

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RUSHTON PARISH COUNCIL
held at the Jessie Hughes Village Hall
on Tuesday 18th October 2022 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs. Neil Thompson, Ed Shaw, Olja Vertija, Suzanne Hinchliffe, Graham Sime, Phil Hodgson

In Attendance: Eveleigh Moore-Dutton (Ward Councillor), Lindsey Worrall (Clerk), and Harry Caton, Laura Conroy, Frazer Lewis, and Gary Trotter of United Utilities.

22.10.01 Apologies for Absence and Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

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

22.10.02 Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the 20th September 2022 to be agreed and signed.

Proposed: Cllr. Shaw

Seconded: Cllr. Hinchliffe

22.10.03 Public Speaking Time

Neighbourhood Pride

Cllr. Moore-Dutton has some Neighbourhood Pride Money which can be used for community assets including bins, benches, noticeboards, wildflowers etc.

Parish Councillors discussed how this may be useful for the village entrance project, gate entrances with planting and signage.

Application needed by end of October.

United Utilities update

Works will begin in 2023

Works will be complete by 2025 and fully signed off by 2028

There are 3 pipes, two will be slip lines and the other will be cleaned, not all three can be undertaken at the same time so works will take place for a few months then return some time later to complete works on another pipe.

Water to properties can be connected through all 3 pipes so at no point will residents find themselves cut off.

There are 6 access points within Rushton Parish

Eaton Lane – 3 access points

Royal Lane – 1 access point

Sapling Lane – 2 access points

Through 2022- early 2023 there will be ecology works undertaken to check for sensitive species and installation of sampling points.

There will also be drop-in sessions organised at village halls through out 2023 to ensure residents fully aware of the works involved and the timetable of activities.

Rural Broadband

There are still properties within the parish that are struggling with very poor broadband.

Recently a quote was received to improve broadband to 28 properties at a cost of £144,000 which are served from the Little Budworth exchange.

Following a meeting in August with the MP a proposal was put to BT for 30 properties in September to be informed the voucher scheme was being paused on 7th October, no quote has been received to date and the details of the new voucher scheme have yet to be announced.

Cllr. Moore-Dutton and Clerk will follow up within CWaC

22.10.04 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.

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.

22.10.05 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 and 2022.

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

a. Highways Issues

Oulton Mill Lane, the tarmac has been undermined and there is now a 6 foot drop, the road is narrow anyway, if two vehicles meet at this point one could end up seriously damaged. Highways have been made aware, but as no highways drainage is in place on the road they are not in a position to undertake any remedial works. Cllr. Moore-Dutton will try to further this investigation.

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.

Cllr. Moore-Dutton has Neighbourhood Pride money to assist with such initiatives, application required by end of October

Actions – prepare proposal and Vertiga

Cllrs Thompson, Leslie, Hinchliffe

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

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 need 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.

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.

22.10.06 Reports from Working Groups 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

Mike Wilson will assist 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

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.

22.10.07 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.

22.10.08 Correspondence

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

Reporter	Date	Description	Action	
Solicitors and councillors	16/03/22 onwards	MUGA agreement update	Responded and Circulate to councillors	
Drays Coffee Shop	23/09/22	Thank you for support of mobile library and village face book page	Circulated	
Mersey Forest	23/09/22 onwards	Organising date to meet at Picnic area to discuss planting of trees	Circulated	
UU	22/09/22 onwards	Update on Vyrnwy Aqueduct maintenance project	Circulated	
Member of Public	23/09/22	Vehicle collision into wall at village green	Circulated	
Member of public	24/09/22	Concern about driveway encroaching onto highway	Circulated and Passed to highways	
Member of public	26/09/22	Concern about sign on land at Royal lane opposite the Jessie Hughes Village Hall	Circulated and queried with Highways and Planning	
CWaC Planning	30/09/22	No planning permission in place for sign on Royal Lane		
Cheshire Police	30/09/22	Energy Bill Text Scam. Scams occurring asking for bank details to give customers their energy refund.	Ciculated and Minute that customers do not need to do anything to get money	
CWaC	03/10/22	Nikki Roberts, trees are available for community orchards	Passed to Chair	
Member of Public	03/10/22	7.5 tonne weight limit sign not present on Eaton Lane near Alvanley Arms	Reported to Highways	
Tarporley War memorial Hospital	04/10/22	Update on hospital and arranging to come to November parish council meeting	Circulated	
Community Infrastructure Levy	19/08/22 and 04/10/22	£1340.80 passed to PC for CIL, form to be completed showing how money is to be spent	Clerk To complete form	
Member of Public	05/10/22	Nottinghamshire County Council and Police have produced signs highlighting the speed restrictions	Sent to Highways	
Planning Enforcement	11/10/22	Enforcement team have opened a case regarding the sign on land at Royal lane	Circulated	
UU	11/10/22	Harry Caton has asked the land agent teams to ensure that landowners receive up to date and consistent information	circulated	

22.10.09 Finance Matters

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

- Accounts for payment (below)

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	NET (£)	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)

22.10.10 External Meeting

Next Oulton Park meeting

Oulton Park rally Day and fireworks will be held on 5th November, anyone with residents pass can get free access from 6pm

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

22.10.11 Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 15th November 2022 at 7:30pm at the Jessie Hughes Village Hall.

22.10.12 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: _____