

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RUSHTON PARISH COUNCIL
held Via Zoom on Tuesday 20th October 2020 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs. Neil Thompson, Mike Wilson, Suzanne Hinchliffe, Graham Sime and Eddie Shaw

In Attendance: Lindsey Worrall (Clerk), Eveleigh Moore- Dutton (Ward Councillor) Ian Pleasant Architect for Jay Ashall Partnership

20.10.01 Apologies for Absence and Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

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

20.10.02 Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the 25th September 2020 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Cllr. Thompson

Seconded: Cllr. Sime

20.10.03 Public Speaking Time

Mr Ian Pleasant, Architect for Jay Ashall Partnership representing a proposed small residential development on the edge of the village including a field for the use by the primary school. There has already been positive feedback from those involved including the MP and the Executive head of the School.

The plans for the development will give multiple benefits and enhanced facilities for the school. CWaC Planning and the Education Dept. believe there is adequate land provision at the school, there are adequate facilities locally and children could use facilities at Tarporley if needed. A Highways Consultant is looking at access is a key issue of the development, traffic calming or a footpath could be part of the scheme to reduce the speed of the traffic and make the area safer.

Actions – Write to School, determine their plans with the land if gifted to them. **(Clerk)**
 Write to CWaC – to get their perspective of gifting land to school facilities **(Clerk)**
 Architect to work with Parish Council to look ways to engage with the Community, Newsletter, Noticeboard etc **(Parish Council, Jay Ashall Partnership and client)**

20.10.04 Matters Arising

Village Design Statement

The Village Design Statement has not progressed over the summer months, members of the team and Cllr. Thompson will hopefully meet in the next week 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 insurance company has released the funds and the repair will occur on the 12th November.

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 will be 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.
2. PCSO Jorge promised to be more visible in Eaton and will carry out 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 in the coming weeks, 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 will undertake 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)

20.10.05 **Planning Matters**

1- To note planning decisions.

None

2- To consider response to planning applications received

20/03307/FUL

Location -Stone Cottage, Sapling Lane, Eaton, CW6 9AF

Proposal – Extension of canopy of carport, addition of rooflights to utility room and infill of existing utility side window.

Rushton Parish Council has **No Objections** to this Planning Application.

Proposed – Cllr. Sime

Seconded – Cllr. Hinchliffe

20.10.06 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 has eroded away, flooding occurs frequently, cones have been placed around the area where the road surface has collapsed. Highways have been notified. Due to the water sitting on the road this would be a serious accident area when the weather becomes frosty.

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.

Oulton Mill Lane has a flood part way along the road, this is the second flood along Oulton Mill Lane in recent years. This appears to be caused by activity on land causing problems with the flow of the water. The condition of the road has been detailed to Highways.

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.

20.10.07 Reports from Working Groups Communications

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.

The hedges have been cut by contractors of Cllr. Shaw, thank you for arranging this.

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 Hand Sanitiser attached to the Play Zone gates has become broken, a new one has been ordered.

Annual Inspection was delayed due to the Play Zone being closed, now its reopened, consultation has been undertaken with Creative Play and an annual inspection can take place once the Parish Council have agreed upon the package to be chosen.

Package 1 - £295 +VAT

- Operational Inspection and service
- Renewal of moving parts and full report (quote for chargeable works)

Package 2 - £421 +VAT

- Operational Inspection and service
- Renewal of moving parts and full report (quote for chargeable works)
- Inspect entire play area by independent RPII inspector together with full report.

To undertake Package 1 annual Inspection of the Play Zone

Proposed - Cllr. Thompson

Seconded - Cllr. Hinchliffe

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 is standing down from managing the Play zone in September 2020, having been actively involved from the early stages of fund raising for the play zone to be built. A Councillor will need to become involved in the management of the Play zone as this is a Parish Council initiative.

Youth Club

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

Cllr. Mike Wilson & Mary Wilson are standing down from being the Committee Chair and organising the rota of leaders in September 2020, 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.

Fruit, Veg and Plant Exchange

Eaton Gardening Group (Up the Garden Path) would usually have a stall at Tarporley Carnival with proportion of the money raised from the event donated to Tarporley War Memorial Hospital. This year to enable some form of socially distanced event, whilst supporting a local business and the Hospital the Gardening Group have begun their Fruit, Veg and Plant Exchange.

On the first Saturday of July, August and September, the gardening group members met at The Drays Coffee Shop, for coffee and Cake (served through the hatch), members brought a selection of fruit, veg and plants whilst Tarporley Garden Centre very kindly donated some plants.

With thanks to everyone who donated produce, to Tarporley Garden Centre for their kind donations of plants and bulbs and to The Drays coffee shop for hosting the event.

A staggering £900 (including Gift Aid), has now been raised for the hospital

20.10.08 Correspondence

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

Reporter	Date	Description	Action	
Member of Public	17/09/20	Issues with parking on Lightfoot Lane when dropping child off for school bus, resident parking vehicle to block road	Circulate to Councillors	
CwaC	18/09/20	Details of Neighbourhood Plan, Neighbourhood Development Orders (NDO) and Community Rights to Build (CRtBO)	Circulate to Councillors	
Member of Public	25 th and 26 th Sept 2020	Hand Delivery of letter to Chair of Parish Council regarding Planning application at The Old School House	Circulate to Councillors	
CwaC	02/10/20	Trees on the Green, feedback about growth pattens	Circulate to Councillors	
Creative play	02/10	Liaison with Cllr. Wilson regarding the annual inspection of the Play Zone	Circulate to Councillors	
SP Energy	03/10/20	Trees on Green, details of ongoing inspections and works around trees	Circulate to Councillors	
Multi-Academy Trust	02/10/20	Transfer of agreement from Eaton Primary School to the Trust for use of the MUGA	Circulate to Councillors	
Architect for developers	05/10/20	Request to join next Parish Council meeting	Circulate to Councillors	
Member of Public	12/10/20	Broadband issues at Oxheys/ Winterford Lane	Forwarded to Cllr. Thompson	

20.10.09 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 (£)
L Worrall	Q2 Salary	£917.80		£917.80
L.Worrall	Q2 Expenses	£19.98	£3.99	£23.97
M. Wilson	Covid expenses	£66.71	£12.35	£79.06

Clerk's Pay –

Q2 salary includes back dated pay for Q1.

A National Pay rise has been awarded, this is equivalent to £11.53 an hour, £24.18 a quarter increase, or £96.72 over the entire year.

Q3 pay to include the pay rise awarded and backed dated for Q1 and Q2?

Actions – Are the Parish Council happy that the Clerk receives a pay rise.

- Are Councillors happy that the Q3 pay for the clerk includes the pay rise awarded and backed dated for Q1 and Q2?

All Councillors present unanimously happy to award the pay rise
Proposed – Cllr. Shaw
Seconded – Cllr. Wilson

20.10.10 External Meeting

The next Oulton Park Liaison Committee meeting in October has been cancelled, the next scheduled meeting will be January 2021.

The Oulton Park Christmas Lunch has also been cancelled.

20.10.11 Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 17th November 2020 at 7:30pm via Zoom.

20.10.12 Any Other Business

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:35pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____