

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RUSHTON PARISH COUNCIL
held at the Jessie Hughes Village Hall
on Tuesday 18th May 2021 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs. Neil Thompson, Suzanne Hinchliffe, Graham Sime, Ed Shaw

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

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

Resolved: that the apologies from Cllrs. Leslie and Wilson be received and accepted

Resolved: that Cllr. Thompson has a personal interest in Planning application 21/00650/FUL.

21.05.02 **Minutes**

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting of the 7th April 2021 has a typo in it. It currently reads 'There's a major problem' and it should read 'There's Not a major problem'. To be corrected by clerk. Agreed and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Cllr. Thompson

Seconded: Cllr. Sime

Resolved: that the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the 20th April 2021 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Cllr. Hinchliffe

Seconded: Cllr. Shaw

21.05.03 **Public Speaking Time**

CWaC are championing a crowd funding initiative, this can be for Civic and Community space, temporary or permanent fixtures, for example an allotment. If a project is put forward CWaC would part fund and part would be crowd funded.

21.05.04 **Matters Arising**

Village Design Statement

The Village Design Statement has not progressed since summer 2020 Cllr. Thompson and the VDS team have recently spoken to discuss the process of finalising the Village Design Statement, a zoom meeting is planned for 10th June 2021.

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.

Wall to be repaired week beginning 21st June 2021.

Corona Virus Buddy Update

The May Newsletter included an update. it is another opportunity to remind folk to look after each other particularly those who live alone. A thank you to all the angels who have assisted over the past year.

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.

The Trucam (radar gun) has been used live on Eaton Lane to capture the speed of motorists. A meeting will be held to discuss the results of radar gun and what actions can be taken.

There is a new PC covering the Eaton area, PC Gilcrest, will be taking an active role in assisting in making the area a safer location. PC Goldcrest wants to get involved with Parish Councils, reports will be prepared showing the number of vehicles caught speeding, how often speed checks undertaken.

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.

The trees will grow to around 32m high, and are only 7m apart.

A group has been formed to look at options available and gain community input.

One suggestion has been that if the trees were removed a section of trunk could be retained and a bench could be made, and either one or three trees of more appropriate size planted in their place.

A proposal was placed in the May newsletter that outlines all the options available, a lot of correspondence has been received from members of the Parish and these will all be taken into consideration.

Quotes will be gathered for the cost of –

- A- the pruning required on the existing trees.
- B- Future maintenance costs of the existing trees
- C- for removing the trees
- D- Carving the trunks into benches or sculptures
- E- planting of new trees
- F- Maintenance costs of newly planted trees

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, newsletter and website.

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

DCMS Rural Broadband Consultation

This consultation is to support those who do not have broadband within the Parish. Cllr. Thompson will lead for the Parish Council.

21.05.05 Planning Matters**1- To note planning decisions.****20/00980/FUL**

Location -Chapel House, Eaton Lane, Eaton, CW6 9AG

Proposal – 2 storey extension to side, first floor extension to rear and alterations.

Approved

2- To consider response to planning applications received

Applications received since the last meeting.

21/01092/FUL

Location – Hares Form, Winterford Lane, Rushton

Proposal – Renewal of temporary planning permission 17/03602/FUL (appeal ref APP/A0665/W/18/3193349) for the stationing of a residential caravan.

The Parish Council **Objections** to this Planning Application –

Proposed – Cllr. Thompson

Seconded – Cllr. Sime

21/00554/FUL

Location – Oulton View Farm. Woodgate Farm Lane, CW6 9BG

Proposal- Erection of One Dwelling.

The Parish Council has **Objections** to this Planning Application –

Proposed – Cllr. Sime

Seconded – Cllr. Thompson

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.

The May Newsletter included content from the Architect and the Parish Council regarding this planning application.

The Planning officer has agreed an extension of time for the Parish Councils comments. The Planning Officer is anticipating making a decision on this planning application at the end of June, the Parish Council will submit their comments after the June meeting.

The Architect confirmed that the overflow car park would not be designated as a drop off point, it is designed for use during school events that require additional parking.

The net gain for the school facilities will be 6200 square ft. The current playing field will become a tarmac overflow carpark that can be utilised as a play area. The architect confirmed that many schools have Standard Management Structures in place for the use of facilities outside of school times, this has not been discussed with the school and therefore cannot be confirmed until liaison takes place.

Need to ensure the children's needs and feelings are also taken into consideration with this application.

A meeting with the Architect, School Trust and School Head Teacher has taken place. Both the representative of the Trust and the School head found the proposal interesting but were not supportive of the proposal. They suggested a counter proposal, where the play area/ overflow car park is to the side of the school next to the development and included a drop off area. They do not want the current playing field to be changed from grass.

With regards to access and Parking, the school feels that the current arrangements work well.

The school also confirmed that any new facilities would not be available outside school hours for the community to utilise, because logistics are not easy, safeguarding etc.

The gifting of land to the school would need to be signed off by the Secretary of State.

The land which planning permission is being sort was previously owned by Cheshire County Council (now Cheshire West and Chester County Council), when sold to the previous owners of Spinney Cottage a Covenant was placed on the land. This covenant states that (a) a stockproof fence is required, (b) the land is to be used solely for agricultural and accommodation purposes, (c) no buildings shall be erected on the land without prior written consent of the vendor (CWaC).

The covenant is a separate entity to the planning application that the Property Team within CWaC are dealing with. If a benefit to the school can be exhibited, then the covenant can be lifted. A prior agreement between the applicant and the School Academy will need to be in place to enable the covenant to be lifted.

Any uplift in the value of land from agricultural land to development land that holds a covenant on it is dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

Community engagement has occurred through the article in the newsletter, plans placed on the noticeboard and a Microsoft Teams drop-in event. A drop-in session at the Jessie Hughes Village Hall will be arranged for early June.

The virtual drop-in session was not well attended. Those that did attend were not very supportive of the benefits that the planning application would bring. This has been fuelled by a lack of information and clarity of facts within the village.

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.

21.05.06 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. **Clerk to chase the delivery team.**
- 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 re 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.

Highways attended and jetted the gullies but did not invite representatives of the Parish Council to be present as original suggested. The Clerk to chase a meeting on Sapling Lane as Highways interventions are only temporary fixes and a long- term resolution needs to be determined with all parties present. Clerk to Chase Highways, Councillors believe a 25 meter length needs digging up to remediate the issues on Sapling Lane.

Dogmore Lane requires resurfacing, the road has degraded over the winter months.

A report has been prepared that creates a priority list of roads needing repairs in the next year, both potholes and widths of roads, Clerk to contact Highways to see the road assessment and ask to view the priority list.

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.

21.05.07 Reports from Working Groups Communications

Newsletter

The May edition of the Newsletter included a wide range of topics from, The Councillor vacancy, Picnic Area progress, the trees on the green and the current planning application in the village.

The newsletter was electronically circulated to over 200 residents of the village and placed on the website, the previous newsletter was also placed in the noticeboard, 24 paper copies were made available to those known not to use the internet, and a further 25 paper copies were 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 future meetings.

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.

A lot of work has been going on in the picnic area in recent weeks, the grass has been cut, the wildflower meadow rotavated and new wildflower seed sown around the fruit trees.

Parts of the picnic area are left unmown as we are lucky to have a wildflower growing within the grass, this is a Lady's Smock or Cuckoo flower (*Cardamine pratensis*)

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

Youth/Social/Community

Play Zone Project

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 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 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 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.

Andrew Davie has confirmed that the school has insurance to cover the children's use of the facility.

During last week (Easter holiday's) the facility was locked all day due to miss communication within the school, in future the school will only have a few hours use a day during the holiday period.

The agreement is progressing but has not been seen by the Parish Council, no figures have been agreed between parties either has the Academy agreed to pay the legal fees of the Parish Council.

Action - liaison until new agreement can be put in place. **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 was due at the end of March, this has been 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. This year we have seen our largest ever increase in litter picking volunteers, thank you to everyone who is getting involved in keeping our Parish beautifully clean and tidy, and especially to Mary Wilson our Litter picking co-ordinator.

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

21.05.08 Correspondence

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

Reporter	Date	Description	Action	
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	
Councillors	24/02/2021 onwards	Maintenance of trees on the green, emails between residents, contractors, and CWaC Tree Officer	Circulate to Councillors	
Members of public	24/04/2021 onwards	Responses about tree report circulated to residents and placed in newsletter	Circulated to councillors	
	28/04/2021	Consultation on rural broadband, Nalc will respond to this consultation, representation needed by 25 th May	Circulated to Councillors	
CWaC Ed Services	30/04/2021	Eaton Primary School has a playing field deficit. Planning application to be reviewed to determine whether there is a net gain for school play area.	Circulate to councillors	
Cheshire Constabulary	01/05/2021	Tarporley figures	circulated	
CWaC Planning Enforcement	05/05/2021	Land at Oulton mill Lane, applicant has been advised to use native hedging, but this can't be enforced.	circulated	
CB Homes	06/05/2021	VAS can remain on Lower Lane at Service Station	Circulated	

21.05.09 Finance Matters

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

- Accounts for payment (below)

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	NET (£)	VAT (£)	TOTAL
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				(£)

21.05.10 External Meeting

Village Design Statement Team to meet via zoom on 10th June

21.05.11 Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 15th June 2021 at 7:30pm at the Jessie Hughes Village Hall.

21.05.12 Any Other Business

Phone Box – needs painting and also there is a broken pane of glass.
Cllr. Sime to replace the glass, speak to Cllr. Wilson regarding who painted it last.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:45pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

DRAFT