

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RUSHTON PARISH COUNCIL
held at the Jessie Hughes Village Hall
on Tuesday 16th May 2023 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs. Neil Thomson, Ed Shaw, Graham Sime, Suzanne Hodgson and Olga Vertija

In Attendance: Lindsey Worrall (Clerk), Charlies Hardy (Ward Councillor)

23.05.01 Apologies for Absence and Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

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

23.05.02 Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the 21st March 2023 to be agreed and signed.

Proposed: Cllr. Hinchliffe

Seconded: Cllr. Sime

Resolved: that the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the 18th April 2023 to be agreed and signed.

Proposed: Cllr. Thompson

Seconded: Cllr. Vertija

23.05.03 Public Speaking Time

Charles Hardy – Ward Councillor

Proud to be local

Wants to be involved in local activities

Wants to walk the Parish and note all potholes and prioritise the worst

Grass Verges, last year the cutting wasn't done until late June, no cutting has started yet this year and some junctions are already very bad and could cause road traffic incidents. Parish Council would like to know when the cutting will commence.

Clerk will contact the contractors.

Contractors confirmed that cutting should be complete in Cheshire West by Early June.

23.05.05 Planning Matters

1- To note planning decisions received.

None

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

22/02503/FUL

Location - Land at Oulton Mill Lane Rushton, CW6 8BE

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

New plans have been received, the plans do not clearly show the datum point to determine the bund size and also do not clearly detail whether the trailers are to remain or be removed from the site. Clerk has asked for clarification from the Planning Officer. Once these points have been clarified the Parish Council will make comment.

E-mail sent to planning officer asking for greater clarifications.

22/02768/FUL**Location** - Land at Spinney Cottage, Lower Lane, Eaton**Proposal** – Construction of One new dwelling

Further detail required before Parish Council can make comments, the boundary of the development needs clarification to determine whether this is occurring within the garden or within open countryside. Clerk has asked for clarification from the Planning officer and received a vague response, once clarification is sort the Parish Council will make comments.

23/00961/LDC**Location** - Land at Spinney Cottage, Lower Lane, Eaton**Proposal** – Use of land to rear of Spinney Cottage as garden

Guidance required as these two planning applications have bearing on each other. Is there a minimum footprint that a property should have as designated outdoor space/garden. Planning application currently has the drive coming in at ralone the existing drive to Spinney Cottage and passing along the rear of both properties dividing the gardens but this application shows an area designated which could be utilised as driveway to the proposed new property.

Parish Council would like to know if there is a minimum garden space required for a planning applications.

There is a restricted covenant on the land, is this being removed to enable the land to be used as garden.

23.05.06 Highways**Outstanding Road Safety Issues from Previous Meetings**a. Highways Issues

Planters and village entry signs Cllr Hinchliffe circulated images of sign designs in January 2023, these could be used for the design of the village entrances. All councillors have looked at these and discussion held.

Clerk and Councillor Hinchliffe has spoken with Little Budworth Parish Council regarding the signage that they are proposing.

Jerry Gibbs of Highways has clarified the licences required for working on highways land. To seek further guidance from Highways regarding the ownership of the current signs (PC or CWaC), if CWaC can PC take on ownership.

Need to clarify whether new signs/gates can be attached to the existing signs. Also need to clarify the minimum distance from the highways that a sign or gate can be placed.

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

A lot of work has been undertaken on this project and a decision will be made in the June meeting.

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.

Action – Select sign of. preference

Cllrs. Sime, Leslie and Vertija

b. Road Safety Matters

- 1) 20 MPH signs - Highways have confirmed that the 20mph sign on Royal Lane will be move to incorporate the Jessie Hughes Village Hall. No timescales for this work has been given. Clerk to chase.
- 2) Speed data from VAS – Cllr Sime will be taking this on and will contact Brian Oldham and Paul Healey about how to get the data. Issue has been found that the data can only be downloaded onto android devices.
- 3) Community Speed Watch and Speed Camera – can the village club together to buy one? Cllr Thompson – costs of camera and implementation of a Community Speed Watch including training will be included in discussions about speed reduction measures.
- 4) Oulton Mill Lane. The ditch on the left as driving to Cotebrook is overflowing again. This has been reported to Highways on numerous occasions. Highways have undertaken some maintenance works to place a timber headwall and infill with some gravel, the drain is broken under the road. The ditch is flooded and now flooding a field which is currently cropped with a winter crop, the drains in the field have stopped working, the crop damaged and the field is inaccessible.
The site has been inspected by Highways Officer Ian Lovatt, he assured those on site during the visit that actions would be taken to resolve the issue, nothing has been done to date.
Councillor Shaw has hired a jetter and using his own machinery and staff has cleared 25,000 gallons of water from the ditch in the last few days, the jetter has managed to clear half the drain under the road but cannot progress any further as the drains are broken.
On Brownhills the road was a foot deep in water in areas, walkers had to turn around as the road was unpassable. Councillor Shaw has jetter the drains on Brownhills and managed to clean the drains and move the water.
Letter has been sent to Chief Exec of CWaC, response received and meeting being organised to undertake works on site.
- 5) VAS On Lower Lane – was a community initiative to slow traffic on a narrow lane with no footpaths next to the busy primary school, unfortunately the VAS is on private land and now being removed, the unit has been taken down and safely stored and the pole will need contractors with 'Street licence' to work on a Highway to remove the VAS pole.

23.05.07 Reports from Working Groups Communications

Newsletter

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

Mike Wilson is kindly continuing to assist with the preparation of the newsletter contributions. Thank you to Mike for his continued support and also to the team of volunteers who have delivered newsletters and leaflets this month.

Broadband

Following a meeting at Cotebrook Village Hall, Open Reach have confirmed that the voucher scheme can be utilised for the Parish and surrounding areas who are currently struggling with broadband issues.

Oulton Mill Picnic Area Project.

The Picnic Area bin has now being emptied by Street Scene. The site is obviously being used regularly.

It was agreed that we would not pursue the Mersey Forest project for tree planting any further at this point. We would however like to plant the wildflower meadow again this year and will look to grow the number of trees in the Orchard later this year.

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

Youth/Social/Community

Play Zone Project

Cllr. Vertija has now taken over as Cllr supporting the Playzone activity and thanks to Mike Wilson for the continued work he is doing in supporting the Playzone and Cllr. Vertija.

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 agreement between Eaton Primary School and Rushton Parish Council in respect of the MUGA has been renewed and signed off by all parties involved.

Coronation Preparation

The Parish Council would like to thank everyone that helped to organise the Coronation weekend, particular thanks goes to the committee that ensured the weekend ran smoothly, and to everyone that attended a wonderful weekend of entertainment and celebration.

Matters Arising

Sleepers stored at the Churchyard

The Parish Council have been storing some old sleepers previously used on the village green at the Church, a member of the Parish has asked if they are no longer required by the Parish Council.

Resolved that: the sleepers can be used by a local resident for his garden Project for a donation to the Parish Council that will go into the Play Zone fund.

23.05.08 Correspondence

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

Reporter	Date	Description	Action	
Solicitors and councillors	16/03/22 onwards	MUGA agreement update	Responded and Circulate to councillors	
JHVI/Police	22/03/23	Organising gazebo at JHVI carpark to advertise the Neighbourhood Watch Chat (22/04/23 1-3pm)	circulated	
Morelock	03/04/23	Liaison regarding VAS on Lower Lane	ongoing	
MSV	24/04/23	e-mails regarding residents passes	Liaison between clerk and MSV	
CB Homes	27/04/23	New resident would like VAS removed from property boundary	Liaison with CB homes, Morelock ad Highways	
Member of public	10/05/23	Following contactors working near village green there is now a pile of sandstone	Liaison with contractors	

23.05.09 Finance Matters

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

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	NET (£)	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)
Zurich	Insurance for 2023-2024	£1017.78		£1017.78
JHVI	Hall Hire March-April 23	£42		£42

Clerks Laptop has Broken – the processor is failing= new laptop required and data backup from old laptop.

Resolved- purchase memory stick to back up data, purchase new laptop and have it setup. To value of £750.

Clerks salary has increased slightly as detailed in the yearly budget. The increase in salary is 45p an hour, (£2.70 a week), which equate to £35.10 a quarter.

Due to the amount of work that the clerk has undertaken to complete the audit, it was agreed that she should claim an additional 6 hours pay, equally the clerk worked additional hours and attended several meetings to ensure the elections ran smoothly, therefore she should claim an additional 6 hours pay during the quarter.

Resolved that- the clerk should claim an additional 6 hours pay to go towards the hours worked on the accounts and also 6 hours worked towards the election.

23.05.10 External Meeting**23.05.11 Any Other Business**

none

23.05.12 Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 20th June 2023 at 7:30pm at the Jessie Hughes Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 21:35pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____