

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RUSHTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**held at the Jessie Hughes Village Hall**  
**on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllrs. Neil Thompson, Ed Shaw, Suzanne Hinchliffe, Graham Sime, Phil Hodgson and Emma Leslie

**In Attendance:** Eveleigh Moore-Dutton (Ward Councillor), Lindsey Worrall (Clerk), Richard Owen Roberts (Tarporley Memorial Hospital) Charles Hunt

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

**Resolved:** that the apologies from Cllr. Vertija be received and accepted

**Resolved:** that Cllr. Leslie has a personal interest in Planning application 22/03903/PDR

**22.11.02 Minutes**

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the 18<sup>th</sup> October 2022 to be agreed and signed.

**Proposed:** Cllr. Shaw

**Seconded:** Cllr. Sime

**22.11.03 Public Speaking Time**

**Hospital Update**

Richard Owen Roberts trustee and Director on the board of Tarporley War Memorial Hospital Trust gave the parish council an update on the changes to the hospital. Richard wanted to take the opportunity to thank the community for their patience and on-going support during what has been challenging times for the hospital.

The last 2 years have been a difficult one for the hospital.

We faced unprecedented challenges.

The COVID pandemic

Increasing costs

Annual losses

Increasing competition within healthcare to recruit, retain and reward staff

Clinically, there were issues identified that were impacting on the Hospital's ability to provide safe, quality care.

As a result, the Trustees took the difficult decision to cease providing clinical services at the hospital.

It was therefore necessary to seek an alternative structure under which the charity could continue to support the provision of healthcare services in the community.

The Trustees are delighted that the future of the Tarporley Hospital has been secured by arrangements reached with the Countess of Chester NHS Foundation Trust under which Tarporley Hospital premises is to be a rural hub for the provision of services.

A first programme of refurbishment work has been completed and this will allow 2 services to be based at the hospital:

**THE RAPID RESPONSE TEAM:** The service will aim to facilitate prompt and early supported discharges from hospital back into the community and thus reduce the length of patient stay.

**THE HOSPITAL AT HOME TEAM:** will manage a specific cohort of patients who can now choose to be looked after in their own home rather than be normally treated in hospital. Patients are treated as though admitted to hospital but managed within their own home.

Hospital at home clinics, for example for administering intravenous antibiotics started on site in October.

Phase 2 of the development work at the hospital will see existing bedrooms converted into consultation rooms which will enable the Countess of Chester to deliver planned care Outpatient Clinics at this rural setting.

The 2 ward areas will be converted into large multi-function clinic rooms, one specifically for Children's Therapy services and the other for neurotherapy clinics.

Large day space area to be multi-purpose to allow for patient education, for example weight management, diabetes education, strength and balance classes. Community groups will also be able to hire this space.

**In addition**, as historically, there continues to be other services provided on site, for example:

The physiotherapy department runs an outpatient service

Ultrasound appointments are run by Countess of Chester Hospital on the premises every Thursday

Weekly GP clinics for minor surgeries and cryotherapy.

The Trustees remain confident that these new arrangements, which have put the Hospital on a more secure financial footing, will bring increased and significant healthcare benefits to our local community.

We have provided, and will continue to provide, updates to the community as the Countess of Chester develops its plans and mobilises services from the premises.

Our role as Trustees is to secure and promote the success of the charity. With this in mind, we have reflected that whilst the Charity has more than 100 years of effective support for local people in relation to physical health, there may now also be opportunities to find partners with whom to support local mental health initiatives.

It is important to note that the charity can and will support a range of local projects; we are not constrained by the partnership or limited to funding only Countess of Chester led activities.

We will ensure that the community is integral to these developments so that we are matching our ideas to real needs.

#### **22.11.04    Planning Matters**

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

**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)

Parish Council will make comments once further details and better quality maps are available from the planning officer who has been contacted by both the Clerk and Ward Councillor for updates.

It appears that no wildlife or environmental surveys have been undertaken before beginning this project and the building is white in colour rather than blending into the surroundings.

#### **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.

Clerk has had phone call with Planning officer who clarified some aspects of the planning application.

The proposed property does lie within the settlement boundary, the access to it appears to be outside the settlement boundary and the garden may be outside the settlement boundary. It is unclear from the maps whether the garden for the proposed property is within the

existing garden or whether it is on the adjacent field which would need change of use if this was the case.

There will be a tree assessment undertaken, none of the trees have TPO's, but village is a conservation area.

Property design will be very important.

Parish Council require better maps of the garden area and also a map/drawing with the proposed tree removal. It would be good to have a map that shows the proposed property in location to the properties over the road.

## **22/03903/PDR**

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

**Proposal** – Change of use of agricultural buildings to an aparthotel (Use Class C1) and Storage (Use class B8)

The current storage is for agricultural purposes but applying for commercial storage to give options for the future.

The Parish Council Supports this Planning Application for change of use as stated but would like the opportunity to comment on any potential future development on the site following the change of use.

Proposed – Cllr. Sime

Seconded – Cllr. Hodgson

## **22.11.05      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 and 2022.**

**A full list of the council's objectives can be found in the May 2021 Meeting minutes.**

#### a. Highways Issues

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). The Design has been prepared by CwaC Highways and once approved this work will be undertaken. The 20mph sign by the Green, should be moved out to where the 30mph sign is. This is being assessed by Highways and we await a decision. Clerk to chase again.

The Eaton Sign at Winterford Lane is in need of re-painting, this is owned by CwaC, Clerk asked for this to be undertaken before it degrades further. Highways have conformed that these signs belong to the Parish Council, the repaint or replacement would be at our own expense. The Parish Council will look at a design for a new sign after liaising with Little Budworth Parish Council who are in the process of renewing signs. The village of Huxley have just installed entry styles, either side of the road. Close to the primary school.

Planters with village entry signs on top has been discussed and designs will be prepared

**Actions – prepare proposal**

**Cllrs Sime, Leslie, Hinchliffe and**

**Vertiga**

Lamp post down on Lower Lane, reported to CWaC by Clerk, but Highways couldn't find any issues, Clerk re-reported issue.

In the last couple of years there have been an increase in the number of HGV's that have become stuck at the village green junction when taking the wrong turning. After the last incident the Clerk enquired with Highways whether some signage could be placed on Lower Lane before the village green to indicate the route to take. Highways have responded saying that any sign placed on an adopted highway would be to meet Traffic Signs Regulations.

Alternatively, the Parish Council could commission the AA to produce temporary signage and apply to the council for permission to site them on an adopted highway.

A sign on a lamp column would need approval from Street Lighting.

Cllr. Sime has a website link to a company that makes signs, he will circulate the link and produce a suitable design. Oulton Park could be approached with regards to funding or assisting the project and sign placed on Parish Council owned village green.

**Action** – Circulate website and sign design

**Cllrs. Sime, Leslie and Vertija**

Clerk to speak with Highways regarding licences required.

Lower lane resurfacing – it was discussed that lower lane is badly in need of resurfacing.

Concerns have been raised over road safety on Lower Lane and cars parking down the side of road during busy times, particularly during school pick up and drops offs, causing pedestrians to walk around the cars into the road and there is risk that someone is going to be hit by a car. The matter has been raised with the police who said it was a matter for the Parish Council. Councillors discussed and noted concerns, possible suggestions were discussed, including painted pavement; also that the council have implemented safety measure on that stretch of road in recent years to slow traffic – 20 mile an hour speed limit and vehicle activated sign and would look at further ideas.

Highways have confirmed there are no plans to resurface Lower Lane as it would be for aesthetics only and the potholes are not bad enough to warrant resurfacing. With regards to the number of vehicles parking on Lower lane, Highways have said this will help reduce the speed of vehicles traveling on Lower Lane!!!

A member of the public has queried whether the layby on Eaton Lane just after Beech Lane is required or whether it would be best removed. It has been noted that vehicles use this layby regularly, the Parish Council therefore believe it to be a community asset and prevents vehicles stopping in more hazardous locations within the Parish. Agricultural vehicles are duty bound to pull over for vehicles to pass, this layby enables safe stoppage for agricultural vehicles. The layby is also utilised by Cheshire Constabulary when undertaking traffic management and speed checks prior to which they undertake safety assessments of the site.

The hardened verge/layby is therefore used for Police safety, as an agricultural passing place, cyclists often stop in the location, and therefore after consultation with the community it appears to be an appropriate and effective asset.

#### b. Road Safety Matters

Convictions – after 10 years of working with Cheshire Constabulary the Parish Council now have regular convictions for speeding motorists travelling through Eaton. Thanks to PSCO Jorge and PC Paul.

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.

Many members of the public use the lanes for recreational purposes, for example, running, walking or cycling. As the roads are narrow and often have blind bends it is very important that residents ensure they make themselves as visible as possible when out enjoying the countryside and remain vigilant to the vehicles traveling on the roads.

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.

## **Communications**

### **Newsletter**

Phil Allcock the editor of the newsletter stood down after the August edition after many years of dedicated and professional service, to which the Parish owe him a massive thank you. 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)

Mike Wilson assisted with the preparation of the November edition of the newsletter.

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

The Picnic Area is being used well. Thank you to Mike Wilson and others who check on the site/bin regularly. The picnic area has a reinvigorated 12 team to empty the bin weekly.

Cllr. Shaw will be the main contact for the picnic area going forward.

CwaC StreetCare Services have met Mike Wilson on site and given great advice about tree planting and wildflower planting, including the rates of seeds per square metre they apply, the methods of ground cultivation and new technology they are trailing to make the projects easier and even more environmentally friendly. This will not occur until 2023.

There is a tree that fell during the spring storms, Cllr. Shaw and Hodgson will cut the tree and burn the brash.

Nick Rayner has taken on mowing the grass at the picnic area, he and his team are doing a really good job and the Parish Council, users of the picnic area and community are grateful for the wonderful job that is being done.

Dave Armson of Mersey Forest met Parish Councillors on site to discuss the planting of native trees as part of the Queens jubilee, once numbers and locations are finalised these will be planted in the dormant season.

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 play zone sanitiser is checked regularly to ensure it is kept topped up and signage remains in place.

The Play zone management committee are all happy to continue in their roles.

The 52-rota team is in place and working well.

The annual inspection by Creative Play is yet to be undertaken, this will happen in due time

Cllr. Vertija will take over the Play Zone Management and sit on the committee.

### **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 requires renewal which will now be between the Parish Council and the Academy.

Agreement has been reached with the Academy regarding the £500 per year maintenance fee and wording of relevant agreement paragraphs including aspects of liability. This document is in the hands of the Parish Councils Solicitor who has agreed a fee of £1100 plus VAT for her work.

Ongoing liaison between the School Academy, Parish Council and legal teams will occur until the new agreement can be implemented.

**Action** – liaison until new agreement can be put in place.

**Cllr. Thompson**

The invoice for the MUGA use for the year beginning January 2021 has been sent to Eaton Primary School

The invoice for the Year beginning January 2022, will be sent shortly, this will be adjusted to include RPI as it was in January 2022.

### **22.11.07    Matters Arising**

#### **Jubilee events**

Jubilee Mugs – it was agreed that every child who attended the Sunday event and did a drawing for a mug will be provided a mug free of charge. Parents of Children under 16 who live in the Parish will be given the opportunity to order a mug free of charge. Mugs will be available to order for £6 for anyone else. Mugs can be ordered via the clerk by sending an email to the clerk’s email address. A communication will be sent out with further details.

Tree Planting at the Picnic area – Mersey Forest Trust have presented a proposal to fund the planting of up to 100 trees, the council would need to look after long term maintenance. There was discussion about how that number of trees would fit into the picnic area, potential impact on view and local residents’ considerations, and also longer-term maintenance costs that the council would have to pay for. Other options discussed were a smaller number of trees such as 2 English oaks or expanding the fruit tree planting into a ‘jubilee orchard’. Mersey Forest are being asked about the maintenance and whether they have a budget to assist with this. (Neil).

Village Celebration Feature – the jubilee committee are raising money for a village feature in celebration of the Jubilee and are looking for contributions from Jessie Hughes Hall and Parish council. So far £300 has been raised from donations from residents. after much discussion it was concluded that due to concerns over rising costs of maintenance of existing assets and commitments that the council has that currently the decision was that the council would not be contributing to the costs of the feature at this time.

### **22.11.08    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>	
Solicitors and councillors	16/03/22 onwards	MUGA agreement update	Responded and Circulate to councillors	
Mersey Forest	23/09/22 onwards	Organising and meeting to discuss planting of trees	Circulated	
Member of public	14/10/22 onwards	Concerns about the placement of the Layby on Eaton Lane just past Beech Lane	Circulated	
Member of the public	23/10/22 onwards	Remember day service planning		
Rock and Pop Team	28/10/22	Rock and Pop 2, money raised has been distributed, including £250 for The Playzone	Circulated	

### **22.11.09    Finance Matters**

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

- Accounts for payment (below)

<b>PAYEE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>NET (£)</b>	<b>VAT (£)</b>	<b>TOTAL (£)</b>
JHVI	Hall Hire -Sept-Oct 22	£78		£78
Neil Thompson	Expenses	£32		£32
Tarporley Poppy Appeal	Remembrance donation	£40		£40

### **22.11.10 External Meeting**

The Christmas lunch is being held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December, anyone 60 and over is eligible, and can take your partner if under 60.

December 9<sup>th</sup> Cllr. Hodgson Meeting MP Edward Timpson to discuss rural broadband

### **22.11.11 Next Meeting**

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 7:30pm at the Jessie Hughes Village Hall.

### **22.11.12 Any Other Business**

Cllr. Shaw will organise hedge cutting for anyone who wishes it to be undertaken

**There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:40pm.**

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