton Lane was due to be closed 15-19<sup>th</sup> Jan, but the company that advertises the closures, forgot to advertise the closure in time. The closure of Hickhurst Lane was not advertised to East Cheshire Council and therefore these two roads will be closed at a latter date to allow the advertising period to be concluded.

Well done to everyone who has worked hard to get this project off the ground.

### **Village Cross**

Thank you to Brenda, Bernard and Mick who recently cleared the village cross ready for this years floral display.

### **Oulton Park Resident Passes**

The last date for registering for Oulton park Passes is Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April. To apply for your pass you will need to attend in person and bring:

- two passport photographs of yourself
- a utility bill or bank statement dated within the last three months with your name on as proof of address
- passport or driving licence as identity
- a print out showing eligibility from [freemaptools.com](http://freemaptools.com) (Criteria is living within 1 mile of circuit)

## **Matters Arising**

### **Councillor Vacancy**

The councillor vacancy remains within the Parish,

Anyone interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, please contact the Clerk, Lindsey Worrall at [rushtonclerk@aol.com](mailto:rushtonclerk@aol.com)

### **24.03.08 Correspondence**

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

Reporter	Date	Description	Action	
Residents	02/02/24 onwards	Planning application opp baytree Cottage	To be discussed in village meeting	
LB PC		Little Budworth signs and funding to achieve them		
Highways Notification		Kings lane Closure on 6 <sup>th</sup> March Moss Hall Lane closure on 6 <sup>th</sup> Hickhurst lane closure for 6 <sup>th</sup> March Beech lane closure 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Circulated	
Member of public	04/03/24	Snowdrops have been split on the village green, more will be split when weather and opportunity allows	Circulated	
Members of the public	05/03/24	Eaton Lane Roadworks, no advance signage of road closure	Highways notified	
Highways Transport	06/03/24	What constitutes a busy road		
Highways	08/03/24	Advanced signage will be displayed on eaton lane		
Members of the public	09/03/24	Traffic lights only in one direction, barriers in other direction and being removed, very poor diversion signage	Highways notified again of the poor traffic management	

#### **24.03.09 Finance Matters**

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

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	NET (£)	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)
L Worrall	Q4 Salary	£971.30		£971.30
L Worrall	Back Pay	£682.48		£682.48
L Worrall	Q4 Expenses	£26.63	£5.34	31.97
JHVI	Hall Hire Jan and Feb 24	£42.00		£42.00
Adam Keppel-Green	Website hosting Nov 22-nov 23	£42.00		£42.00
Adam Keppel-Green	Website hosting fee Nov 23-nov 24	£44.00		£44.00

#### **24.03.10 External Meeting**

#### **24.03.11 Any Other Business**

##### **Eaton Village Police Surgeries**

May 10<sup>th</sup> – 12pm

June 9<sup>th</sup> – 11am

July 17<sup>th</sup> – 5pm

Aug 17<sup>th</sup> – 6pm

Sept 5<sup>th</sup> – 3pm

Oct 25<sup>th</sup> – 10-am

Nov 8<sup>th</sup> – 5pm

Dec 14<sup>th</sup> – 11am

**24.03.12    Next Meeting**

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7:30pm at the Jessie Hughes Village Hall.

**The meeting closed at 21:20pm.**

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

DRAFT