

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RUSHTON PARISH COUNCIL
held Via Zoom on Tuesday 17th November 2020 at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllrs. Neil Thompson, Mike Wilson, Suzanne Hinchliffe, Graham Sime, Amy Markham

In Attendance: Lindsey Worrall (Clerk), Eveleigh Moore- Dutton (Ward Councillor)

20.11.01 Apologies for Absence and Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

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

20.11.02 Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the 20th October 2020 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Cllr. Hinchliffe

Seconded: Cllr. Sime

20.11.03 Public Speaking Time

20.10.04 Matters Arising

Eveleigh Moore-Dutton explained that another Parish Council within Cheshire are looking at funding for a speed camera. It may be that CHaLC can assist with connecting the Parish Council with others who are looking to undertake similar Community Speed Watch Programme.

Village Design Statement

The Village Design Statement has not progressed over the summer months. Cllr. Thompson will hopefully meet members of the VDS team in the next few weeks to discuss the process of finalising the Village Design Statement.

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 repairs were not undertaken on the date supplied, the Clerk to chase the contractor to get a date that is accurate for the repair.

Corona Virus Buddy Update

Cllr Wilson gave an update.

The Jessie Hughes Village Hall re-opened in September but only for certain groups which can comply with restrictions e.g. certain ballet & Pilate classes.

An update was included in the upcoming newsletter and a Corona virus buddy e-mail will be circulated.

Speeding in Eaton

Concerns continue by residents over the speed of vehicles travelling through the village. Issues addressed at the July PC meeting continue to be worked on as follows:

1. Further to the meeting held in July with the Police, a further site meeting was held on 3rd September with the new the new PCSO JORGE FERREIRA; PC Monks & Councillor Mike Wilson. A zoom meeting will also be held with PC Monks.
2. PCSO Jorge has promised to be more visible in Eaton, to carry out increased speed checks.

3. PC Monks is arranging for special extra attendance by the Road Traffic section focusing on Eaton Lane.
4. The provision of a speed camera is still being looked at. The big issue here is the funding.
5. A Community Speed Watch Groups will be considered once training is available. (stopped due to COVID).
6. PC Monks is discussing with Highways, the need for more “reminder 40mph signs” along Eaton Lane.
7. “Calming” the approaches to the village is still on the wish list.

A further meeting will be held with Police, there has been increased Police presence on Eaton lane in recent weeks.

Action – Chase Community Speed Watch Group to enable training when available, **Clerk**

Trees on the Green

The trees on the green received regular maintenance during 2019, to ensure the trees do not out-grow the space they occupy.

Two reports have been received from local specialists, SP Energy have been contacted as Power cables run through the tree branches and the Tree Officer for Cheshire West and Chester Council has been contacted to seek advice regarding the tree growth and maintenance that should be undertaken.

SP Energy have undertaken an assessment and remove any branches that interfere with the cables.

To then assess the next steps – crown lift the trees (removal of lower branches to increase clearance between the ground level and lowest branches)

Actions – to gain further advice from specialists, how often a crown lift should be undertaken, or would the future maintenance be less intrusive, and the costs involved. To also assess whether any funding available to assist with tree maintenance. **Clerk**

20.11.05 Planning Matters

1- To note planning decisions.

20/02779/FUL

Location -The Old School House, Lightfoot Lane, Eaton, CW6 9AF

Proposal – Subdivision of the Old School House to form separate dwellings and provision of vehicular and pedestrian access.

Refused

20/02780/LBC

Location -The Old School House, Lightfoot Lane, Eaton, CW6 9AF

Proposal – Subdivision of the Old School House to form separate dwellings and provision of vehicular and pedestrian access.

Refused

2- To consider response to planning applications received

20.11.06 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 2020.

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. Further speed assessments will be undertaken during October

ACTION: RPC to arrange meeting with Dave Reeves. Clerk to continue to liaise.

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

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. Cllrs. Wilson, & resident Graham Bennett Thompson to create the plans, with drawings, dimensions and approx. costings for the planters.

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.

Smaller Issues requiring attention

Dogmore Lane, the edge of the road had eroded away, flooding occurs frequently causing the road to collapse. Highways have now undertaken the repairs.

Sapling Lane, the flooding issue is becoming worse than ever with water visible on dry days. Mr Bert Platt is very knowledgeable of the area as is Cllr Shaw who may be able to assist Highways in determining the cause of the leaks. Photographic evidence is being gathered to show that the

leak is a Highways Dept. issue and not Private issue. Along with details of how long the drains remain flowing once cleared by Highways operatives, this evidence will enable the Parish Council to prove that the leak is causing significant harm and danger and needs addressing.

Even if the leak does originate from Private property the Highways Dept. should ensure that the owners undertake the repairs. Highways have been made aware of this on numerous occasions.

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.

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.

20.11.07 Reports from Working Groups Communications

Newsletter

The November edition of the Newsletter was sent out electronically to over 200 residents.

Oulton Mill Picnic Area Project.

The Picnic Area has been well used during lockdown. Thank you to Mike Wilson and Simon Corradine for looking after the site during this time.

Notices have been renewed around the site.

Youth/Social/Community

Play Zone Project

During the good weather the MUGA has been used very well, there was increased noise observed because the hard cushioning had lost its effectiveness. Sound absorption material has been installed and a 10 decibel reduction has already been observed. The far end of the MUGA still needs the repair work to be undertaken, it is approximately a full day's work to fully fit the sound absorption material.

The play zone sanitiser is checked regularly to ensure it is kept topped up. Signage is in place.

Eaton Primary School conversion to Academy

Eaton Primary School is converting 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 will need to be transferred to the new Academy.

During the school extension the MUGA was used extensively as the playing field was out of use. It would now be good to review the agreement between the School and the Parish Council to incorporate maintenance costs and long-term items such as renewal of the flooring and any alteration of equipment required.

Contact has been made with the Legal Representatives who assisted with the arrangements when prepared in 2015.

Contact to be made with the School Academy to discuss the previous legal agreement and scope of the new agreement.

Cllr. Mike Wilson has stood down from managing the Play zone, having been actively involved from the early stages of fund raising for the play zone to be built. Councillor Sime will become involved in the management of the Play zone.

Youth Club

Currently Closed, not expected to re-open at the moment.

Cllr. Mike Wilson & Mary Wilson have stood down from the Committee, having been actively involved from the set up of the youth club. A Councillor will need to become involved in the running of the Youth Club as this is a Parish Council initiative when it is deemed safe for the youth club to reopen.

20.11.08 Correspondence

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

Reporter	Date	Description	Action	
Highways	23/10/20	Oulton Mill Lane, limited highways drainage, significant investment would be needed to reduce the flooding, when reports received, Highways will attend and place boards out if needed	Circulate to Councillors	
Consultant	24/10/20	Website is compliant with new Accessibility Regs, been double checked by our consultant FOC		
CWaC	29/10/20	Neighbourhood Plan and relevant to potential developments on the edge of the village	Circulate to councillors	
Multi-Academy Trust	29/10/20	Use of MUGA by school when transferred to Multi-Academy Trust, new agreement to be created	Circulate to councillors	

20.11.09 Finance Matters

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

- Accounts for payment (below)
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PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	NET (£)	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)
M. Wilson	Grass cutting expenses	£18.00		£18.00

20.11.10 External Meeting

The next Oulton Park Liaison Committee meeting is scheduled for January 2021.

The Oulton Park Christmas Lunch has also been cancelled.

20.11.11 Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 19th January 2021 at 7:30pm via Zoom.

20.10.12 Any Other Business

The annual leaf clearance on the village green occurred on 4th November, with thanks to the 14 residents to helped with the leaf collection and Street Scene from CWaC who collected the leaves.

The Remembrance wreath was placed at the monument by Cllr. Thompson's Family and a reading by Freddie Dutton, thank you to all those involved in this year's Remembrance Day.

Weather Dependant, the roadside hedges for residents that have requested the Parish Council to undertake cutting will occur on 20th November 2020.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:50pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

DRAFT