

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RUSHTON PARISH COUNCIL
held Via Zoom on Tuesday 16th March 2021 at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllrs. Neil Thompson, Mike Wilson, Suzanne Hinchliffe, Graham Sime, Ed Shaw and Emma Leslie

In Attendance: Lindsey Worrall (Clerk), Eveleigh Moore- Dutton (Ward Councillor)

21.03.01 Apologies for Absence and Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

Resolved: None

Resolved: that Cllr. Sime has a personal interest in Planning application 20/01586/FUL.

21.03.02 Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the planning meeting of the 16th February 2021 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Cllr. Wilson

Seconded: Cllr. Hinchliffe

21.03.03 Public Speaking Time

21.03.04 Matters Arising

Village Design Statement

The Village Design Statement has not progressed since summer 2020 Cllr. Thompson and the VDS team will meet during March to discuss the process of finalising the Village Design Statement.

Village Green Wall Repairs

A quote has been received for the repair to the damage that occurred to the wall of the Village Green following the Road Traffic Accident. The quote is; £803.00 plus VAT. This quote is sizable due to the traffic management element required to ensure the repairs can be undertaken safely.

The repairs were not undertaken on the date supplied. The Contractor has explained that it needs to be dry weather and above 7degrees Celsius for a few days to enable the lime in the mortar to set. As soon as the weather is suitable the repairs will be undertaken.

Corona Virus Buddy Update

Cllr Wilson gave an update: The February Newsletter included an update that has been well received, it is another opportunity to remind folk to look after each other particularly those who live alone.

The Jessie Hughes Village Hall is currently closed, it will open to certain activities in April and further easing will occur in May.

The Play Zone is open and sanitiser regularly refilled.

Speeding in Eaton

Concerns continue to be raised by residents over the speed of vehicles travelling through the village. Issues continue to be worked on as follows:

1. Further to the meeting held in July with the Police, a further site meeting was held on 3rd September with the new PCSO JORGE FERREIRA; PC Monks & Councillor Mike Wilson. A zoom meeting will also be held with PC Monks.
2. PCSO Jorge has promised to be more visible in Eaton, to carry out increased speed checks.

3. PC Monks is arranging for special extra attendance by the Road Traffic section focusing on Eaton Lane.
4. The provision of a speed camera is still being looked at. The big issue here is the funding.
5. A Community Speed Watch Groups will be considered once training is available. (stopped due to COVID).
6. PC Monks is discussing with Highways, the need for more “reminder 40mph signs” along Eaton Lane.
7. “Calming” the approaches to the village is still on the wish list.

PSCO Ferreira has confirmed that Eaton Lane has been assessed for use with The Trucam, a speed camera that enables enforcement to be taken. Each road used with this technology requires special coding, which Eaton Lane is now undergoing and being chased.

Action – Chase Community Speed Watch Group to enable training when available, **Clerk**

Action – another virtual meeting to be set up with police and Parish Council. **Cllr. Wilson**

Trees on the Green

The trees on the green received regular maintenance during 2019, to ensure the trees do not out-grow the space they occupy.

Two reports have been received from local specialists, the Tree Officer for Cheshire West and Chester Council has been contacted to seek advice regarding the tree growth and maintenance that should be undertaken.

Quotes have been received from companies who are fully authorised by Scottish Power to work next to power lines, and authorisation from CWaC has been received to undertake the maintenance work within a Conservation Area. Local resident and specialist Martin Boardman produced a report in January that will be used to ensure that a detailed specification is used when placing the order. The work would entail a crown lift, crown reduction and crown thin on both the trees on the village green.

Following a meeting with contractors on Thursday 18th February, it was discussed that the trees shouldn't have been planted on the green in the first place and they are planted too close together. An interim report has been prepared and distributed to interested parties, all have concluded that the trees would be best removed.

A group will be formed to look at options available and community input.

Re-distribution of Cllr. Markham's Duties

Following Cllr Markham stepping down from the Parish Council her duties need to be re-distributed between the councillors. Cllr. Markham was the Dog Warden and also had recently taken on the responsibility of collating the Parish Council element for the Newsletter. These duties will be picked up by the current councillors.

A dog warden is required for the Parish, this has previously been a councillor, but this could be an enthusiastic member of the parish who would like to encourage other dog owners to keep the parish a beautiful and safe place to walk our four-legged friends, for more information, please e-mail the clerk at rushtonclerk@aol.com

Vacancy

The Vacancy for Parish Councillor will be advertised through the noticeboard and website. The official paperwork is still being prepared by CWaC who will give the date at which if an election has not been called a New Councillor could be co-opted onto the Council.

Anyone wishing to become a Parish Councillor, please contact the Clerk, Lindsey Worrall at rushtonclerk@aol.com

21.03.05 **Planning Matters**

1- To note planning decisions.

None

2- To consider response to planning applications received

21/00348/FUL

Location -Brownhills, Brownhills Road, Rushton, CW6 9

Proposal – Garage with home office above.

21/00418/FUL

Location -Tree Tops Bungalow, Eaton Lane, Eaton, CW6 9AG

Proposal – Single Storey rear extension, re-clad existing building in black timber, re-tiling roof, paint existing render, new windows throughout with some new openings, removal of chimney breast.

21/00650/FUL

Location -Land adjacent to Spinney Cottage, Lower Lane and Eaton Primary School.

Proposal – Construction of residential development of five dwellings and the extension of Eaton Primary School outdoor facilities including the provision of new sports pitch and playground.

A further meeting will be held to discuss this application.

An extension to the comments deadline to be requested.

Liaison with both the Academy and the Architect for the Developer is also required prior to the Parish Council can form a decision on this application.

Members of the public can join the planning meeting by e-mailing the clerk at rushtonclerk@aol.com and joining instructions will be sent out, once a date is confirmed.

21/00475/FUL

Location -Land at Oak Tree Farm, Edgewell Lane, Eaton. CW6 9

Proposal – Erection of Steel Portal framed Building

The Parish Council has **No Objections** to this Planning Application –

Proposed – Cllr. Hinchliffe

Seconded – Cllr. Shaw

20/01586/FUL

Location – Lower Lane Service Station, Lower Lane, Eaton, CW6 9AL.

Proposal – erection of 2No. 4-bed Detached dwellings with integral garages, amendments to existing vehicular access and demolition of existing building.

The Parish Council **Supports** this Planning Application –

Proposed – Cllr. Leslie

Seconded – Cllr. Hinchliffe

21.03.06 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.

1. Proposals suggested by the Parish Council & Responses from Highways

a. Speed Limits (see marked up map used).

- i. The 20mph limit currently on the Village Green, should be moved out to where the existing 30mph limit is situated (the originally agreed position).
- ii. The 30mph limit in i. above should be moved out to the current "Eaton Village Sign" towards Cotebrook.
- iii. 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). This is being assessed by Highways and we await a decision.
- iv. The 30mph limit in ii. Should go out to the "Eaton Village Sign" at the hill-top
- v. The current 20mph sign 50m below the school (Lower Lane), should be moved out to existing 30mph signs at the far end of Whalley Drive.
- vi. The 30mph signs from v. to be moved to junction with Dogmore Lane.

vii. Response by Highways

The proposal was understood by Highways but involved many issues. It was agreed that RPC will contact Dave Reeves (Road Safety Engineer) of Highways Ellesmere Port office to arrange a visit and possible re-assessment. Further speed assessments will be undertaken during October

ACTION: RPC to arrange meeting with Dave Reeves. Clerk to continue to liaise.

b. Actions to try and reduce the number and / or speed of vehicles using Eaton as a "rat run" between the Alvanley Arms (A49) and the "Red Fox" (A49/A51).

i. Village Approaches

On Eaton Lane and Royal Lane ("Eaton" Sign Board) the Parish Council would like to create "You Are Entering a Rural Village" structures with flower beds, beware signs; gated impression. The structure would be fastened to the "Eaton" village signs and not require digging out for supports etc.

ii. Response by Highways

No initial objection. Various forms are now online for "addition of street furniture" etc and RPC were advised to look-into this and before submitting, send a draft to them for comment

ACTION: RPC to complete documentation and submit with layout etc to Highways for comment. Cllrs. Wilson, & resident Graham Bennett Thompson to create the plans, with drawings, dimensions and approx. costings for the planters.

iii. Road Marking

Existing & new road marking e.g. "dragons-teeth" need to be investigated and renewed where appropriate.

iv. Response by Highways

This can be looked at after the decisions are made ref new speed limit positions.

Smaller Issues requiring attention

Sapling Lane, the flooding issues are becoming worse with water visible on dry days. Mr Bert Platt has produced a document showing where he feels the efforts should be placed, Cllr Wilson has produced photographic evidence to show that the leak is a Highways Dept. issue and not Private issue along with details of how long the drains remain flowing once cleared by Highways operatives. This evidence will enable the Parish Council to prove that the leak is causing significant harm and danger and needs addressing.

The flowing water on Sapling Lane is causing the road to wear away, recently a motorist lost a wheel when hitting a pothole.

Action: A comprehensive plan of works required has been drawn up, these have been sent to Highways to assist them in their understanding of the issues.

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.

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.

21.03.07 Reports from Working Groups Communications

Newsletter

The February edition of the Newsletter was electronically circulated to over 200 residents of the village and 24 paper copies made available to those known not to use the internet, a further 25 paper copies have been placed in the telephone box.

Advertising Local Business

Within the Parish there are numerous businesses, a separate newsletter could be generated to advertise these businesses and service providers. Companies will be contacted to ask whether they would like to be included and if there is enough interest, the process will be discussed at the next meeting.

Actions – contact businesses within Parish to gain their input in the project Cllr. Wilson

Oulton Mill Picnic Area Project.

The Picnic Area has been well used during lockdown. Thank you to Mike Wilson and others who check on the site/bin during this time.

Notices have been renewed around the site.

Before the new spring growth begins some work will be required at the picnic area to remove last years growth.

Cllr. Shaw will undertake any spraying that is required as he has all the spray licences that are required and speak to his contacts to get all of the grass mown before the growing season.

New wildflower seed will be ordered to ensure that the wildflower meadow continues to be enhanced.

Youth/Social/Community

Play Zone Project

During the summer months the MUGA was used very well, there was increased noise observed due to the hard cushioning has lost its effectiveness. Sound absorption material has been installed and a 10 decibel reduction has already been observed. The far end of the MUGA still needs the repair work to be undertaken, it is approximately a full day's work to fully fit the sound absorption material.

An 'escape hole' was recently reported by the school and a new length of fencing has been purchased by the parish Council and installed.

The play zone sanitiser is checked regularly to ensure it is kept topped up. The recent frost damaged the sanitiser holder, this has been repaired. Signage is in place.

The Play zone will remain open during this national lockdown following The Government Directive that allows Play Areas to remain open.

The Playzone rota or 52 rota has been suspended during the pandemic, this rota will resume in the near future.

Eaton Primary School conversion to Academy

Eaton Primary School is converting 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 has to be renewed which will now be between the Parish Council and the Academy. The Parish Council have produced a draft of this new agreement and included a financial contribution for wear due to school use (e.g. local repairs and long-term replacement of the expensive flooring) and clarification on liabilities. During the school extension the MUGA was used extensively as the playing field was out of use and this has continued making it a key facility of the school.

Contact has been made with the Legal Representatives who assisted with the arrangements when prepared in 2015.

Contact has been made with the School Academy to discuss the previous legal agreement and scope of the new agreement. The Academy do not appear to want to enter a new agreement at this moment. Until this is resolved, and a new agreement is in place the MUGA will remain closed during school times.

Action- Write to Insurance company to check insurance cover for school use, liability if injuries occur in school time.

Clerk

Action -Write to Academy, MUGA temporarily closed due to insurance and liability issues until new agreement can be put in place. Would like to discuss over the telephone as this is a loss to the children and the school.

Cllr. Wilson

Youth Club

Currently Closed, not expected to re-open at the moment.

Cllr. Mike Wilson & Mary Wilson have stood down from the Committee, having been actively involved from the set up of the youth club 10yrs ago. A Councillor will need to become involved in the running of the Youth Club as this is a Parish Council initiative when it is deemed safe for the youth club to reopen. Others will have to step up to assist the small remaining leadership team, some taking on Leadership roles.

The insurance for the Youth Club is due at the end of March, in liaison with the insurance company this will be allowed to lapse until such a time that the youth club resumes.

Litter Picking

The Parish Council have a team of volunteers who regularly undertake litter picking around the roads of the Parish. The equipment that the Parish Council have previously bought has now all been distributed, and new equipment is required for new members. A members Budget application has been granted and new equipment has been received. Thank you to Ward Councillor Moore-Dutton for assisting with this grant application process, the litter picking equipment will help keep the Parish a beautiful area for us all to enjoy.

Dog Waste

There is an increase in the number of people out walking within the Parish. There is a dog waste bin on Whalley Drive that is used and emptied by CWaC. Oxhey's Lane is particularly bad for dog waste, often on the grass verge, but as there is no footpath, the verge is often used for walking on especially by children.

Cllr. Moore- Dutton, explained that the Parish Council could buy a bin, but it would be unlikely that CWaC would want to empty it.

A dog warden is required for the Parish, this has previously been a councillor responsibility, but this could be an enthusiastic member of the parish who would like to encourage other dog owners

to keep the parish a beautiful and safe place to walk our four-legged friends, for more information, please e-mail the clerk at rushtonclerk@aol.com

21.03.08 Correspondence

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

Reporter	Date	Description	Action	
Highways	22/02/21	Drains on Sapling lane will be jetted. Highways will push to Prioritise Sapling Lane	Circulated to councillors	
Cheshire Constabulary	23/01/21-ongoing	E-mails between Cheshire Constabulary and Councillors, the Truecam that enables speeding tickets to be issued will be available to Eaton.	E-mails circulated to councillors	
Multi-Academy Trust	29/10/20 onwards	Use of MUGA by school when transferred to Multi-Academy Trust, new agreement to be created	Circulate to councillors	
Census Team	23/02/2021	The Census will take place on 21 st March. Clerk has requested some Paper copies of the Census for those without internet access	Circulated to councillors	
Councillors	23/02/21	Litter picking equipment. Member Budget applications.	Circulated to Councillors	
Member of the Public	23/02/2021	The Waste Survey is only online, paper copies have been requested	Circulate to Councillors	
Councillors	24/02/2021	Maintenance of trees on the green, emails between residents, contractors, and CWaC Tree Officer	Circulate to Councillors	
Parish Online	25/02/2021	Renewal of yearly subs	Clerk to ensure paid	
Members of the public	02/03/2021	Disruption in the village by two youths, e-mails between members of the public, councillors and Cheshire Constabulary	Circulated to councillors	

21.03.09 Finance Matters

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

- Accounts for payment (below)

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	NET (£)	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)
Parish Online	Parish Online subscription	£41.25	£6.75	£48.00
L R Worrall	Q4 Expenses	£24.96	£5.01	£29.97
L R Worrall	Q4 Salary	£899.34		£899.34
CHaLC	Training Fee for Cllr. Leslie	£25.00		£25.00

21.03.10 External Meeting

Oulton Park Liaison Committee

All 2020 resident passes will automatically cover the 2021 season. Anyone wanting to apply for a 2021 season resident pass can do so once the circuit opens.

The timetable for circuit opening is-

30th March – circuit opens (no spectators)

17th April – limited spectators

17th May – Fully open.

Cllr. Hinchliffe attended a Speed initiative meeting via Zoom organised by CHaLC

Speeding is in the top 5 issues of most Parishes, along with issues associated with not enough 20mph signs.

Police response to speed, lack of enforcement and Highways slowness and poor quality of work were among the issues frequently experienced by Parish Councils.

21.03.11 Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 20th April 2021 at 7:30pm via Zoom.

21.03.12 Any Other Business

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:33pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

DRAFT