

MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING OF RUSHTON held at JESSIE HUGHES VILLAGE HALL on TUESDAY 16th May 2017 at 6:45pm

Present: Cllrs A. Nicholas, J. Plumbley, J. O'Shea, E. Shaw, J. Sellers, N.Thompson

In Attendance:

L. Worrall – Parish Clerk plus 8 residents

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr. Roberts

2. Chairman's Welcome

Cllr. Plumbley welcomed all those who were present.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the last Parish meeting held on 3rd May 2016, had already been signed off and were noted.

4. Matters Arising

None

5. Chairman's Annual Report

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

Cllr. Plumbley, the Chair, presented the annual report.

Communications

- New website still being worked on with new links being added for parish organisations.
- Newsletter going out quarterly to dwellings in the Parish and via email. This is now being professionally printed with the cost shared between the Parish Council and the Village Hall. The new editor, Phil Allcock took over in November 2016.
- A Parish Publicity 'Office' was agreed in October 2016, Mike and Mary Wilson co-ordinate the publicity that goes out by flyer and e-mail for the parish council and JH Village Hall.
- Superfast Broadband – Cllr. Thompson has looked at ways to speed up the introduction of superfast broadband. Representatives from Connecting Cheshire and BT gave an update in February 2017, Rushton Parish will need to wait for money to be released before the upgrade can occur. Further update due September 2017.
- Rural Parishes meeting – new initiative to bring together the local Parish Councils to discuss common issues, 2 meeting occurred in 2016, with common issues discussed and benefits derived.

Environment and Development

- A 2015 new initiative of co-ordinating hedge cutting for residents on busy roads was successfully repeated in 2016.
- Mary Wilson has continued as the litter picking co-ordinator. The parish Council would like to thank all volunteers.
- The curb to the edge of the village green to stop it being churned up by vehicles, has been designed and quoted for. We wait further funding for the project an hope to complete in summer
- Oulton Mill Picnic Area was purchased from CWaC in 2015. An Awards for All (Lottery) grant of £9,900 was applied for and awarded. Discussions have been held between the council, local residents, and relevant authorities. The copse have been cleared of dead wood and undergrowth, installation of a curbed lay-by an planting of trees around the new entrance. Further work planned during 2017 includes a circular path, wildflower meadow, orchard. Further funding is being applied for and will include a project run with Eaton Primary School.
- The leaf collection on the village green continues to be successfully carried out with over 30 volunteers helping.

- The Telephone Box on the Green has become an information centre, with thanks to John Freeman for providing the documents.
- The Red Lion Site is being developed by Apex Development of Tarporley. Company Representatives helped to co-ordinate an open meeting for residents in March, during which Apex showed the 30+ members of the public the likely designs of houses. Comments were taken and discussed. Apex Director, Emma Leslie attended the April Parish Council meeting to give an update taking into account the comments raised during the open meeting.
- Eaton Primary School expansion is underway, with an eventual increase from 105 pupils to 210. The Parish Council have asked that parking and the volume/speed of vehicles is looked at, meetings with Highways representatives and the School are on-going.

Road Safety for All

The working group is pursuing the following objectives:

- 20mph speed limits on Lower Lane, Edgewell Lane and Winterford Lane was installed in January 2017. Further liaison with Highways regarding extension of the 20mph zone is on-going.
- Traffic calming measures on Eaton Lane to slow traffic through the village. Apex Developments are working with Highways.
- Improved signage and road markings around the Cross
- A possible walkway to the village hall.

Services

- New sub-station – installed in 2015/16 has now settled down with no issues raised. The new lamp posts are still outstanding, financial cutbacks are being given as the reason for the delay.

Youth and Social

- The annual fun day was cancelled in 2016. Volunteers are required to help run the 2017 event
- The youth club is going from strength to strength.
- The play zone and MUGA was installed and opened October 2015 providing a great new facility for the parish. A team of 52 helpers look after the inspection/maintenance of the facility.
- The village Golf day did not occur during 2016, but will return on Saturday 19th August 2017.

Finances

With increasing needs due to projects, the precept was raised in January 2017. This works out at an extra £3.60 tax per annum for an average household.

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

6. Matters Raised by Electors in Attendance

7. Any Other Business

A riding group of five or six horses often double breasted ride up Sapling Lane, concern was raised that this may lead to an accident occurring.

A query was raised as to when the electricity second phase would begin.

A working group could be set up to look at the history of Eaton and Rushton.

The meeting was closed at 7.05pm.