

MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING OF RUSHTON held at JESSIE HUGHES VILLAGE HALL on TUESDAY 18th May 2021 at 7:30pm

Present: Cllrs. N. Thompson, E. Shaw, G. Sime, S Hinchliffe,

In Attendance:

L. Worrall – Parish Clerk, Cllr. E. Moore-Dutton (Ward Councillor), Wendy Parker

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. M. Wilson and E. Leslie

2. Chairman's Welcome

Cllr. Thompson welcomed all those who were present.

4. Minutes

The minutes of the last Annual Parish meeting held on 21st May 2019, had already been signed off and were noted.

5. Matters Arising from the minutes of 21st May 2019

None

6. Chairman's Annual Report

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

Cllr. Thompson, Chair of the Parish Council, presented the annual report.

Covid-19

The year has been like no other in living memory as the world grappled to cope with a global pandemic caused by the Covid-19 virus. The UK was not 'immune', having been significantly impacted and our thoughts remain with all those who suffered loss.

All of the usual community events and liberties we took so much for granted were impacted in some way or other, from Parish Council meetings moving to 'Zoom' through to the closure of the Village Hall and the cancellation of much-loved fund-raising events and Village Fun Day. The response from the community was fantastic and we should all be immensely proud at the 'Buddy' system that was put in place to make sure that our most vulnerable people were supported through a fantastic system of 'Angels' that helped with shopping and providing much needed contact in what was a very isolating time for many.

Parish Councillor and Community Champion - Ron

- The Council were very sad to hear of the recent passing of Eaton and Tarporley resident Ron Chisnall. Ron was not only a long-standing Councillor of Rushton Parish Council, but also a keen member of many local community groups. Ron moved Tarporley from Eaton a few years ago, however he continued his links with Eaton being Secretary, Chair and joint maintenance man for the Jessie Hughes Village Hall and he was the familiar face welcoming visitors at the door of the Jessie for all our village events. His dedication to the Village Hall and community will be recognised with the committee room being named in his honour. He will be sadly missed, and our condolences were sent to Ron's family.

Communications

- The website has continued to be developed by Parish Clerk, Lindsey Worrall.

- The Parish Newsletter continues to go out quarterly to the Parish, though this year via email, and a smaller number of printed copies due to the restrictions imposed by Covid-19. The Newsletter is professionally edited by our editor-in-chief, Phil Allcock who continues to dedicate his time in making the publication a much-loved product.
- Parish Publicity Officer Mike Wilson continued to produce communication content for the Jessie Village Hall and Parish Council for (virtual distribution) along with producing content for the Parish Newsletter.
- Super-fast Broadband - Progress on any further rollout has slowed despite action from a number of villagers in trying to move forward with BT on Community Fibre projects.

Environment and Development

The Red Lion Site - work on the site was completed this year and we have welcomed new residents into all of the properties.

- The initiative of co-ordinating hedge cutting for residents on busy roads was offered again, co-ordinated by Mike Wilson and Eddie Shaw.
- Oulton Mill Picnic Area purchased from CWaC by the Parish Council in 2015 continues to be well maintained and well used. Councillor Eddie Shaw has supported with grass and hedge cutting along with members of the community who also supported with the planting of a wildflower meadow led by Mike and Mary Wilson.
- Our Ward Councillor, Eveleigh Moore Dutton must also be thanked for all the support she has provided in many areas of the Council work but particularly her continued support, guidance and hours of work provided on this Picnic Area project.
- The leaf collection on the village green was repeated this year and again, supported by a large number of volunteers who turned out and followed Covid guidelines to once again clear up the area in record time – our thanks to all those that participated.
- Mary Wilson continued for another year as “litter picker co-ordinator” and the Council would like to thank all volunteers who continue to work to keep the Parish tidy and free from litter, with one of the biggest increases in the volunteer team we have ever seen this year.
- The Telephone Box on the Green continues to be well used with resident John Freeman maintaining an information centre inside, which has been particularly useful in helping make paper copies of the village newsletter available.

Road Safety for All

The following projects have continued this year:

1. Speeding – At long last we the Police enforcing speed limits through Eaton thanks to the persistence of members of the council and local community. The vehicle activated sign that was installed in the hedgerow at David Edge Garage in 2018 continues to help slow traffic on Lower Lane alongside the VAS on Eaton Lane which is helping to slow vehicles heading towards the entrance to the village – thanks to Paul Healy and Brian Oldham for helping gather and make sense of the data from the signs.
2. 20mph speed limits around the village also continue to help though concerns about their positioning continue to be raised by the Parish Council to Highways who have assured us that it will be looked at.
3. The Cross: Again, near misses have occurred at this junction. The Council have put forward a list of possible improvements which Highways have said that they will look at.
4. Entrances to the Village – the Parish Council have begun looking at ways to shape the areas around entrances to the village in order to help create a feel of village community and deter speeders. Our thanks to Sue and Graham Bennett who have started the work by planting flowers around the 5 Eaton entrance road signs.

Youth and Social

- The annual Village Fun Day could not be held this year due to Covid restrictions, but the equipment and co-ordinating team remain on stand-by in the hope that next year it may be possible to hold the event.

- The youth club has remained closed through the year due to Covid restrictions. It is hoped that once restrictions allow it to open up, volunteers will come forward to continue to run it following retirement of Mike and Mary Wilson who have been chief organisers of this wonderful village asset for over 10 years.
- The Play Zone and MUGA installed and opened October 2015 has continued to be a popular and attractive part of our Village that is also enjoyed by the pupils of Eaton Primary School. A fabulous team of 52 helpers (co-ordinated by Mike and Mary Wilson) usually look after the facility but were stood down during Covid. Our thanks to Mike Wilson and Brian Oldham who have maintained a watch over the facilities and ensured Covid precautions have been maintained throughout the year.
- The Village Golf Day (another PC initiative) happened again this year.

Finances

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

Help & Volunteers.

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 initiatives which require significant amounts of work and without the effort of volunteers these things would simply not happen. 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.

7. Matters Raised by Electors in Attendance

Concern regarding the planning application on Land adjacent to The Spinney and Eaton Primary School. There are still members of the village who are unaware of the planning application. Who is responsible for communicating and promoting applications?

The Parish Council did ask for communication of this planning application with the public numerous times, space in the newsletter, noticeboards and even a drop-in at the Jessie Hughes were all discussed but the architect felt that the application was in too early a stage when these were being offered. The Parish Council have worked with the applicant and architect to deliver an article in the May newsletter, posters on the noticeboard and a Teams-drop in session which was attended by low numbers due to it being delivered too quickly and not advertised well enough. A drop-in session at the Jessie Hughes village hall is being organised for June.

8. Any Other Business

The meeting was closed at 7.55pm.