

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RUSHTON PARISH COUNCIL
held at the JESSIE HUGHES VILLAGE HALL on TUESDAY 19th September 2017 at 7:30pm

Present: Cllrs. Jade Plumbley, Arthur Nicholas, Eddie Shaw, John Sellers and Neil Thompson

In Attendance: Mike Wilson
 Eveleigh Moore-Dutton
 Lindsey Worrall (Clerk)
 Simon Corradine
 David Furness
 Pauline Furness

17.09.01 Apologies for Absence and Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

Resolved: that there were no disclosures of interest.

17.09.02 Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 15th August 2017 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Cllr. Nicholas

Seconded: Cllr. Thompson

Resolved: that the minutes of the Extra Ordinary meeting held on 7th September 2017 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Cllr. Nicholas

Seconded: Cllr. Thompson

17.09.03 Public Speaking Time

Eveleigh Moore-Dutton has very kindly bought the Parish Council, a Cheshire Heritage Variety apple tree for the picnic area. This has been especially grafted for Rushton Parish Council and has taken twelve months to ensure the graft has successfully taken. A very kind and generous gift.

Mr and Mrs Furness, concerned about very low broadband speed. This will be addressed during the meeting.

17.09.04 Matters Arising

Defibrillator for the Parish

There is a defibrillator at the Primary School, it would be beneficial to village to have one at the village hall or village phone box.

The British Heart Foundation provided funding to support the installation of defibrillators and training of volunteers, this funding is only available if the device is installed in specific locations.

Location 1) – Telephone box, there is currently no funding for telephone box installations, the box would also need heating to ensure the device is kept at the correct temperature and the electricity supply to the box would need to be re-installed.

Location 2) – Outside the Jessie Hughes Village Hall (JHVH), British Heart foundation funding would be available, the defibrillator would need to be secured in a box which maintains a constant temperature.

Location 3) – Inside the JHVH, no funding is available for the installation of a defibrillator within a building, defibrillator would not need to be heated.

Action. Cllr. Thompson to attend the JHVI committee meeting
Cllr. Thompson

Local Council Finance and Introduction to VAT Course

The Clerk has requested to attend the above two courses being undertaken by Cheshire Association of Local Councils (ChALC), the courses run as a full day, costing £75.

Clerk Should attend Training Courses

- Proposed Cllr. Shaw
- Seconded Cllr. Sellers

Members Budget Application

An application was completed for a grant from the CWaC Members budget. The Parish Council have received £1800 towards the cost of installing the kerb on the village green.

To undertake the full length of the kerb and include the corner, the tarmac from the kerb to the existing road has to be re-instated to Highways specification. Highways have informed the Parish Council that unfortunately they are unable to pay for the road re-instatement at a cost of a further £1,800. It is believed that, if the corner is completed correctly it will deter vehicles from running on to the verge. Mike Wilson (Chair of RSWG) has spoken with Terry Ball of TP Construction and it would be inefficient and costlier to do the job in 2 parts.

A second Members budget grant for the remaining amount required to complete work has been applied for and verbally agreed. A meeting is to be held on Thursday 17th August with the contractor and Highways representatives to discuss the details of the project. Once confirmation of this grant is received the Parish Council will arrange for the works to be completed and a timely fashion and adhering to all Highways standards and requirements.

The meeting between the contractor and Highways has now occurred, due to the escalating costs to complete the kerb renewal, the project is on hold.

Councillor Vacancies

Four members of the public applied to join Rushton Parish Council which resulted in the two vacancies being voted upon. The voting process was overseen by Cllr. Moore-Dutton.

The two new councillors voted to join Rushton Parish Council are Mr Simon Corradine and Ms Emma Leslie, congratulations on becoming Parish Councillors.

Thank you to everyone who applied, we have numerous working groups within the parish and new enthusiastic members to groups are always welcome.

Councillors Responsibilities

Appointment of Committees and Allocation of Member's Responsibilities 2017/2018

- a) Road Safety – Cllr Plumbley, Cllr Shaw + Working group headed up by Mike Wilson
- b) Members' individual responsibilities be allocated, as follows:

Parish Council Noticeboard	Clerk
CHALC	Members as available
Oulton Park Liaison	Cllrs. Shaw/Sellers
Litter Pickers	Members as available
Dog Warden/Footpaths	Cllr. Nicholas
Communications	Cllr. Thompson
Development/Planning/Environment	Cllr. Plumbley/vacancy
Services	Cllr. Thompson/Clerk
Youth/Social/Community	working groups headed up by Mike Wilson
	Cllrs. Shaw and Plumbley
- Road Safety	Cllrs. Plumbley and Nicholas
- Picnic Area	Cllr. Plumbley
- Play Zone	

Councillor responsibilities will now be reviewed to include are newest members.

17.09.05 Planning Matters

a) Applications received since the last meeting

17/03903/FUL – Spinney Cottage, Lower Lane, Eaton, CW6 9AN

Two Storey Side extension and single storey extension

Decision to be made in meeting on 26th September 2017. Application not received until after agenda circulated.

b) Other

17.09.06 Highways

Kings Lane, Rushton, from the corner by Hunters Lodge, water is running down the road on the right-hand side of the road. United Utilities have attended and carried out inspection works including samples to determine whether the leak is from mains water. United Utilities have undertaken all they can.

Re-surfacing of Lower Lane

It was accepted that resurfacing from the Cross through to Old Hall Lane was required, from where Hickhurst Lane has already been resurfaced. SP Energy are not due to undertake any further underground works until 2018. The resurfacing should occur after all other known works have been completed. Highways have been contacted.

Action Liaise with Highways regarding the timetable of resurfacing

Mike Wilson

Signage on Lower Lane

Highways have placed closure signs on Lower Lane, but have not informed the Parish Council what the works are or the duration of such works.

Action Liaise with Highways regarding the timetable of works

Clerk

Closure to excavate carriage way, works will take up to 5 days beginning 30th October 2017.

Flooding at Royal Lane

Flooding in the dip of Royal Lane is frequently occurring, a vehicle has recently driven through the hedge. Highways have been to inspect and have confirmed that a new drain will be installed to prevent further flooding. No timescales given.

16.09.07 Reports from Working Groups**Communications**Website and Facebook

Clerk to look at local Parish Council websites and speak with Clerks and Chairs about the service they had when upgrading. The website is now fully compliant with the Transparency code.

Superfast Broadband

Connecting Cheshire and BT are working together on the Superfast Broadband phases. The next phase of upgrades begins in September/ October for select postcodes, but there has been no clarification of what work, who will benefit or when work will commence. The following phase will be summer 2018.

Community fibre is an option where community pay 50% and BT pay 50% of set up cost, but this ranges between £50,000 to £100,000. Satellite is also possible; some members of the parish have tried it but found it not very successful.

Next steps for Parish, is to see where this current phase goes then decide whether a community option is required.

Meeting closed at 20:10 for public speaking, Mr and Mrs Furness.

Lower Lane and Little Budworth are now connected, there is a reducing number of people with connection issues and therefore less people will be willing to undertake a community fibre project.

Cllr. Thompson, momentum of the community is needed, but to help with the engagement with Connecting Cheshire we need to have peoples telephone numbers, addresses, postcodes. In the past, we have struggled to gather this information.

Action- In next newsletter ask for people to supply information required, if they are interested in taking a community fibre project further

Wilson

Cllr. Thompson and Mike

Development/Planning/Environment**Oulton Mill Picnic Area Project.****1. Levelling Work in entrance area.**

Levelling work has now been completed, and the hump has been graded
Cllrs. Nicholas has seeded and rolled the area where the hump was.

2. Path.

The circular path has been discussed in detail, funds are not available to undertake this work, Issues with mowing may arise once installed. A path through the wooded area would be cheaper to install and not interfere with mowing. Quotes required.
Colin Booth of CB Homes has kindly offered to donate the materials for the circular path, quotes required for the labour required to undertake this work.

3. **Tree Planting**

The donated tree whips were planted along the entrance perimeter on 20th April 2017, these have all taken well.

An area for the apple tree orchard and wildflower meadow has been cordoned off later in the summer as such planting shouldn't take place now until the colder weather.

Eveleigh Moore-Dutton have very Kindly donated a grafted Cheshire Heritage variety Apple tree.

4. **Ancillaries**

Notice board is needed and will cost approx £800. However, with limited funds, this will be deferred for the time being. A temporary board is in place.

A litter bin is required and CWaC Streetscene will be asked for this F.O.C. This will require a volunteer rota for emptying.

Action: Mike Wilson

5. **Primary School Project.**

All ready to go once funding secured. Head Nikki Duffell is enthusiastic and detailed quote from Wildbanks Conservation is in place.

6. **Funding**

The Tesco grant of £4k applied for, voting is now taking place in Tesco stores across the local area. Voting has now been closed and the counting is been undertaken, the results will be known in autumn.

7. **Bulb planting**

Wildflowers such as Snowdrops, English Bluebells, Wild Garlic, Snakeshead Fritillary should be planted. Tarvin Woodlands have a large selection of native wildflowers and good contacts to suppliers.

8. **Grass Cutting Quotes**

Grass cutting quote has now been received from Nick Rayner, grass £30 per mow and hedges £50 twice a year.

There are concerns that the installation of a path and wild flower area may cause difficulties mowing the picnic area. At the moment it is easy to mow and trim the picnic area, the addition of too many items/areas of interest may make the mowing more difficult.

9. **Hedge Cutting**, the hedges will be cut again in October by Mr Rayner.

10. **Gate**, the planning department at CWaC have confirmed that if a second gate is required on Oulton Mill Lane to enable contractor access this would not require planning permission.

11. **Bird Boxes**, Two Bird Boxes have been donated to the project by Environmental Crop Management (ECM)

Management meeting to be held on Sunday 24th September at 11:00 to look at ease of mowing, areas for tree planting, wildflower meadow and tidying ahead of the winter months.

Road Safety

20mph zone

The Parish Council and Mike Wilson have prepared a proposal for the original rectangle of Lower Lane; Winterford Lane; Edgewell Lane; & Eaton Lane (between the two) to be included as a 20mph zone for Highways consideration. Highways Department have confirmed that the proposal will be assessed during September, with any improvements occurring in year three of the 20mph project.

Cross

The Road Safety Team have prepared a series of options including signs, road markings and vehicle activated signs. The Highways department will assess the proposal and make suggestions in due course.

Eaton Lane

Speed management and traffic calming measures that could be used to reduce the speed on Eaton Lane include Islands and interactive signage. These types of speed calming measures have been found to be more effective than reducing the speed limit, but would require a financial input from the parish council.

Vehicle Activated Sign

The VAS has been in place for two years, Paul Healey has analysed the data and found that vehicles do slow down upon approaching the sign, and the sign continues to be effective after the two-year period.

The vehicle count shows a clear peak of vehicles in summer and dip in winter and a 4% increase in vehicles using Eaton Lane in the past year. There is no trend associated with the installation of the lights on the A49 that can be seen from the data.

Speed of vehicles- there are around 40% doing more than 40mph and 1 in 14 doing more than 50mph

A meeting is to be arranged with Highways and representatives of the RSWG to discuss the safety aspects of the Cross junction, expansion of the 20mph zone and Eaton Lane speed and road safety.

Beech Lane Junction with Brownhills Rd

The junction requires signage to improve safety. Highways have assessed the junction and will repaint the lines to improve the visibility.

Youth/Social/Community

Play Zone

A quote has been received for the equipment change to replace one of the slides, the equipment is more expensive than anticipated. Sponsorship or fund raising will be used to fund this. Management Meeting to be held on 5th October 2017.

Youth club

The Youth club has remained very busy through the summer holiday, it is enjoyed by all that attend.

The Parish Council have paid the rent to CWaC but youth group had not given their contribution to the Parish Council to cover the period 1st January to 31st March 2017. This has now been rectified, with Thanks.

17.09.08 Local Council Award Scheme

The Parish Council is continuing to work on this. The Clerk is reviewing the information that needs to be added to the website. This is interlinked with the website, as the website is developed the information available to the public will grow and therefore the LCAS will become an achievable step.

17.09.09 External Meetings

None reported

17.09.10 Correspondence

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

	SENDER	DATED	DETAILS
	Cheshire Community Action	22/08/17	Membership due £20
	Eaton primary School	24/08/17	Traffic Management around Eaton primary School
	Highways	29/08/17	Royal Lane, Eaton. New Drain to be installed to prevent flooding issues
	Highways	29/08/17	Re-new carriageway markings at Beech Lane/Brownhills Road Junction
	Tesco Bags of Help	07/09/17	Decision Date Notification- votes are being counted
	Highways	07/09/17	Oxheys Lane closure, 18 th Sept for 2 days but up to 5 days for essential tree work
	Highways	11/09/17	'Arthur's Pot Hole' – Highways are going to look at it, to assess whether it needs a more permanent repair – Pot Hole, Kings Lane, Rushton
	Highways	14/09/17	Hickhurst Lane – closure starting on 30 th October 2017, to enable excavation works to be carried out. Works are expected to take 5 days
	Highways	13/09/17	Tarporley High School bus reversed into and damaged a lamppost on Elm Tree Court. Reported by member of public and Chair of council. Spoke with Highways, they were aware of situation.

17.09.11 Finance Matters

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

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	NET (£)	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)
BDO LLP	Audit Fee 2017	£130.00	£26.00	£156.00

L Worrall	Stationary	£31.63	£6.32	£37.95
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17.09.12 Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 26th September at 7:30pm in the Jessie Hughes Village Hall to discuss the outstanding planning applications. The next ordinary Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 17th October 2017 at 7:30pm in the Jessie Hughes Village Hall.

17.09.13 Any Other Business

Hedge Cutting residents hedges with tractor and hedge cutter will occur again in October 2017. Anyone wishing to take up this service please contact Mike Wilson.

Keys for a Toyota have been found on Hickhurst Lane. If you believe these to be yours, please contact the Clerk, Lindsey Worrall by e-mail rushtonclerk@aol.com

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:22pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____