

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RUSHTON PARISH COUNCIL
held at the JESSIE HUGHES VILLAGE HALL on Tuesday 15th October 2019 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs. Neil Thompson, Emma Leslie, Eddie Shaw, Mike Wilson, Graham Sime, Amy Markham

In Attendance: Eveleigh Moore-Dutton, Susanne Hinchcliffe John Freeman and Bert Platt.

19.10.01 Apologies for Absence and Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

None

19.10.02 Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the 17th September 2019 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Cllr. Markham

Seconded: Cllr. Sime

19.09.03 Councillor Vacancy

Mrs Suzanne Hinchcliffe was co-opted onto the Parish Council.

Resolved: that Mrs Suzanne Hinchcliffe is now a Councillor for Rushton Parish Council.

Proposed: Cllr. Leslie

Seconded: Cllr. Sime

19.10.04 Public Speaking Time

Councillor Moore-Dutton attended a cabinet meeting recently when the Tarporley Bus Service was discussed at length, the cabinet like the idea of this 'National Beacon'. Funding is required to enable this much needed service to be viable, Age Concern have been contacted along with local businesses.

A survey will be undertaken to gain the much-needed input from the local parishes, this will be hand delivered in pre-paid envelope. Volunteers to help distribute the survey will be needed.

Planning Application 19/00568/FUL

Proposal – Subdivision of the Old School House to form separate dwelling with own vehicular and pedestrian access

Location – The Old School House, Lightfoot lane, Eaton, CW6 9AF

Members of the public wanted to make their representations to the parish Council regarding the above planning application that is under consideration by Cheshire West and Chester Council Planning Dept.

Councillor Moore-Dutton 'Called in' the planning application at the time it was first received for comment by the Parish Council. The application was 'Called in' on grounds of Highways safety and appearance due to the conservation area. For a planning application to go to committee it requires robust planning reasons, which this planning application does not meet.

The Highways Dept. do not attend small sites, their view is that this is not a busy junction and the new drive would not be an unsafe addition to the village. The Parish Council feel this is not a good approach to risk assessments especially when the visibility is poor.

The drive splays appear to overlap onto part of the neighbour's land, there may also be issues that the digging out of the drive may undermine the foundations of the neighbouring garage.

The school originally closed in 1969 and was later converted into a property, with permission to undertake further development and parking.

19.10.05 Matters Arising

CPR Training

Training to be arranged for November 15th, 2pm onwards, for those who want refresher training or those who were unable to take part in the first round of training.

First Aid training would be beneficial for the farming community.

Action – organise with Trainers and JHVI and circulate dates

Chair and Clerk

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.

Village Design Statement

The VDS committee will be invited to the next Parish Council meeting to discuss the roles and responsibilities within the Village Design Statement.

19.10.06 Planning Matters

1- To note planning decisions.

19/02721/ FUL

Proposal – Demolition of existing conservatory and porch and erection of single storey rear extension and new porch (re- submission of 18/02155/FUL)

Location – Oxheys Lane Cottage, Oxheys Lane, Ruston, CW6 9AT

Approved

19/01782/FUL

Proposal – single storey front extension

Location – 7 Elm Tree Court, Lower Lane, Eaton, CW6 9AZ

Approved

19/02023/ FUL

Proposal – Erection of a new Steel Portal Agricultural building

Location – Park Wall Farm, Kings Lane, Rushton, CW6 9BA

Approved

19/02723/FUL

Proposal – Demolish and replace part of a fire damaged section of barn, conversion of barn into residential use and restore/reconstruct agricultural store

Location – Oak Tree Farm, Hickhurst Lane, Rushton

Approved

19/02724/LBC

Proposal – Demolish and replace part of a fire damaged section of barn, conversion of barn into residential use and restore/reconstruct agricultural store

Location – Oak Tree Farm, Hickhurst Lane, Rushton

Approved

2- To consider response to planning applications received

19/00568/FUL

Proposal – Subdivision of the Old School House to form separate dwelling with own vehicular and pedestrian access

Location – The Old School House, Lightfoot lane, Eaton, CW6 9AF

Following conversations with the planning Dept, Highways Dept., Ward Councillor and representation from members of the Parish. The Parish Council have reviewed all the new representations that have been received and are aware that the Highways Dept would not be able to defend their decision if the planning application went to appeal.

Proposal – To Object to the Planning Application 19/00568/FUL

Objection – 4

No Objection - 3

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

Proposed – Cllr. Shaw

Seconded - Cllr. Wilson

The Parish Council feel that this drive will increase risk to motorists and pedestrians, they endorse the original comments made to the planning dept. in April.

19/03396/FUL

Proposal – 2 box isolation stable

Location – Land at Winterford Lane, Rushton, CW6

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

Proposed – Cllr. Markham

Seconded - Cllr. Leslie

19.10.07 **Highways**

Road Safety Working Group

The Road safety Work Group disbanded two years ago, in the last two years the Parish council have continued to undertake the work that this working group supervised. The Parish now has a larger 20mph zone, roads regularly resurfaced, and the Council is regularly in contact with the Highways Dept. It is felt that, with the next phase of works being discussed with Highways the Parish Council is working efficiently and there is no need to re-instate the Road safety Working Group at this time.

Lower Lane and Eaton Lane, have now been resurfaced

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. See below:

MAJOR ISSUES THAT RUSHTON PARISH COUNCIL WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS WITH HIGHWAYS REPRESENTATIVES – September 2019

Note: The last meeting with Highways - held at the Phoenix House, Winsford on Tuesday 4th December 2018 at 10:00am attended by Jerry Gibbs, Ian Lovatt, Cllr Emma Leslie, Cllr Mike Wilson & Clerk Lindsey Worrall,

Introduction:

Many issues were raised in the meeting above and as recorded in the minutes. However the Parish Council would like to focus on fewer areas for discussion with Highways such that the key problems of residents can be addressed.

A meeting with highways has been arranged for Monday 18th November at 10.00

1. Actions to lower the speed of vehicles within the Village of Eaton

a. Speed Limits

- i. The 20mph limit currently on the Village Green, should be pushed out to where the existing 30mph limit is situated.*
- ii. The 30mph 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. These were originally agreed positions!!*
- 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.*

2. 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).

a. 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.

b. Speed Limits

The Eaton Lane northern 30mph speed limit should be pushed further out of the village to include the new Red Lion development houses. (note: the current pole is still not fixed after over 2 years. The landowner wishes Highways to discuss "cranked arm").

Full details in section 1a

c. Road Marking

More road marking is required on the approaches to the village with raised red areas, hatching etc added to again stress that this is a non pavement village with pedestrians walking between facilities. More smaller "repeater" 30 and 40mph signs should be erected along Eaton and Royal Lane.

3. Enforcement Cheshire Constabulary to be involved in enforcing speed limits with Mobile camera units and speed guns. PC Monk to be invited to the next Parish Council Meeting.

Action: Above list to be discussed at a meeting with Highways **Cllrs Wilson & Leslie**

Action: Meeting has been arranged with Highways Dept. for Monday 18th November at 10.00

Phase 2

Should the above actions not slow traffic down then more advanced options could be considered:

Option 1 - Pedestrian Risk Area from Village Green to St Thomas Church or Village hall (see marked up map). Install a "Speed table" see marked layout and example

Option 2 – Village Entrances - Install a “Priority Chicane” see example

Option 3 – Village Entrances – Install a “Village Gateway” see example

4. Smaller Issues requiring attention

The Parish Council have a list of other issues (as itemised in the June Parish Council minutes) that need addressing but it is felt that progress on the above is more important and those smaller issues can be discussed later.

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. The Clerk has contacted the Highways team about this again.

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. He & I have requested this with no response.

Action:

Clerk to repeat request.

Vehicle Activated Sign Eaton Lane

Now working – Action: Data to be analysed. Paul Healey & Cllr Wilson

Vehicle Activated Sign Lower Lane

The hedge at the Garage has been cut to ensure visibility

Action: Data to be analysed. Brian Oldham, Paul Healey & Cllr Wilson

19.10.08 Reports from Working Groups **Communications**

Environment

For the fourth year the road-side hedges around the villages have been cut through a Parish Council initiative. Jamie the hedge cutter is a very skilled tractor driver and the village is very grateful for the professional job undertaken. The Parish Council also needs to extend their thanks to Mary and Mike Wilson, for traffic control on extremely busy roads on one of the wettest September mornings possible.

The Parish Council would also like to thank Mr and Mrs Smith who have ensured that the Hedges on Sapling Lane they own have been cut ensuring a safe road.

The annual leaf clearance at the village green will take place on Saturday 16th November, starting at 9.00. Once the leaves are collected everyone attending will be invited for mince pies and mulled wine at The Smithy.

Oulton Mill Picnic Area Project.

School Project – Birds Bugs & Butterflies project was completed in July with Eaton Primary School. The wild meadow Area has been a big success, receiving many compliments from local and distant visitors. The fruit trees have borne fruit.

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. More Mini gas cylinders have been found, these were a one off and possibly not used in the picnic area.

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 original Grant balance is £1,832.83

Adult Gym equipment may be added to the picnic area in the future.

A gentleman has been using the parking area to park his camper van at nights, Cheshire Constabulary have attended but there is little they can do as he is parked on private land. Since attendance by the PCSO the gentleman hasn't been seen.

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. An estimate for this maintenance and an anticipated timescale for the repairs needs to be shared with Eaton Primary School and the Parish Council.

With some of the 52-team resigning, 6 volunteers are required.

Cllr. Markham will take one of the vacancies.

Anyone wishing to join the 52 team, please contact the Clerk, Lindsey Worrall by e-mail at rushtonclerk@aol.com

Youth Club

Three main leaders wish to resign, this has led to fairly big changes and a need for Mike and Mary Wilson to be more involved again. The remaining and new leaders are very positive and working hard to ensure efficient and safe running of the Club

- The Senior section now meet at the same time as the juniors (6.15-7.30pm)
 - There are 4 pairs of leaders on a rota to cover 1 or 2 Thursdays a month each
 - 3 pairs already established.
- A new initiative to involve more parents is being successful in recruiting helpers to enables 2 leaders plus 1 or 2 helpers per night.
- A safe box has been purchased to keep confidential information and the cash float in. Permission has been received from the school to secure it to the wall in the Youth Group storage area.
 - All records, procedures etc. are being brought up to date and new training is being carried out.
 - Due to the purchases of summer play equipment, rent contribution, First Aid Training and the new Safe Box, the Youth Group has a financial balance near zero. It is intended to run a December event at the Jessie with proceeds going to the Youth Group.
 - **Action: Clerk to request Jessie Hughes Chair that profit of December Film Night go to Youth Club and Play Zone.**

19.10.09 Correspondence

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

Reporter	Date	Description	Action
Member of Public	01.10.19	Concern about planning application within village	Circulate to councillors, contact planning dept.

19.10.10 Finance Matters

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

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	NET (£)	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)
L. Worrall	Q2 salary	£832.52		£832.52
CWaC	Uncontested election fees	£181.00		£181.00

19.10.11 External Meetings

Oulton Park Liaison Committee meet on 16th October 2019

4th November 2019, Best Kept Village Competition Awards Night, 7.30pm at Ellesmere port Civic Hall

19.10.12 Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 19th November 2019 at 7:30pm in the Jessie Hughes Village Hall

19.10.13 Any Other Business

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

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:02pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____