

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RUSHTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**held at the Jessie Hughes Village Hall**  
**on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2024 at 8.21pm**

**Present:** Cllrs. Neil Thompson, Ed Shaw, Graham Sime, Olga Vertija

**In Attendance:** Lindsey Worrall (Clerk), Mike Wilson

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

**Resolved:** that the apologies from Cllrs. Leslie and Hodgson and Cllr Charles Hardy (Ward Councillor) be received and accepted.

**24.05.02      Minutes**

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024 to be agreed and signed.

**Proposed:** Cllr. Sime

**Seconded:** Cllr. Shaw

**24.05.03      Public Speaking Time**

Mike Wilson

Major works being undertaken at St Thomas Church. Boiler to be removed and replaced. Extension to include a tea room and toilet facilities and extensive re-wiring.

The wet pour at the MUGA has shrunk, the school have risk assessed the damage and will not use the facility until a repair undertaken.

Olga has contacted Creative Play who cannot undertake any works until July,

Lower Lane resurfacing, now Scottish Power works undertaken, lower lane from school to village green can be resurfaced. Clerk has contacted Highways Could both the curbing and Lower Lane resurfacing be undertaken at the same time to utilise the same traffic management

**24.05.04**

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

The budget was reviewed and agreed in the April meeting  
 Councillors were given a table of ring fenced funds

**24.05.05      Planning Matters**

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

None

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

**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.  
 Comments given February 2024.

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

Proposed – Cllr. Vertija

Seconded – Cllr. Sime

The full comments can be seen on a separate document.

No further updates since February 24

#### **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 rationale 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 removal 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 health 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.

Comments given February 2024.

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

Proposed – Cllr. Vertija

Seconded – Cllr. Sime

Planning application withdrawn and replaced with 24/00700/CAT

#### **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

Parish Council placed the comments with the planning Dept after the March meeting, notification from the planning Dept was not received.

On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April tree surgeons arrived to begin works on site. The planning portal said the application was still pending. Cllr Leslie attended site and discussed the application and works on site with the tree surgeons, they had received permission from the Tree Officers to undertake the works.

With subsequent conversations with the planning Dept the Clerk resubmitted all comments and the Tree Team have issued their detailed report to explain the processes undertaken.

#### **Application: 24/00665/S73**

**Proposal:** Variation of condition – removal of condition 5 (agricultural occupancy) on planning permissions 4/23618 and 4/23284 (condition 1 Of appeal APP/L0635/A/05/2005162)

**Location:** Grange House, Mill Lane, Rushton, Tarporley, CW6 9AS

The Parish Council have enquired whether the property is still in use for agricultural purposes?, the application states that it has not been used for/linked to agriculture for ten years, but the property has 18 acres which is grazed by sheep.

Therefore the Parish Council would like to understand whether the agricultural tie is associated purely with the property, or does the land need to be farmed to be deemed as

agriculture?, does this land need to be farmed by the owner/tenant of the property to require the tie to remain in place or if the land was rented out would the agricultural tie still be required on the property.

An extension to the comments deadline has been requested

No further update

**Application: 24/01041/PDQ**

**Location: Land at The Hall Lane, Rushton Tarporley**

**Proposal:** Prior Notification for part change of use of an existing timber framed agricultural building to a dwelling house with associated operational development.

The Parish Council **SUPPORTS** this planning application.

Proposed – Cllr. Sime

Seconded – Cllr. Shaw

## **24.05.06      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.

**Actions – prepare proposal and continue liaison with Highways      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 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,  
Highways have confirmed that to move the 20mph sign to incorporate the Jessie Carpark requires Highways to follow the TTRO process and readvertise, consultation is currently underway.
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.

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 then disappeared (summer 2023). Clerk reported this to Highways and a works order placed but no timescales for the replacement given. The sign has now re-appeared but is damaged and dangerous, clerk reported to Highways again.
4. The 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, works order in place.
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.' Parish Council has asked for resurfacing to be undertaken before line painting, Highways have no provision to resurface.
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, a works order is in place
9. 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
10. Sapling Lane, large pothole/Sink hole appeared next to a drain cover, within 40 minutes of reporting to Highways, operatives were on site and undertook a repair. If this reappears Highways will need to undertake investigations into the source.
11. 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 flowing from Higher Ground. Clerk has contacted UU to ask how to proceed with this, once a response received to seek a meeting with Highways. Possible option is to place a drain along the edge of the green to capture all excess flow.

#### **24.05.07 Reports from Working Groups Communications**

##### **Newsletter**

Newsletter printed on the new printer and circulated

Thank you to Mike for his editorship and circulation. 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](mailto:rushtonclerk@aol.com)

To assist Mike a printer has been purchased, it will be used to print approx. 70 copies.

The Jessie Hughes will pay 50% of the printer price up to £150.

##### **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 and planted in the picnic area, to be planted in November.

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.

Cllr. Hodgson and Nick Rayner currently at the picnic area mowing the grass.

Display boards to be removed and replaced

Hedge by layby to be carefully cut as currently very overgrown and encroaching layby.

Cllr. Shaw will spray for Ragwort one evening when the picnic area not in use. All safety procedures followed, RA undertaken and licences in place.

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**

The steps on the junior Tower need replacing or repairing, Olga to contact Creative Play regarding damage, the quote received appears excessive. Local Joiner to be approached for advice or assistance.

The wet pour is damaged at the MUGA, school has Risk assessed and will not use till repaired. Creative Play quote excessive, and cannot be undertaken till July. Terry Ball to be approached for advice or assistance

The gates to the Play Zone are sagging and need realignment, Olga to contact Terry Ball.

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.

## **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)

### **24.05.08 Correspondence**

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

<b>Reporter</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Action</b>
Tree team	23/04/24	Reply to correspondence to planning app 24/00700/CAT Carters Croft	Circulated
Highways	08/04/24 onwards	20mph Royal Lane under consultation	Circulated
Highways	30/04/24	Issues in Eaton, reply to Clerks E0mail regarding Highways issues within the Parish	Circulated
Ward Councillor	10/04/24 onwards	Meeting with MP and CWaC to discuss Highways and state of the	Charles resolving

		roads held on 1 <sup>st</sup> May, report circulated but couldn't open	issue
Member of Public	09/05/24	Sapling Lane subsidence photo's, sent to Highways, engineer on site in 40 minutes, repair undertaken immediately	Replied to member of public
Highways	09/05/24	Sapling Lane Subsidence, if re-occurs Highways will undertake an investigation into it	
Member of Public	11/05/24	Lower Lane VAS, ensure date and time readings are accurate	circulated

#### **24.05.09 Finance Matters**

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

<b>Cheque No.</b>	<b>PAYEE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>NET (£)</b>	<b>VAT (£)</b>	<b>TOTAL (£)</b>
1054	Zurich	Insurance renewal	£1103.82		£1103.82
1055	JHVI	Hall Hire March and April 24	£42.00		£42.00
1056	Mr M Wilson	Eco Tank ET-4850 A4 Multifunctional Wi-Fi Printer	£316.66	£63.33	£379.99

#### **24.05.10 External Meeting**

#### **24.05.11 Any Other Business**

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

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

#### **24.05.12 Next Meeting**

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 7:30pm at the Jessie Hughes Village Hall.

**The meeting closed at 21:22pm.**

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