

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RUSHTON PARISH COUNCIL  
held Via Zoom on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 7.30pm**

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

**In Attendance:** Lindsey Worrall (Clerk), Eveleigh Moore- Dutton (Ward Councillor)

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

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

**20.09.02      Minutes**

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the 21<sup>st</sup> July 2020 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

**Proposed:** Cllr. Wilson

**Seconded:** Cllr. Hinchliffe

**20.09.03      Public Speaking Time**

**20.09.04      Matters Arising**

**Village Design Statement**

Members of the Village Design Team Joined the Zoom meeting in July to discuss the process of finalising the Village Design Statement into a complete document that can be used by the village.

The process that should be followed for the VDS to be validated is to compile the document and then return it to both the village for consultation and to the Parish Council for comment prior to it being printed and submitted to CWaC.

The Parish Council want to move forward and accept the VDS, the VDS team own the document until such a time that it has been signed off by Cheshire West and Chester Council, prior to Rushton Parish Council taking ownership of this document the following must be completed:

The VDS team should, with assistance by the Parish Council.

- Go to the community for comments (suggest using the newsletter and the e-mail groups)
- Be able to show the evidence that the community has been consulted since the first print was undertaken
- Utilise the Community & Parish Council Comments where appropriate
- Once comments collated, the VDS will become the next version and be accepted by CWaC
- Once completed and accepted by CWaC the Parish Council will take ownership.
- Cllr. Thompson to work with the VDS team to undertake this process.

**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 12<sup>th</sup> November.

### **Corona Virus Buddy Update**

Cllr Wilson gave an update. Residents of Eaton continued to mow the grass on the green, and the school through the summer. CWaC have been made aware that residents were undertaking this and have started to resume this duty last week.

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.

### **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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

### **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, contact has also been made with SP Energy as Power cables run through the tree branches. 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.

### **Noise from Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)**

Over the summer months there has been increased use of the MUGA at the Play Zone, some residents have raised concerns about increasing noise levels. These have been investigated and it was found that the hard cushioning behind the bolts and brackets had lost their effectiveness. Sound absorption tape has reduced the noise level by 10 decibels.

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.

### **Litter Picking – A national Campaign**

Keep Britain Tidy are backing a National Campaign running from 11<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> September to encourage people to pick litter whilst out on their daily walk. This should be in a safe, socially distanced manner.

There has been an increase in dog faeces noticed whilst people are out on their daily walks.

It was highlighted that dog faeces can contain the parasite Neosporosis, this parasite can cause the abortions in livestock and even death to other dogs, highlighting the importance of collecting your dog's faeces. Posters highlighting this will be on the noticeboards, and an article will be placed in the next newsletter.

#### **20.09.05      Planning Matters**

##### **1- To note planning decisions.**

**None**

##### **2- To consider response to planning applications received**

**20/02779/FUL**

Proposal – Sub-division to form separate dwelling and provision of vehicular and Pedestrian access

Location – The Old School House, Lightfoot Lane, Eaton, CW6 9AF

Rushton Parish Council **Objects** to this Planning Application.

Rushton Parish Council have substantial Road Safety concerns in alignment with the Highways Officers objections and those of the Conservation Officer and various residents of the village of Eaton. Having objected to the original application showing the same new drive on to the Cross junction, the Parish Council were pleased to support the next layout showing access for both properties off Lightfoot Lane and still support that option.

Proposed – Cllr. Shaw

Seconded – Cllr. Sime

**19/02780/LBC Amendment /additional information**

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Proposed – Cllr. Shaw

Seconded – Cllr. Sime

**20.09.06      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.

**Agricultural Vehicles and HGV vehicles traveling through the Parish.**

In recent weeks there have been instances where Agricultural Vehicles, both tractors and HGV’s travelling to agricultural premises have been stopped by members of the public and the Police and told they were not permitted to travel on the roads.

The main road (Eaton Road) through Eaton is covered by a “7.5 tonne except for access” weight limit (signed from A49/Eaton Road & A49 Nantwich Road/Eaton Road junction). The weight limit does not cover agricultural vehicles.

Given the “except for access” element it is worth noting that many vehicles observed may be using Eaton Road and the surrounding lanes legitimately. Enforcement of this restriction would be a matter for the Roads and Local Policing Units within Cheshire Constabulary.

Some of the vehicles stopped belong to Cllr. Shaw, in recent years a telegraph pole was removed from the farm entrance and this has reduced the number of vehicles that travel through the village significantly. The vehicles that travel through the village that are being

stopped by members of the public are potentially putting contracts at risk as the hauliers and contractors are finding the hassle not acceptable. It's a large local business employing many local people and wishes to continue to do so but needs local support and understanding during this busy period of the year.

An article in the November Newsletter was suggested, this would highlight the activities that occur on Cllr. Shaw's farm and widen it to incorporate some of the other local businesses in the Parish. A Farm visit for the Parish will be organised once it is safe to do so.

### **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.

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.

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.

### **20.09.07 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.

#### **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. More sound absorption material is to be installed to further reduce the noise.

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, from 10-12, 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 £800, has now been raised for the hospital

### **20.09.08 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>
Police	21/-7/20 onwards	Speed on Eaton Lane	Circulate to Councillors
CWaC	27/07/20	Neighbourhood Plan, Neighbourhood Development Order or Community Right to Build may be an advantage with a development that is being considered that is on the edge of the village.	Circulated to councillors
Member of the Public Cllr. Wilson	05/08/20	Telephone masts have been damaged by birds causing signal issues with phone providers	Circulated to Councillors
Member of the Public	12/08/20	Vehicle collision in Eaton	Circulated to Councillors
Member of public	13/08/20	Water leaking out of pavement at village green stocks. Highways have undertaken temp. repair, once water levels recede a permanent repair will be undertaken	Circulated to councillors
CWaC	25/08/20	Community Champion Partnership	Circulate to Councillors
Developer	25/08/20	Former David Edge Garage, involvement in constructing a footpath, to be assessed once planning gained	Circulate to Councillors
Member of the Public	28/08/20	Cement Mixer washing out down the drains on Eaton Lane, observed twice in half hour. Highways notified	Circulate to Councillors
Ward Councillor	01/09/20	Review of the delivery of Highways Services	Circulate to Councillors
Highways	03/09/20	Highways confirmed that the repeat speed monitoring will be undertaken in October,	Circulate to Councillors
Member of the Public	08/09/20	Vehicle collision at Eaton Village Green	Circulate to Councillors

**20.09.09 Finance Matters**

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

- Accounts for payment (below)

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

**20.09.10 Next Meeting**

The next Oulton Park Liaison Committee meeting in October has been cancelled.

**20.09.11 Any Other Business**

8 properties on Oxheys Lane and Hickhurst Lane are struggling with Broadband issues, BT Openreach could undertake a Community fibre Project which uses Government Vouchers to part fund the project. BT have now found that there are more properties that could be included in the community fibre project and will only undertake the project if all are incorporated.

**There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:45pm.**

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

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