

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RUSHTON PARISH COUNCIL
held at the Jessie Hughes Village Hall
on Tuesday 19th October 2021 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs. Neil Thompson, Graham Sime, Ed Shaw, Philip Hodgson, Mike Wilson

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

21.10.01 Apologies for Absence and Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

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

Resolved: that Cllr. Thompson has a personal interest in Planning application 21/00650/FUL.

21.10.02 Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the 21st September 2021 be agreed and signed after a slight correction to the VDS section.

Proposed: Cllr. Sime

Seconded: Cllr. Shaw

21.10.03 Public Speaking Time

Mary Wilson thanked all the councillors for their hard work and wished everyone luck for the future.

Councillor Moore-Dutton, explained that the planning enforcement team had a significant backlog of cases and will not be visiting any sites in the near future. Public access to the planning documents are not good enough at the moment, these should be made easier. There will be an expansion to the rural bus service.

21.10.04 Planning Matters

1- To note planning decisions.

Oulton Mill Lane

Enforcement case has been opened for this planning permission.

Permission was granted for an agricultural building under permitted development.

Currently a case officer has not been assigned to this site as the planning enforcement team are suffering a backlog. A site visit will be conducted in due course.

The beauty spot has been spoilt by the actions of the applicant. The applicant would need evidence that the activities on the site are agricultural to support the permission granted.

20/04459/FUL

Location – Sapling Cottage, Sapling Lane, Eaton CW6 9E

Proposal – Two Storey side extension, outbuilding and retaining wall.

Approved

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

21/03089/FUL

Location – Racewood, Winterford Lane, Rushton, CW6 9AR

Proposal – Construction of a weatherproof manage measuring 60 x20m

The Parish Council **Supports** this Planning Application on the condition that the facility is not flood lit –

Proposed – Cllr. Sime

Seconded – Cllr. Shaw

21/03635/FUL

Location – Stages Platt, Winterford Lane, Rushton, CW6 9LN

Proposal – Two storey side extension and single storey side extension (retrospective)

The Parish Council **No Objection** this Planning Application

Proposed – Cllr. Sime

Seconded – Cllr. Thompson

21/03824/FUL

Location – Oak Tree Dairy, 36 Edgewell Lane, Eaton, CW6 9AD

Proposal – Single Storey extension.

The Parish Council **Supports** this Planning Application –

Proposed – Cllr. Sime

Seconded – Cllr. Shaw

21/03836/LDC

Location – Brownhills, Brownhills Road, Rushton, CW6 9BQ

Proposal – Use of property as two dwellings for period in excess of four years.

The Parish Council have chosen not to make comments on the above planning application.

The Parish Council would like to ask without prejudice whether Council tax has been paid by both properties?, if this has not been the case, would Rushton Parish Council be entitled to the precept owed for the period that these have been in use as separate dwellings.

Proposed – Cllr. Thompson

Seconded – Cllr. Sime

21/03689/FUL

Location – Eaton Farm, Lower Lane, Eaton, CW6 9AN

Proposal – Reinstate existing entrance and minor alterations to brick store to create home gym.

Extension requested until after the November meeting to enable a site visit by councillors.

21.10.05 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.

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

a. Highways Issues

The Highways dept have undertaken CCTV works on Sapling Lane and observed that a section of drain needs replacing, these works were carried out in October, it is hoped that this will prevent the flooding issues that have occurred in the last few years.

Sapling Lane carriage way is subsiding, this is in the centre of the carriage way and could become very hazardous to motorists if the road surface becomes more damaged. Highways have been made aware of this and have undertaken an assessment, works will be carried out to repair the carriageway.

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 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 the delivery team.

40mph sign on Whalley Drive is missing, and the other one is pointing the wrong way. Clerk to contact Highways and ask for a replacement.

The Fingerpost on Dogmore Lane is facing the wrong way, to contact Highways and ask for this to be corrected.

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.

Police Surgeries – after a request from the new PC for more involvement with the community, there will be regular police surgeries at the Jessie Hughes on the following dates;

Friday 19th November 11.00 – 12.00 noon

Wednesday 15th December 5.00 -6.00pm

Cheshire Association of Local Councils (ChALC) and the Police and Crime Commissioner have been working to find solutions to speeding across Cheshire following the county-wide survey. An initial pilot scheme of four locations where average speed cameras can be installed is proposed. This project would require a substantial annual investment by any parish council involved so would make it almost impossible for the small rural councils to take part.

Action -Write to Police and Crime Commissioner to seek justification of the finances involved and ask where any revenues generated by fines would be utilised. **Parish Clerk**

Hall Lane has recently been closed to enable the filming of a Youtube advert for 'Holts Tyre Weld'. They purposely chose a 'bad condition road' for this filming. Clerk to forward the advert to Highways as a clear example of why roads and potholes should be repaired sooner.

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.

21.10.06 Reports from Working Groups **Communications**

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 and do the now weekly mow.

Weekly mowing and removal of refuse continues.

The picnic area is being used well and the wildflower meadow has been successful with many users complimenting the wildflowers and the picnic area as a whole. The wildflower area has now been mown off.

Contact has been made with the wildflower seed company with regards to the seed mix used this year as it contained mainly yellows rather than the full mix previously experience.

The fruit trees are in need of a prune.

Anyone wishing to volunteer with the picnic area project, please contact the Clerk Lindsey at, rushtonclerk@aol.com

Youth/Social/Community

Play Zone Project

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

There has been some damage to the wooden structures and also shrinkage to wetpour floor. The damage has been reported to Creative Play (manufacturer) with concerns that the floor damage was not expected until at least year ten.

Creative Play have offered to undertake the repairs required at substantial reduction.

- Wooden damage to small activity unit (Clatterbridge walkway) replace for £495 +VAT
- Fixing for above £125
- Wood damage to large activity unity (Heartwood) – FOC
- Parasol Teens Bench – replace seat layer - £750 +VAT
- **Total £1370 +VAT 50/50 discount £685 +VAT Charge to Parish Council**
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- Wetpour Flooring- normal price £1250 +VAT for 5m2 or less
- Offer (Quote 21098 21/06/2021) is to repair 3m length free of charge.

Resolved – To place order with Creative play to undertake the repairs at a cost of £685 +VAT

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.

Contact has been made with the legal representatives who assisted with the agreement prepared in 2015.

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 will need to be clarified by Parish Councils Solicitor.

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

Action - liaison until new agreement can be put in place. **Cllr. Thompson**

Youth Club

The Youth Club held £147.32 in their safe, following the closure of the club this money has been passed to the Parish Council to be placed into the Youth Club fund.

21.10.07 Matters Arising

Vacancy

The Vacancy for Parish Councillor has been advertised through the noticeboard, newsletter and website.

Councillor Wilson shared a handover sheet of his duties and responsibilities to enable the smooth transition following his retirement as a councillor.

The councillors present all thanked Mike and Mary for their work in the village, the youth group, play zone and other projects involved in have all changed the lives of children in the village.

Mike and Mary have made newcomers to the village feel welcomed, whilst Mike has helped all the councillors and clerk settle into their roles.

All that we feel most proud of in the village Mike has had a pivotal involvement in.

Village Design Statement (VDS)

A meeting with the Village Design Group was held in June and the actions can be seen in the Parish Council minutes for June

Cllr. Thompson has liaised with CWaC to determine the weight given to the VDS document if it is acknowledged or adopted by the council.

- Adopted holds more weight.
- VDS needs to be adopted/acknowledged and then reviewed periodically
- The VDS is a material consideration in the planning process
- Currently Eaton falls under the CWaC Local Plan
- A neighbourhood plan could be developed by incorporating the VDS, funding is available.

Actions

All councillors to review the VDS and look at the objectives and responsibilities within it.

Going forward members of the VDS group will assist individually if their expertise is required.

Village Green Wall Repairs

The repairs to the wall have now been undertaken by the Contractor.

Corona Virus Buddy Update

The buddy system is still working well, thank you to all the angels who assisted over the past year.

Trees on the Green

Following the meeting with CWaC Tree Officer on Tuesday 29th June, Ryan McConnell has rejected the Parish Councils proposal to remove one tree from the village green.

Having viewed that the Tree officer may place TPO's on the trees if the Parish Council pursue the issue of tree removal further, all Councillors present accept the decision of CWaC and will undertake pruning work with approval under Conservation Area Permit.

Actions- gain new quotes for pruning the trees as those available were raised several months ago.

21.10.08 Correspondence

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

Reporter	Date	Description	Action	
Multi-Academy Trust	29/10/20 onwards	Use of MUGA by school when transferred to Multi-Academy Trust, new agreement to be created	Circulate to councillors	
Councillors	24/02/2021 onwards	Maintenance of trees on the green, emails between residents, contractors, and CWaC Tree Officer	Circulate to Councillors	

Creative Play	13/07/2021	Repairs to wet pour flooring	Circulated	
Member of Public	21/09/2021	Concerns raised about flyers circulating in village regarding the Planning application on land adj. to The Spinney	Chair and Clerk responded	
Planning Dept	27/009/2021	No decision on The Spinney planning application, no further details or plans have been submitted	Circulated	
ChaLC	01/10/2021	Speed consultation and offer of installation of average speed cameras in 4 locations. Would require annual PC input.	circulated	
Utkinton and Cotebrook PC	04/10/2021	Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee celebration. Enquiry as to how other local parishes are planning to celebrate	To response after meeting	
Highways	11/10/2021	Oulton mill Lane will be closed for UU works for 3 days beginning 25 th October	Circulated	

21.10.09 Finance Matters

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

- Accounts for payment (below)

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	NET (£)	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)
M. Wilson	Picnic area expenses	£52.0		£52.00
TP Construction and driveways Ltd	Village Green Wall repairs	£803.00	£160.60	£963.60

The Clerk requires a new printer, if quotes are collected a decision can be made on which to purchase.

21.10.10 External Meeting

The Oulton Park rally will be held on November 6th, this will be followed at 6.30pm by a bonfire and fireworks

The over 60's Christmas Lunch will be held on Monday 13th December; an article will be in the next newsletter with details of ticket availability.

A resident representative for the Oulton Park Liaison Group is required, if anyone is interested in joining the group, please e-mail rushtoncler@aol.com

21.10.11 Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 16th November 2021 at 7:30pm at the Jessie Hughes Village Hall.

21.10.12 Any Other Business

Phone Box – needs painting and also there is a broken pane of glass, clerk to gain quotes. Cllr. Sime to replace the glass, speak to Cllr. Wilson regarding who painted it last.

The Jessie Hughes Village Hall are having a router on loan for two weeks to establish whether it will give sufficient broadband for the needs of the village hall.

There are still significant number of houses and businesses within the parish that are suffering with very poor and slow broadband connections.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:45pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____