

MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING OF RUSHTON held at JESSIE HUGHES VILLAGE HALL on TUESDAY 19th May 2015 at 7.15pm

Present: Cllrs A. Nicholas, J. Plumbley, J. O'Shea, E. Shaw, M. Wilson

In Attendance:

A.Stubbs – Parish Clerk plus 9 residents
Cllr. Eveleigh Moore-Dutton - CWAC

As this meeting was held prior to the AGM which would elect a new Chairman, Cllr. Wilson took the Chair as Outgoing Chairman.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Roberts and Thompson.

2. Chairman's Report

Cllr. Wilson welcomed all those who were present.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the last Parish meeting held on 29th April 2014, were signed off in the Parish Council meeting held on 19th May 2014.

4. Matters Arising

None

5. Chairman's Annual Report

Please note that the official Annual Report is now posted on the Parish Website

The Chairman introduced the members of the Parish Council and presented his annual report and overview of the works of the Parish Council over the last 4 years. These included:

Communications

- New website is in production and to be rolled out in the Autumn. This should look more modern and user friendly.
- Newsletter going out quarterly (and growing all the time!) to dwellings in the Parish and via email
- Superfast Broadband – Now available in Tarporley and Council chasing to make sure parish is not left behind

Environment and Development

- The question of affordable housing was looked at and the feasibility/desirability of the Parish Council being involved in providing it.
- Much work was done on the village green and thanks were given to Mike Scott and Steve Perry for all their hard work.
- A project has started to purchase the Millpool picnic area from CWAC and turn it into a pleasant place for residents and visitors.
- A new village sign provided on the road from Tarporley.

Road Safety for All

- A flashing speed sign has been purchased and is to be installed by the Red Lion site.
- Possible lower speed limits still under consideration.

Services

- New sub-station – alternative site on Edgewell Lane has now been agreed but there is still very slow progress on this by Scottish Power.
- Drains – Cllr. Scott has been working with Highways on problem areas, in particular Hall Lane and Sapling Lane. Thanks were also given to landowners for their help.

- Grit Bins – Sadly after a mild winter with little frost the grit bins were not much used.
- Winterford Lane Steps – Weaver Vale agreed to pay half of the cost of the new steps (£6,000) but the Parish Council were unable to commit the funds for the other half.

Youth and Social

- Planning permission for the play area now granted and all our grant applications have been successful. It is hoped to start construction over the summer.
- The Village Fun day will be held on Sunday 6th September this year.
- The retirement of the Rector, Keith Hine, was mentioned together with his replacement, Georgina Whatmore.

Finances

The precept was raised this year by an average of £1.84 per household to help pay for all the project work currently underway.

Projects going forward

1. Parish Website Development
2. Broadband Upgrade for our Parish
3. New Sub-Station Installation
4. Road safety – installation of VAS (smileys!!) signs & speed enforcement
5. Water on our Roads – Drainage improvements
6. Eaton “Play Zone”
7. Development of the Millpool “Picnic Area”

Finally the Chairman emphasised that many of the Projects will require help from the Community.

A full copy of the Annual report will be published on the website.

6. Matters Raised by Electors in Attendance

With regards to affordable housing within the Parish, it was pointed out that Malpas have a Community Land Trust which might be interested in extending to Rushton. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact them.

Mike Scott and Steve Perry were thanked by all those present for all their hard work improving the Village Green.

The problem of suspicious, possibly drug related vehicles in the Parish was discussed especially with regards to the various laybys. The use of temporary CCTV cameras to monitor these was suggested.

7. Any Other Business

It was noted that this year’s Village Funday is to be held on Sunday, 6th September 2015.

Cllr. Shaw thanked the outgoing Chairman Cllr. Wilson for his contribution to the Parish during his period of office and the meeting was closed at 8.35pm.