

MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING OF RUSHTON held at JESSIE HUGHES VILLAGE HALL on TUESDAY 1st May 2017 at 7:00pm

Present: Cllrs. A. Nicholas, N. Thompson, E. Leslie, S. Corradine, A. Markham

In Attendance:

L. Worrall – Parish Clerk, Cllr. Eveleigh Moore-Dutton, plus 12 residents

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. E. Shaw

2. Chairman's Welcome

Cllr. Nicholas welcomed all those who were present.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the last Annual Parish meeting held on 16th May 2017, had already been signed off and were noted.

4. Matters Arising from the minutes of 16th May 2107

None

5. Chairman's Annual Report

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

Cllr. Thompson, the acting Chair, presented the annual report.

Communications

- The website continues to be developed.
- Newsletter going out quarterly to 200+ dwellings in the Parish and via email to over 180 'Friends of Eaton'. Thanks to Phil Allcock for developing the publication into the quality product, to the team of distributors, co-ordinated by Mary Wilson. All costs associated with the newsletter are shared with the Parish Council and the Jessie Hughes Committee.
- A Parish Publicity Officer, Mike and Mary Wilson co-ordinate the publicity that goes out by flyer and e-mail for the parish council and JH Village Hall. To comply with the new Data Protection Act, coming in 23rd May 2018, an e-mail has been sent to 280 addresses that receive information as villagers or friends of Eaton.
- SuperfastBroadband - Connecting Cheshire and BT Openreach have delivered some upgrades to the Broadband network serving the Parish. Phase 1 has been delivered which enabled 'Superfast Speeds' to some households served by the Little Budworth exchange, but the remainder of the village still lags behind. The Parish Council began to look at alternative options to supplement the BT work, a company called Voneus are looking at the feasibility of providing wireless superfast broadband to the village. It is hoped that next year will see real progress with both fixed line Superfast broadband, with the continuation of Phases 2 and 3 of the upgrade work delivered by Connecting Cheshire and BT Openreach, along with Voneus' installation of a Wireless superfast broadband network (which will be dependent on agreements being struck with local households/landowners for sites to transmit the signal around the village).

Environment and Development

- The Red Lion Site - Apex Construction began work in March and we can already see the houses coming up. There's been a lot of work done in the ground and it's nice to see the site starting to take shape.
- The installation of an AED device on the outside wall of the Village Hall was jointly funded by the Parish Council and the Village Hall, along with a grant from the British Heart Foundation. Just over 40 villagers received life saving CPR training delivered by local resident and Paramedic, Kathryn Telford using training equipment kindly provided free-of-charge by Jigsaw Medical Services.

- The initiative of co-ordinating hedge cutting for residents on busy roads was successfully repeated in 2017 and we will aim to deliver this service again in 2018.
- The curb to edge the village green was unfortunately cancelled due to the extra rising cost of traffic control etc. It is hoped that this will be looked at again when there is a relaxation of cutbacks in CWaC Council funds.
- Oulton Mill Picnic Area purchased from CWaC by the Parish Council in 2015 continues to be well maintained and no reports of feared mis-use in the evenings have been received. A Tesco funded £1,000 project with the primary School entitled Bugs, Butterflies and Birds co-ordinated by Mike Wilson Neil Thompson and teacher Miss Berry is due to start as soon as copse safety clearance has been done.
- The leaf collection on the village green was repeated on the first Saturday in December and again circa 30 volunteers turned out with refreshments supplied by the "Burgons".
- Mary Wilson continues as "litter picker co-ordinator" and the Council would like to thank all volunteers
- The Telephone Box on the Green is well established now with resident John Freeman maintaining an information centre inside.

Road Safety for All

The Eaton Road Safety Working Group was disbanded recently as the Parish Council prefers to run these projects themselves. So the following projects continue:

- A vehicle activated sign has been purchased recently and this will be installed in the hedge-row at David Edge Garage. This will help slow traffic on Lower Lane which hopefully will assist with the extra traffic that will be generated at the school with its expansion.
- 20mph speed limits on Lower Lane, Edgewell Lane and Winterford Lane were installed but the next step of including Eaton Lane (in the village) the extra parts to make this a rectangle of safety are still an outstanding issue.
- Traffic calming measures on Eaton Lane may still be helped due to the Red Lion site development. Apex, the developers, have worked with Highways to do a risk assessment of the entrance to this new 5 building site.
- The Cross: Again, accidents and near misses have occurred at this junction. The Working Group put forward a list of possible improvements which Highways have said that they will look at.

Youth and Social

1. The annual Village Fun Day which ran from 2010 to 2016 may have a revival this coming September. The Parish Council & the Jessie Village Hall are proposing a celebration to mark the 10 years since the new Village Hall re-opened with a special Village Fun Day on 2nd September. Mike & Mary Wilson who ran the event for the 6yrs have agreed to help run this Septembers special celebration. A committee will be set up to run this event.
2. The youth club continues to be a great success (circa 40+ in the summer).
3. The Play Zone and MUGA is a popular and attractive part of our Village. A team of 52 helpers inspect / maintain the facility daily when on their duty week. A new notice board has been recently installed and some improvements to the equipment are due this summer.
4. The Village Golf Day (another PC initiative) will happen again in 2018 on 18th August.

Finances

With increasing needs due to projects etc, the precept had been raised in previous years, it was therefore decided not to raise the precept in this financial year. The accounts are shown at the AGM which follows this meeting.

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

Help & Volunteers.

Over the past 5 or 6 years, the Parish Council have been pleased to arrange and promote projects etc which enhance the village. Youth Club, Play Zone; Picnic Area; Road Safety are all relatively new initiatives. However, they do entail quite a lot of work and an increasing need for volunteers. We are lucky & grateful that many do come forward but often it is the same people and the Council would like to see even more volunteers who perhaps have not been involved before. Contacting our Clerk Lindsey is the best way to start helping.

6. Matters Raised by Electors in Attendance

The quality of the work undertaken by Highways operatives was raised, Parishioners are aware that the number of pot holes are increasing but the quality of the repairs are reducing.

Cllr. Eveleigh Moore-Dutton said that the wet and freezing weather has made the potholes worse, money has been made available to CWaC especially for pothole repair.

Could the Highways Dept. be made accountable for the Quality of the repair that is undertaken.

United Utilities undertook work on Sapling Lane causing damage on the road surface, at the time this occurred the piece of equipment that was required to undertake the repair was out of the country (Netherlands). Parish Council to write to United Utilites and CWaC to ask for timescales for remediation work to be undertaken.

A grit bin is positioned on Elmtree Court, to tidy the area up could this be placed on to concrete slabs.

The Shuttle Bus used to run Monday to Friday, it now only runs three days a week and charges £5 bus fare.

A meeting was held last Friday, with local Parish Councils, Ward Councillor and MP along with 3 transport providers. A working group has been set up to look at all the transport routs available and who uses those forms of transport, the information gathered will be used to try and get a larger vehicle.

7. Any Other Business

The meeting was closed at 7.35pm.