

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RUSHTON PARISH COUNCIL
held at the JESSIE HUGHES VILLAGE HALL on MONDAY 19th September 2011 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs. M.Wilson, D.Lilley, A. Nicholas, J. O'Shea, A.Rose, E.Shaw

In Attendance: A. Stubbs – Clerk
Mr. B. Platt
Mr. C. Lloyd
Mr. J. Freeman
Mr. R.Chisnall

11.09.01 Apologies for Absence and declarations of interest

Resolved: that the apologies received from Cllr. Scott be accepted.

11.09.02 Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 18th July 2011 be agreed and signed as a correct record. It was noted that informal minutes had also been produced of the open meeting in August.

At this point, the Chairman declared an Open Forum and introduced Mr. Nial Casselden from the Cheshire West and Chester enforcement department.

Mr. Casselden gave a talk on the role and powers of the enforcement department. He pointed out that most of the functions of the planning and enforcement department are governed by national legislation. The enforcement department consists of 7 officers and a team leader split between 2 area offices. He explained that:

- a breach of planning control is not a criminal offence.
- the council is forced to consider retrospective planning applications the same way as a normal planning application.
- the council is not obliged to take action in every case
- enforcement action must be proportionate to the breach of planning control
- enforcement action must be justifiable
- in many cases the action to be taken is negotiated

There are many steps the enforcement office can take including:

- Planning contravention notice – this must be responded to
- Temporary stop notice – freezes site for 28 days
- Injunction – only used for very serious breaches
- Enforcement notice – requires landowner to remedy the breach of planning control within 28 days
- Listed building enforcement notice – this is a criminal offence

Mr.Casselden also explained that prosecution would only take place if an enforcement notice had not been complied with which usually results in a fine. He stated that a quick resolution was not possible with the tools available which was why negotiation was used to resolve most cases. He also pointed out that Building Control may take action when building works have taken place without permission or inspection.

The clerk was requested to email Mr. Casselden outlining the concerns of the Parish Council regarding the holiday let at Eaton Cottage Farm.

The chairman thanked Mr. Casselden for attending the meeting and closed the Open Forum.

11.09.03 Public Speaking Time

No members of the public wished to speak.

11.09.04 Matters Arising

Red Lion Pub

A contract is now in place for the maintenance of the grounds and Scottish & Newcastle are still considering the future of the building and land.

ACTION – Cllr. Wilson to maintain contact

Concerns over asbestos water pipes

Cllr. Wilson had received an email from Lucy Atherton, lead environmental health officer for Cheshire West and Chester Council which stated that the World Health Organisation had evaluated the use of asbestos within water mains and its conclusions were that studies had shown no increased cancer risk associated with the ingestion of asbestos in drinking water. She further stated that guidance from the Department of the Environment also states that there are no health concerns.

No further action to be taken.

Bus Stop on Village Green

It is believed that the bus stop is still used but this has yet to be verified.

ACTION – Cllr. Wilson to check that buses run to the timetables circulated.

Parish Councillor response to the LDF

Cllr. Scott had requested that the Parish Council complete a LDF questionnaire. It was generally felt that a low amount of development would be acceptable in the parish.

ACTION - Cllr. Wilson to complete.

11.09.05 Reports from Working Groups

Communications

Website

A basic design had been produced but it was felt that this was not satisfactory. It was agreed that if a full design has not been produced within 7 days a different supplier would be sought.

ACTION – Clerk to chase.

Parish Directory

Cllr. Wilson confirmed that this should be circulated to Councillors before the next meeting.

ACTION – Cllr. Wilson.

Parish Newsletter

With the last edition circulated 1st August, the next quarterly Newsletter is due for circulation 1st November.

ACTION – Cllr Wilson

Development/Planning/Environment

Village Green

A schedule has been produced by Cllr. Scott showing that Planning and Conservation departments had now found the proposed plans acceptable but they were still being considered by Highways department.

ACTION – Cllr. Scott to progress

Electricity sub-station

A further meeting had been held with Scottish Power, who are not in favour of considering any other sites except for Elm Tree Court, due to technical reasons and possibly cost. It was proposed that an independent advisor should be employed to help the Parish Council consider other sites.

Resolved: that an independent advisor be contacted with the cost to be agreed by the Parish Council via email.

Road Safety

Cllrs. Wilson and Lilley have put together an action list for consideration:

1. Move speed limit which is close to school out beyond Whalley Drive
2. 40mph speed limit from Cotebrook along Eaton Lane
3. Flashing 'speed sign' on entrance to village
4. Speed limit by village hall to be moved to the bottom of the hill on Royal Lane
5. 20mph speed limit on Lower Lane
6. Access to a radar gun

It was proposed that this list be progressed and that a meeting set up with the Working Group volunteers on this project.

Resolved: that action list is agreed and volunteers to be contacted.

ACTION – Cllrs. Wilson and Lilley

Services

Noting to report

Youth/Social/Community

Play Area

Cllrs. O'Shea and Wilson have had a meeting with Paul Mitchell, Headmaster at Eaton Primary School who is very supportive of the play area. A plan had been created showing two areas, one for 0-5 years, open throughout the day and the other for 5-11 years, available to the school during school hours and youngsters in the evenings and holidays.

ACTION – Cllrs O'Shea, Rose and Wilson to work with the Headmaster to chase CWAC for permission to use the school playing fields.

Youth Club

A meeting had taken place to discuss this which involved Sarah Baxter, a new resident to the village. Sarah has a lot of experience in Youth clubs and also the necessary qualifications and is willing to take on the Club Leader role. Parents have also offered to help on a rota basis. It was proposed that 2 sessions should take place on the same night each week, the first session for 6 – 10 years from 5.30pm to 7.00pm and the second for 11 years – 16 years to take place from 7.15pm – 9.00pm. Again the Headmaster is supportive that the school is used, and the necessary administration and paperwork is starting to be worked on.

ACTION – Cllrs. O'Shea and Rose to progress.

It was also agreed that another Youth Parish Council meeting was required and that this would take place at 5.45pm on 30th September, before the Family Fun night.

11.09.06 Planning Matters

a) Applications since the last meeting

11/03599/FUL – retrospective application at Eaton Cottage Farm.

The proposal is for the new gates and also the study/store building which have both been completed at the above site.

Resolved: that the following objections are forwarded to the Planning Department:

- 1) the gates are inappropriate for a grade II* listed building and should be replaced with something more in keeping.
- 2) if the new garden study/store is required to accommodate visitors to the Roman Villa site, then consent should be granted if a formal agreement to open the site to the public is entered into.

- b) Decisions made by Cheshire West and Chester
 11/02308/FUL – porch and garage extension at Vine Cottage – permitted
 11/03092/HED – removal of hedge at Red Beech Farm - permitted

11.09.07 Highways

Problems/Potholes

A pothole was reported outside the Old Barn on Lower Lane.

ACTION – clerk to report

11.09.08 Correspondence

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

SENDER	DATED	DETAILS	RECOMMENDED ACTION
Ged Gigg		August/September Monthly Update	Noted

Cheshire Police			
CWAC	8 th August	Polling Districts and Polling Station Review	No comments
CWAC	9 th Sept	Notice of tree exempt from TPO	Request that tree to be felled is replaced.
Mike Scott	24 th August	Request that cost of training be permitted	Request granted
		Cheshire Warm Zone Programme	Noticeboard

Proposed: that Rushton Parish Council request that John Freeman co-ordinates an initiative for solar panels for residents of the Parish, to tie in with the village hall. The Bickerton Village Hall 'expert' has offered assistance. Proposed Cllr. Wilson, seconded Cllr. Rose and all agreed.

11.09.09 Finance Matters

Resolved: that:

a) the following net accounts are passed for payment:

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	NET	VAT	TOTAL
Audit Commission	Audit fees	144.00		144.00
CHALC	Training for Cllr. Wilson	30.00		30.00
SLCC	Subscription 2011	61.00		61.00
St Helens Church	Newsletter copying	30.00		30.00
Mike Wilson	Refund for newsletter paper	9.98		9.98
Mike Wilson	Refund for pool table	180.80	36.16	216.96

Cllrs. were reminded to call at the NatWest Bank to progress the bank mandate.

ACTION – all new councillors

11.09.10 Quality Parish Scheme

In progress.

ACTION – Parish Clerk

11.09.11 Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting will be held on 17th October, 2011 at 7.30pm at the Jessie Hughes Village Hall.

11.09.12 Any Other Business

Cllr. Shaw raised parking problems at the school. Cllr. O'Shea reported that a proposed new parking system was currently being put before the governors for approval.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.00pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____