

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RUSHTON PARISH COUNCIL
held at the Jessie Hughes Village Hall
on Tuesday 21st November 2023 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs. Neil Thompson, Ed Shaw, Graham Sime, Phil Hodgson and Olga Vertija

In Attendance: Lindsey Worrall (Clerk), Charles Hardy (Ward Councillor), Declan Kelly

23.11.01 Apologies for Absence and Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

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

Resolved: that Cllr. Shaw has a personal interest in Planning application 22/02503/FUL.

23.11.02 Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the 17th October 2023 to be agreed and signed after minor alterations.

Proposed: Cllr. Shaw

Seconded: Cllr. Thompson

23.11.03 Public Speaking Time

Charles raises the issue of the white lines on Lower Lane, Clerk has contacted Highways and a works order is in place, if the Parish Council requires further guidance in the future he is more than happy to assist. The Police have confirmed they cannot enforce white lines that are on the sides of the road.

23.11.04 Planning Matters

1- To note planning decisions received.

None

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

23/01876/LDC

Proposal: Existing use of land as a domestic garden

Location: Brownhills, Brownhills Road, Rushton, Tarporley, CW6 9BQ

The plans supplied appeared confusing and difficult to read along with the photographic evidence supplied.

The Parish Council require more information on the area marked blue on title deed CH170667.

The councillors would like to visit the site to get a greater understanding of the planning application.

Clerk has contacted planning Department, as of yet there hasn't been a case officer assigned to this planning application, once this happens they will contact the Parish Clerk and arrange a site visit.

Case officer not yet made contact with Parish Clerk

23/02976/FUL**23/02977/LBC**

Proposal: Ground mounted photovoltaic panels and home battery

Location: Lower House Farm, Lower Lane, Eaton, Tarporley, CW6 9

From the application and plans it is unclear of the number of panels to be installed, the visual impact in this area of the village is important.

Height of the panels needs to be understood, as this installation is on a slope and some will be fixed higher than others to ensure maximum solar capture.

Will the installation have any screening or not.

This is a sustainable and green development which is positioned away from the property, it will not be visible from the road. The Parish Council supports the project but requires the above aspects clarifying.

23/03359/FUL

Location- Carters Croft, Sapling Lane, Eaton, Tarporley, CW6 9AE

Proposal – Single Storey rear extension and storm porch to front, alterations to and addition of windows and doors, render. Widening of existing vehicular access gateway and driveway area, photovoltaic panels.

This is a large planning application with many aspects, care has been taken to ensure its in-keeping with the property and village, the extension will not be visible from the road or village and the changes to the driveway will ensure safety when entering or exiting the currently narrow drive.

As trees will be removed from the front to enable the drive alterations, it is suggested that a scheme of replanting is undertaken.

The plans do not appear to show the locations of the solar panels, which the Parish Council would like to see prior to making full comment.

The Parish Council has No Objection to this Planning Application

Proposed – Cllr. Thompson

Seconded – Cllr. Vertija

22/02503/FUL

Location- Land at Oulton Mill lane, Rushton, Tarporley

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

Parish Council have previously commented on this application, planning officer has contacted the parish council to ask whether it is still necessary for the application to be determined by full council.

Any change of use would require a new planning application

The hedging along the roadside is not a planning matter, the applicant has planted leylandii, mixed native hedging would be more environmentally and wildlife friendly but grows slower.

The trailers on site will be removed.

Action -

Once the curtain sided trailers are removed from site the planning officer will remove the 'calling-in' to full council, if the trailers remain on site, action can be taken to ensure they are removed, All councillors present agreed.

Proposed – Cllr. Thompson

Seconded – Cllr. Sime

23.11.05 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.

An article appeared in the August newsletter to show the designs of the gates and signs to enable the parish to comment.

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 Vertiga.

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. Councillors present an A frame sign was most suitable and Cllr Leslie could purchase.

Action – sign selected and Cllr Leslie to purchase Cllrs. Sime, Leslie and Vertija

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 Clerk has asked for a timescales for this work. 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, it is apparent this does not occur in other villages and the Clerk has asked for the 20mph to be extended. Clerk e-mail Highways again with the full support of Ward Councillor.
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, unfortunately the VAS was on private land and had to be removed, the unit has been safely stored and the pole has been removed by contractors with 'Street licence' to work on a Highway.
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 has now disappeared (summer 2023). Clerk has reported this to Highways and a works order placed but no timescales for the replacement have been given.
4. 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.
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.'
6. The road sign on the corner of Hickhurst and Dogmore Lane is broken. Clerk to report to Highways

23.11.07 Reports from Working Groups Communications

Newsletter

The November newsletter was yet again filled with great local news and information about what the groups have been up to over the last few months, for such a small Parish there is a lot of activities to get involved in.

Thank you to Mike for his editorship and circulation.

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

Oulton Mill Picnic Area Project.

The Picnic Area bin has now being emptied by Street Scene. The site is being used regularly. Nick Rayner mows the grass every two weeks through the growing season. All councillors agreed to buy Nick a Christmas present.

Thank you for your continued support in keeping this community asset looking beautiful for the parish and visitors from afar.

All councillors agreed that 4 fruit trees should be purchased and planted in the picnic area 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

Annual inspection has been undertaken, some areas of wear that need to be monitored over the coming year, but no areas where actions are required.

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.

The December film, Oliver, will again raise funds for the Play Zone maintenance. Thank you to all volunteers who help make the night such fun and raise so much money for the Play Zone, it really does make a really big difference to the up-keep of the facility.

Broadband

The Broadband for Hall Lane and outer areas of the Parish will be installed by 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

Brownhills -11-15th Dec

Park Rd/ Beech Lane – 8-12th Jan 2024

Rushton Lane -15-19th Jan

The Hall Lane -22-26th Jan

Kings Lane -5-9th Feb

Hickhurst Lane 19-27th Feb 2024

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

Remembrance Service

Well attended service, thank you to Cllrs. Leslie and Vertiga for assisting in the service

Carols on the Green

Carols on the Green will occur again this year on Friday 22nd December at 6pm, all welcome

23.11.08 Correspondence

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

Reporter	Date	Description	Action	
Cheshire Constabulary	17/10/23	E-mail regarding Eaton Lane Layby	Circulated	
Member of Public	18/10/23	Village Green has become damaged by large vehicles	Repair undertaken in Leaf clearance day	
CwaC	23/10/23	Fault report HW556316500 Lower Lane road markings, 26 th report received to say works order raised.	14 th Nov, e-mailed Highways operative directly to chase	
Creative Play	30/10/23	Play Zone Report	Circulated	
CwaC	31/10/23	Notice of Vacancy – PC can Co-opt when council found	Circulated	
Following newsletter	3/11/23 onwards	Village sign adoption	circulated	
JHVI	06/11/23	Suggestion that newsletter become 3 times a year to reduce duplication and work load	Circulated	
Mike Wilson	07/11/23	SS560196935 Street scene organisation for leaf clearance on 25/11/23	circulated	
Cllr. Hardy	07/11/23	22/02503/FUL Land at Oulton Mill Lane – in planning section	Circulated	
Cllr. Hardy & Highways	14/11/23	Re: HW556316500 Lower Lane lines	Circulated	
Highways	15/11/23	Eaton Lane Layby bollards	Circulated	

23.11.09 Finance Matters

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

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	NET (£)	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)
Creative Play	Annual Inspection	£295	£59	£354.00
JHVI	Hall hire Sept and Oct 2023	£42.00		£42.00
Tarporley Poppy Appeal	Remembrance donation	£40.00		£40.00
Mr M Wilson	Paper and leaf pickers	£74.38	£12.44	£86.82

23.11.10 External Meeting

11th December is the over 60's Christmas lunch, David Lilley will hopefully collect the details of everyone attending, between 50-60 residents from Rushton attend annually. Oulton Park will undertake maintenance works on the remains of Old Hall to tell the story of the house and fire, there is no current input required from Rushton Parish Council.

23.11.11 Any Other Business

Eaton Village Police Surgeries

December – Friday 8th 6.00-7.00pm

23.11.12 Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 16th January 2024 at 7:30pm at the Jessie Hughes Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 21:06pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____