

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RUSHTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**held at the JESSIE HUGHES VILLAGE HALL on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllrs. Neil Thompson, Eddie Shaw, Mike Wilson, Graham Sime, Suzanne Hinchcliffe

**In Attendance:** Eveleigh Moore-Dutton, Bert Platt, Paul Healey, Declan Kelly, PCSO Kenny Williamson

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

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

**19.11.02 Minutes**

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the 15<sup>th</sup> October 2019 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

**Proposed:** Cllr. Sime

**Seconded:** Cllr. Wilson

**19.11.03 Cheshire Constabulary update on speed checks and enforcement work that can be undertaken**

PCSO Kenneth Williamson attended the meeting to give an update on the speed checks that have been undertaken around the village in recent times. The results of these speed checks are usually false readings, as vehicles often break as soon as they see the Police standing with speed guns and vehicles indicate to one another that speed checks are being undertaken.

Highways have a device that spread wires across the road to check the speed of vehicles. This could be requested via CWaC Highways.

Cheshire Constabulary will request enhanced speed *checks* with Mobile camera units and speed guns on Eaton Lane which is where the major speed issues occur. Once a request from the Parish Council is received by Cheshire Constabulary it will be transferred to the most suitable department to ensure that the most suitable type of speed enforcement and education can be targeted on the village.

Neighbourhood speed watch, Tarporley have a SID device which could be borrowed/hired if residents are trained to use the device.

**19.11.04 Village Design Statement (VDS)**

The Team that have developed the Village Design Statement will attend the January meeting of Rushton Parish Council to give an overview of the roles and responsibilities following the implementation of the VDS.

**19.11.05 Public Speaking Time**

Mr Declan Kelly, of Lower House Farm and The Drays Coffee Shop, attended the meeting to update the Parish Council on the current situation with obtaining Brown Signs to advertise the coffee shop.

Mr and Mrs Kelly approached Mr Ian Lovett of the Highways Dept to discuss suitable locations for Brown signs, a member of Highways visited the coffee shop, but no location was identified.

- A sign is now proposed to be placed at the private property of Eaton Rise, pointing down Lower Lane,
- the sign will be 1 x 2 ft in size,
- it should add to the village rather than detract from it.
- This would be an arrangement between a landowner and sign owner.
- Highways do not have any issues with this as the sign would not be on land owned by Highways

This will be added to the January Agenda.

Mr Bert Platt asked what had happened to the work we were doing with Voneus Limited, internet provider. The Chair of the Parish Council made several attempts to engage with this company but received no feedback. At the same time the Primary School gained internet connection from BT which enabled the rest of the Parish to gain Fibre connection.

Voneus Limited have now partially connected around Tattenhall.

On Sapling Lane the Drainage system require attention, Highways have attended previously but do not seem to rectify the issues. There are two grids that are both too high, there is a blockage in the drain by the sandstone wall. If it rains slightly the water can drain away, in heavy rain it cannot.

To be reported to Highways but combined with the flooding issue on Dogmore Lane, as both issues have been reported numerous times. Residents can attend with Highways to explain the issues on site.

#### **19.11.06      Matters Arising**

##### **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 quote has been sent to the haulage company, they are happy and have asked for the repair to be undertaken.

#### **19.11.07      Planning Matters**

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

##### **19/02752/FUL**

**Proposal** – Oak Framed Carport

**Location** – Oak Tree Farm, Hickhurst Lane, Rushton

**Refused**

##### **19/01150/FUL**

**Proposal** – Demolition of existing garage and replacement with two storey side extension and single storey projection to the rear. Erection of outbuilding and proposed gabion basket retaining garden wall.

**Location** – Sapling Cottage, Sapling Lane, Eaton

**Withdrawn**

##### **19/00309/FUL**

**Proposal** – Extension to existing dwelling and construction of new garage and stable

**Location** – Spinney Cottage, Lower Lane, Eaton.

**Approved**

##### **2- To consider response to planning applications received**

##### **19/03957/FUL**

**Proposal** – Rendering of upper section of existing upper and side elevation.

**Location** – Stone Cottage, Sapling Lane, Eaton, CW6 9AE

The Parish Council **Supports** to this Planning application –

Proposed – Cllr. Sime  
 Seconded - Cllr. Hinchcliffe

## **19.11.08    Highways**

### **Outstanding Road Safety Issues from Previous Meetings**

Cllrs Wilson & Leslie have compiled a list of the important issues which remain outstanding with Highways. This list has been presented and discussed, and modifications made. A meeting was held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November Between Highways Jerry Gibbs and Ian Lovett, along with *Cllr Emma Leslie, Cllr Mike Wilson & Ward Councillor Eveleigh Moore-Dutton.*

#### **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).
- 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.

**ACTION: RPC to arrange meeting with Dave Reeves**

##### **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 (see examples)**

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.**

##### **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.

## 2. Other Issues

### a. Enforcement

Cheshire Police to be involved in enforcing existing speed limits with mobile camera units and speed guns. Attending November Parish Council Meeting.

### b. Direction Signage for New Coffee Shop

The owners of the Drays Restaurant have been looking at signage to direct prospective customers. "Brown information signs" are a consideration and alternative sites for these. The question raised was what is the Highways Dept involvement if positioned on private land.

### Response by Highways

- i. If on private land, arrangements re: permission, legals, etc. are not a concern of Highways, only the landowner.
- ii. The sign will need planning permission if above 0.3 m<sup>2</sup>
- iii. It is suggested that the Parish Council should be involved as a rural village such as ours, would not want uncontrolled signage going up.

### Smaller Issues requiring attention

#### Oulton Mill Lane

Flooding occurs from the ditch on Oulton Mill Lane during the wetter months, the clerk is liaising with Highways, the landowner has cleared the drains and confirmed that there is a sandstone drain under the carriage way, there is no headwall to this drainage system.

**Action – Liaise with landowner and Highways**

**Clerk**

#### Dogmore Lane

Just past Red Beech Farm water is coving 40% of the road, this has been caused by the re-surfacing of the road, water cannot drain away.

**Action – Contact Highways**

**Clerk**

#### 30mph Sign on Eaton Lane

MW has spoken to the landowner who insists that Highways visits him with "Crank Arm Proposal" before he agrees. Landowner, Cllr. Wilson and Clerk have requested this with no response.

**Action:**

**Clerk to repeat request.**

## 19.11.09 Reports from Working Groups Communications

Hedges on Sapling Lane owned by United Utilities have been cut ensuring a safe road.

The annual leaf clearance at the village green took place on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November. Thank you to everyone who attended and made light work of the 30 bags of leaves collected. Once the leaves were collected everyone who attended enjoyed mince pies and mulled wine at The Smithy with great thanks to Mr and Mrs Burgeon for hosting us.

### **Oulton Mill Picnic Area Project.**

School Project – Birds Bugs & Butterflies project was completed in July with Eaton Primary School.

An offer has been made to the new head Teacher at Eaton Primary School to repeat the project next Spring. The Tesco Grant for the Bees, Bugs and Butterflies Project has a balance of £412.66 which could finance more work on the project in the coming 12 months.

Most visitors are good with their litter, the bin is emptied weekly.

#### Immediate Plans

- The entire picnic area needs to be mown, it is currently too wet.
- A two-metre path will be created around the perimeter so the nettles in the hedgerow can be dealt with next year, creating a walking path to visitors.
- The 12 team needs to be prepared, 5 people have already volunteered, with both Cllrs. Thompson, Shaw (January) and Moore-Dutton also asking to join the list.
- The duty of members of the 12 team will be to select one month a year and during that month they visit the Picnic Area once per week, checking for mis-use; litter (empty bins if necessary) and reporting any concerns to Cllr Wilson.

**Action: Fill in vacancies; circulate rota and duties Cllr Wilson**

- The hedges on the outside will be cut in the next couple of weeks, it is probably too wet to cut the insides.

The original Grant balance is £1,832.83

#### **Youth/Social/Community**

##### **Play Zone Project**

The Play Zone has been very well used by school (MUGA) and the public, with particular use just after school.

Long term maintenance costs of the MUGA, particularly the wet pour floor needs to be considered.

With some of the 52-team resigning, volunteers are required.

Anyone wishing to join the 52 team, please contact the Clerk, Lindsey Worrall by e-mail at [rushtonclerk@aol.com](mailto:rushtonclerk@aol.com)

##### **Youth Club**

- The revamped YC with a new Leader Team is settling down
- It is intended to run a December event at the Jessie with proceeds (usually in the area of £800) to go to the Youth Club & Play Zone accounts.

#### **19.11.10 Correspondence**

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

Reporter	Date	Description	Action
UU	22.10.19	E-mails about hedge on Sapling lane. Hedge has now been cut	Circulate to councillors
Member of public	05.11.19	Business owner asking how to get Brown signs	Response sent

#### **19.11.11 Finance Matters**

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

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	NET (£)	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)
NMC Design and Print	November Newsletter Printing Costs	£131.00		£131.00
JHVI	Hall fees – Sept and Oct	£38.00		£38.00

#### **19.11.12 External Meeting**

##### **Best kept Village**

Last year of competition due to lack of a sponsor. Presentation of Awards took place

on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November at Ellesmere Port Civic Hall attended by Cllr Wilson & Clerk Lindsey. Rushton came 4<sup>th</sup> in their Group (401 – 600) which was won by Moore. Championship Award went to Disley.

**19.11.13    Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2020 at 7:30pm in the Jessie Hughes Village Hall

**19.11.14    Any Other Business**

On the 16<sup>th</sup> December, Oulton Park will host the annual Christmas Lunch for the over 60's.

A meeting should be arranged between Cllr. Hinchcliffe and Mr Brian Bryne to discuss the provisions and Needs of the NHS in Eaton and Rushton and Tarporley War Memorial Hospital and those funding that is available to help facilitate these.

**There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:45pm.**

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

DRAFT