

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RUSHTON PARISH COUNCIL
held at the Jessie Hughes Village Hall
on Tuesday 18th March 2025 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs. Emma Leslie Graham Sime, Ed Shaw, Phil Hodgson, Paul Chrisp,
In Attendance: Lindsey Worrall (Clerk), and Mike Wilson.

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

Resolved: that the apologies from Cllrs. Vertija, Thompson and Hardy be received and accepted.

25.03.02 **Minutes**

Resolved: that the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the 18th February 2025 to be agreed and signed.

Proposed: Cllr. Sime

Seconded: Cllr. Chrisp

25.03.03 **Public Speaking Time**

Hilary Markham

Enquiring whether an additional speed sign could be installed on lower Lane approaching the village and school, The Markham's own their verge and would happily allow the Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) to be installed. Clerk and Chair explained that installation not as simple as finding a piece of land and gaining permission. Even with private owned VAS, Highways have strict guidelines of line of sight. Clerk to ask Highways for the guidelines to enable the PC and Mr and Mrs Markham to discuss this further.

Speed sign coming into the village has been knocked around,

Mike Wilson

8 people at tea and chat asked about the works on the village green, when they would occur and what would be undertaken. Cllr. Hodgson confirmed that the contractor will undertake works once the ground is dry enough to not cause irreparable damage to the green and once the bulbs have died down.

25.03.04 **Planning Matters**

1- To note planning decisions received.

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

Notification of a Planning Appeal –

Written Representations Site Address: Spinney Cottage, Lower Lane Rushton Tarporley, CW6 9AN

Description of development: Use of land to rear of Spinney Cottage as garden.

Appellant's name: Mr J Markham

Planning or Enforcement ref: 23/00961/LDC

Planning Inspector ref: APP/A0665/X/24/3344341

Planning Inspector: Appeal reference: 24/00077/REF

Appeal start date: 19 June 2024

Comment before: 31 July 2024

The Parish Council re-iterates the Objection and comments that were previously submitted Oct 24- No further updates on the planning Portal or from CWaC Planning Dept.

Notification of a Planning Appeal –

Written Representations Site Address: Land at Spinney Cottage, Lower Lane Rushton Tarporley, CW6 9AN

Description of development: Construction of one new dwelling

Appellant's name: Mr and Mrs J Markham

Planning or Enforcement ref: 22/02768/FUL

Planning Inspector ref: APP/A0665/W/24/3351355

Planning Inspector: Appeal reference: 24/000111/REF

Appeal start date: 16 October 2024

Comment before: 20 November 2024

The Parish Council re-iterates the Objection and comments that were previously submitted

25/00291/FUL

Location- Eaton Primary School, Lower Lane, Eaton, Tarporley, CW6 9AN

Proposal – Installation of air source heat pump and sub station

Additional time has been requested and the below questions raised

Within the application an acoustic fence is details between the school and the property Spinney Cottage, what is the noise level of the heat pump proposed?

Has background noise monitoring been undertaken to determine the noise levels within the village during day and night to determine whether the noise levels will be disturbance to other residents?

If the air source pump is noisy, could other mitigation measures be put in place at source to reduce the noise?

What are the Schools plans for parking issues during the construction phase, with contractors, containers, materials and staff needing to park? It is assumed this will be a lengthy construction which will likely to take place while the school is in term time a traffic plan is required.

A staggered drop off and collection could be introduced or the operation of a one way system. If this is successful during the construction phase these measures could be adopted for all school times to reduce congestion and enable a smoother drop off and collection for the parents, staff and children.

Reply from Planning Dept. – Case Officer not yet assigned to application, e-mail from PC placed on file, PC questions to be addressed once case officer in place.

25/00319/FUL

Location- Keepers Cottage, Hickhurst Lane, Little Budworth, Tarporley, CW6 9AY

Proposal – Conversion of redundant building to dwelling

The Parish Council believe this Planning Application lies within the boundaries of Little Budworth Parish Council and therefore will allow them to comment fully on this application, any comments they make Rushton Parish Council will happily concur with.

Proposed – Cllr. Hodgson

Seconded – Cllr. Sime

Planning query

Martin Boardman has bought 24 acres close to his property, removed a tree and 12m of hedging, installed a gate and hardcore, there is also a new shed at the far corner of the field.

Mr Boardman has contacted planning for retrospective planning for the shed.

Clerk to contact planning to seek guidance for the gateway.

Brownhills, Brownhills Road, Rushton

New Driveway is being installed, does this have planning consent.

Clerk to contact planning to seek guidance.

25.03.05 Highways

Outstanding Road Safety Issues from Previous Meetings

a. Highways Issues

village entry signs and road marking at the entrances to the village, images have been previously circulated of designs of signs. All councillors have looked at these and discussion held as to the design preferences.

Clerk and Cllr. Sime has liaised with Utkinton and Cotebrook Clerk regarding the installation of the new signs within their Parish, details have been received and circulated. Pricing will be obtained from this company and liaison regarding designs.

Jerry Gibbs (Highways) 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.

Once proposal in place, to be sent to United Utilities to seek funding revenues.

Clerk to ask the artwork designer for a cost

Actions – prepare proposal and continue liaison with Highways and UU Cllrs Sime, Leslie and Vertija.

b. Road Safety Matters

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

1. The Hall lane, the speed signs are facing the wrong way and need turning correctly, Clerk has reported this, works order in place.
2. Lower lane,
Parish Council has asked for full resurfacing to be undertaken before line painting, Highways have no provision to resurface. If evidence that Highways have previously committed to road surfacing, this can be re-addressed.
Issues of cars parking outside the school have been reported, cones put in place but now damaged, grass verges are now mud. Highways asked what options available to make safer.
3. The road sign on the corner of Hickhurst and Dogmore Lane is broken, a works order is in place.
4. The road sign on the corner of Dogmore and Kings Lane is broken, a works order is in place.
5. The 30/40mph signs on Eaton Lane are the wrong way around and one missing, a works order is in place
6. Oulton mill lane to Cotebrook junction, visibility is very poor especially in large vehicles, Highways do not believe there are any safety issues with this junction
7. Eaton Lane Drainage issues Curbing project at village green, residents would like to assist in the project. Funding options to be assessed.

Theres water flowing from the telephone box down the road, Unities Utilities have confirmed it is not chlorinated and therefore not a water leak. Clerk has already reported this to Highways as a likely drainage fault, Highways believe its just water flowing from Higher Ground or even from the well. Clerk has contacted UU to ask how to proceed with this, who have confirmed there are no assets leaking within the village.

Highways have visited the site on 15th October, believe its ground water, questions have been asked to help determine source and remedial actions.

Parish Councillors attended site 23rd November to undertake initial investigatory work and engage with a drainage contractor. Subsequent dye tracing has shown that outflow by Rock Cottage is not flowing down Lower Lane and therefore not contributing to any drainage.

Scottish Power undertook works in road starting 20th January but the locations of the excavations did not give any satisfactory assistance to these investigations

Drainage Contractor has been engaged and has a satisfactory action plan to rectify the situation, no works can begin until the village green is drier, if works begin while it is wet the damage to the village green will be irreparable.

8. Beech Lane Layby has a sign which is in need of replacement, a bin would also be a great asset to the layby. A school bus was observed having to reverse as they couldn't pull out of the layby due to the concrete posts and soil that have been deposited. Bin assessment undertaken but this site does not fit the criteria, further information requested to understand how decision was taken in a conservation area. Further bin assessments will be undertaken to determine whether a bin would be of benefit. The sign has been removed, we await its return.... And the concrete posts and soil was removed since the inclement weather, but now returned.... Clerk has e-mailed Highways regarding Bin and Signage to determine outcome of the assessments.
9. Sapling Lane, water running down both sides of road, created a ravine, water running into field, dangerous if two vehicles meet as the drop off the road is deep. Some pothole repairs have been undertaken but not addressing the deep drop on either side of the road.
10. The hedge on Eaton Lane at the corner opposite the monument is overgrown, to approach homeowners to ask for the hedge to be cut back.
11. The 20mph signs on Winterford lane are the wrong way around, work order in place
12. The 20mph signs on Sapling lane are the wrong way around. Work order in place
13. Dogmore Lane fingerpost is broken, to determine ownership.

Following the Clerk reporting to Highways that the gully and drains on Winterford Lane were blocked, they have been and undertaken some investigatory works. Charles Hardy (Ward Councillor) enquired why this has been prioritised over Lower Lane.

There have been works undertaken privately on Winterford Lane to clear the ditches on both sides of the road, the spoil has been piled on either side of the road on the verges, resulting in no passing places. The amount of silt removed is quite significant and was questioned whether some of this is coming from Sapling Lane. The soil will be removed from Winterford Lane once the neighbouring fields are dry enough to get on without causing damage.

Following the last storm (Storm Darragh, Dec 2024), there is still tree debris and partial trunk and roots on Eaton Lane. The landowner will remove this once the weather dries up and the public have removed as much as they want. The trees along Eaton Road by Portal Golf Club are also being slowly removed by the landowners

Highways have a new volunteering scheme, to enable working parties to undertake voluntary work. Highways insure the scheme and supply PPE. Cllr. Chrisp to be lead coordinator and apply for the scheme. This scheme will allow residents to undertake small projects such as correct signs that have been turned by passing vehicles. Cllr Chrisp liaising with Highways and creating a priority list of projects. Cllr. Chrisp will take some of the items listed above for the volunteer scheme.

The VAS on Eaton Lane, the SIM will no longer be supported by the company who supplied it, to fully operate the VAS a new SIM will be needed, Cllr Sime to coordinate.

The Grit boxes have not been refilled this year, Clerk to report to CWaC as there is still many weeks of winter left.

Road Markings and signage

United Utilities working with Cheshire West and Chester Council will undertake a programme of repairs to road markings that have become faded, along with replacing some speed signage that have become dislodged. This work will be undertaken within the next few months.

25.03.06 Reports from Working Groups Communications

Newsletter

Cllr. Chrisp is preparing the parish councils element of the newsletter.

The February edition of the newsletter was circulated and has received good feedback, thank you to all those involved in putting the newsletter together and especially to Mike for his editorship and circulation. Content for the May edition will be required by the middle of April.

Mike will continue to undertake this role for this year,

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

Oulton Mill Picnic Area Project.

The Picnic Area bin has now being emptied by Street Scene. The site is being used regularly. All councillors agreed that 4 fruit trees should be purchased, the Clerk gained quotes, but when ordering found that only the most expensive were left in stock. Agreed that this should be left until October, purchased early and members of the Gardening Group will plant them by February 2026.

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.

Great thanks to Nick Rayner who has cut the hedges at the picnic area

The information board needs updating, this will be undertaken when the spring arrives.

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

Youth/Social/Community

Play Zone Project

Wet pour sealing repairs have been undertaken. More repairs are required, a new system of repair has been developed and hopefully this will be quicker and result in longer lasting repair. School side repair really good, but still a trip hazard to right of entrance and area in the MUGA are lifting.

The flower bed sleepers have now been replaced by Greenspaces Ltd, very good repairs undertaken.

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.

Village Green

Drainage - As detailed within Road Safety

Trees on the Green – concerns were raised that the high winds from the winter storms and the high water table had caused the roots of one of the trees to appear higher and protruding out of the ground, raising concerns for the safety of the tree. A tree surgeon was asked to attend and assess the trees from this point of view but also for their general health. Both trees are in good health and do not require any works at the moment. The Parish Council will continue to assess the trees with the tree surgeon and when works are required this will be undertaken in a timely and safe fashion.

Footpaths and styles

Neighbouring Parish Councils are undertaking surveys of the footpaths to ensure the accessibility for all. This requires removing some styles and replacing with kissing gates, the neighbouring Parish Councils have been supported by United Utilities (UU) in the project). The aim of the project is to make Parishes accessible and connect neighbouring parishes through footpaths.

Many of the footpaths within the parish are already Bridle paths and therefore accessible, but some styles still exist.

Cllr. Chrisp will walk the footpaths to assess the number that would need alteration.

Once details known, the Parish Council may approach UU to seek funding for the project.

Matters Arising

The main road (Eaton Road) through Eaton is covered by a “7.5 tonne accept for access” weight limit (signed from A49/Eaton Road & A49 Nantwich Road/Eaton Road junction). The weight limit does not cover agricultural vehicles.

Given the “accept for access” element it is worth noting that many vehicles observed may be using Eaton Road legitimately. Enforcement of this restriction would be a matter for the Roads and Local Policing Units within Cheshire Constabulary.

Oulton Park Visit

David Nicholls will attend an upcoming meeting to discuss the details of the upcoming visit of 25 families of American soldiers who were posted at Oulton Park during World War 2.

The families will be visiting between 11th and 14th July 2025, they intend to visit Oulton Park on 13th July and will take in some of the other locations where their loved ones trained.

The weekend will include re-enactment and military vehicles on site.

Camping and activities will be on the field next to the Edgerton Arms pub in Little Budworth.

25.03.07 Correspondence

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

Reporter	Date	Description	Action
Highways	20/11/24	Eaton Village utility plans	Circulated
UU	20/11/24 onwards	Drainage issues at village green, and road markings needed in village Liaison for funding for projects	On going liaison
TWM	14/01/25	VAS on Eaton Lane, SIM no longer supported by TWM	Ongoing Liaising with TWM. Cllr. Sime to Liaise
School and Councillors	07/03/25	Sleeper replacement at Play zone, Works complete, pictures circulated	Circulated
CWaC Highways	26/02/25 onwards	Report HW691023075 Pothole End of Eaton Lane between reservoir and houses Report received 7 th March NO ACTION REQUIRED	Circulated
CWaC Highways	26/02/25 onwards	Report HW691026931 Signs 30mph signs Eaton Lane Leaving Eaton Village heading towards Cotebrook One sign Missing, one facing field Report Received 13 th March NO ISSUE	Circulated

25.03.08 Finance Matters

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

Cheque No.	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	NET (£)	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)
1074	JHVI	Hall Hire Jan-Feb 25	£42.00		£42.00
1075	Greenspaces	Sleepers at Paly Zone	£1520	£304.00	£1824.00
1077	L Worrall	Q3 Salary	£1343.16		£1343.16
1078	L Worrall	Q3 Expenses	£53.95	£10.80	£64.75
1079	Parish Online	Subscription 2025-26	£37.50	£7.50	£45.00

25.03.09 external Meeting

Oulton park Liaison Group

Residents Passes for Oulton park are now available to apply for, the office is open Monday to Friday 9-5. To gain a pass, take 2 passport photos, photo ID (Passport or driving licence) and a utility bill that has your name and address on it dated within the last three month.

In 2026 it will be 100 years since Oulton Hall sadly burnt down, February 2026 there will be a memorial at the Old Hall end of the circuit.

25.03.10 Any Other Business

Priorities for the Parish Council regarding Highways

The road surface of Lower Lane is terrible and needs resurfacing.

Sapling Lane, resurfacing once works complete

Drains at bottom of the village green

Cleaning of gullies and manholes

Hickhurst Lane- road surface needs repairing

Eaton Village Police Surgeries

*Please note times and dates for next police drop in sessions. These are important opportunities to build relationships with our community police officers and share any issues. Note that while members of Cheshire Constabulary always intend to be present, they will understandably prioritise urgent call outs. Thank you for your understanding"

2025 Dates at the Jessie Hughes Village Hall

Tuesday 18th March 10am

Saturday 5th April 4pm

Tuesday 15th May 4pm

25.03.11 Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 15th April 2025 at 7:30pm at the Jessie Hughes Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 20.55pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____