

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RUSHTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**held at the Jessie Hughes Village Hall**  
**on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllrs. Neil Thompson, Ed Shaw, Emma Leslie, Olja Vertija, Suzanne Hinchliffe

**In Attendance:** Eveleigh Moore-Dutton (Ward Councillor), Lindsey Worrall (Clerk), Anne Kelly, Penny Musgrove.

**22.09.01      Apologies for Absence and Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests**

**Resolved:** that the apologies from Cllrs. Sime and Hodgson along with the Clerk be received and accepted

**22.09.02      Minutes**

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the 21<sup>st</sup> June 2022 to be agreed and signed.

**Proposed:** Cllr. Vetija

**Seconded:** Cllr. Shaw

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the 19<sup>th</sup> July 2022 be agreed and signed.

**Proposed:** Cllr. Leslie

**Seconded:** Cllr. Shaw

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022 be agreed and signed.

**Proposed:** Cllr. Hinchliffe

**Seconded:** Cllr. Leslie

**22.09.03      Public Speaking Time**

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 mid-October.

Anne Kelly spoke about the mobile library which will stop in Eaton at The Drays Coffee Shop on the third Thursday of the Month.

The mobile library will offer craft classes, book club, a warm hub that's social with coffee at reasonable prices.

People with limited ability could find accessing the coffee shop difficult, therefore there are facilities to order books in advance online and they will be dropped off to the people who have ordered them.

Consultation for mobile libraries runs till 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2022.

Facebook Page, would the Parish Council administer it, needs daily administration with nice posts.

Tarporley have 5400 members

Councils Leslie and Vertija to do daily administration.

**22.09.04      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)

Ask Cllr Moore-Dutton to call in the application conditionally, it shouldn't be considered for approval.

Parish Council reserves right to make comments once further details are available

### **Enforcement**

#### **21/03836/LDC**

**Location** -Brown Hills, Brownhills Road, Rushton, Tarporley, CW6 9BQ

**Proposal:** Use of property as two dwellings for a period in excess of four years

No further comments to be made, Parish Councils original comments still stand.

### **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.

### **22/02948/FUL**

**Location** - Land at Saddlers Cottage, Eaton Lane, Eaton.

**Proposal** – Temporary satellite compound and access required to facilitate the Malpas to Cotebrook phase of the Vyrnwy Aqueduct maintenance programme of works.

The Parish Council Supports this Planning Application –

Proposed – Cllr. Shaw

Seconded – Cllr. Hinchliffe

### **22/03005/LBC**

**Location** – School House, Sapling Lane, Eaton CW6 9AE.

**Proposal** – Retention of existing fence, outbuilding store and shed to rear of School House.

The Parish Council Supports this Planning Application –

Proposed – Cllr. Hinchliffe

Seconded – Cllr. Leslie

The applicant has planted climbers which over time will soften the appearance and help it blend into the surroundings

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Proposed – Cllr. Hinchliffe

Seconded – Cllr. Leslie

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### **22.09.05**

### **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.

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 and have undertaken an assessment, they have concluded that at the moment no action is required.

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.

Winterford Lane goes from a 60mph to a 20mph on the bend as you enter the village, the speed should be reduced in increments as you enter the village. Highways have responded saying that the road is narrow and very unlikely that vehicles could do 60mph and there is no current requirement to reduce the speed limit before entering the village.

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.

Once designs in place, Oulton Park could be approached to help with fund raising this project.

**Actions – prepare proposal and Vertiga**

**Cllrs Thompson, Leslie, Hinchliffe**

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!!!

The Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) on Lower Lane is becoming obstructed by the hedge within the housing development, the developers have confirmed that grounds works will be complete by the end of October, but will try to cut the hedge before then.

During the summer there was a large fire in the village, Cheshire Fire Service attended to put the fire out and prevent it spreading towards the village. This fire has highlighted that Hydrants are no longer checked across the UK and the fire service were hampered in Eaton by hydrants not working. Farmers assisted with vaccy tankers of water to get the water where it was needed. The Hydrant on Sapling Lane is now working and the NFU will work with Farmers and Fire brigade to ensure farmers have the correct fittings on their vaccy tankers to spray water. Another aspect that was raised during the fire is that some of the lanes in the village are very narrow and fire engines will struggle to get access to some of the more remote areas within the parish.

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.

## 22.09.06 Reports from Working Groups Communications

### **Newsletter**

Phil Allcock the editor of the newsletter will stand 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

### **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.

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

## **22.09.07    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 20-30 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'. Action – arrange a meeting at picnic area to look at planting sites and invite Mersey Forest along with local residents/other interested parties (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.

### **22.09.08 Correspondence**

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

<b>Reporter</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Action</b>	
Solicitors and councillors	16/03/22 onwards	MUGA agreement update	Responded and Circulate to councillors	
SBA (external Auditor)	23/07/22	Accounts logged and accepted as exempt		
Highways	27/07/22	Oulton Mill Lane closed for Drainage work	Circulated	
SBA	11/08/22	Opt out communication for external auditing. Chose to do nothing, this ensure an external auditor is chosen the PC and therefore less work	Passed to Chair	
CB Homes	12/08/22	11.50am e-mail to say Lower Lane open after works, communications to Cllr. Moore- Dutton and Cllr Shaw already made	Circulated	
Member of public	19/08/22	Hedge on lower lane where CB Homes development taking place is growing and obstructing VAS	Clerk To contact CB Homes	
Member of public	25/08/22	Thanks to be passed to Nick Rayner for the mowing of the picnic area	Circulated	
UU	26/08/22	Update on Vyrnwy Aqueduct maintenance project	circulated	
Eaton Homes	26/08/22	Wanted advertising space on noticeboard	Advised that PC does not have advertising space	
Highways	30/08/22	Response to e-mail from Clerk regarding issues within Eaton Village	circulated	
JHVI	31/08/22	Electricity surcharge	circulated	
Member of the public	03/09/22	Fly tipping on Lower Lane, marble table top, wheel, gas cylinder	circulated	
JHVI	10/09/22	Issue with Blinds at the Jessie	Circulated	

Highways	12/09/22	5 day closure of Hickhurst Lane starting 19 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Circulated	
Highways	14/09/22	Transportation Dept, speed limits on Winterford Lane	circulated	
JHVI	14/09/22	Jubilee items that need completing, PC contribution to artwork for Jessie? Tree planting at picnic area	Circulated	
Member of public		When will Scottish Power be placing cables underground in village and Lower Lane being resurfaced	Clerk to contact Scottish Power	

### **22.09.09 Finance Matters**

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

- Accounts for payment (below)

<b>PAYEE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>NET (£)</b>	<b>VAT (£)</b>	<b>TOTAL (£)</b>
Lindsey Worrall	Q2 Salary	£930.00		£930.00
JHVI	Hall Hire	£26.00		£26.00

### **22.09.10 External Meeting**

Next Oulton Park meeting is 12<sup>th</sup> October.

Mersey Forest Meeting at Picnic area

### **22.09.11 Next Meeting**

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 7:30pm at the Jessie Hughes Village Hall.

### **22.09.12 Any Other Business**

Cllr. Shaw and Vertija to look at Playzone as weeds starting to appear in the gaps of the rubberised matting

**There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:30pm.**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_