

MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING OF RUSHTON held at JESSIE HUGHES VILLAGE HALL on TUESDAY 16th May 2023 at 7:30pm

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

In Attendance:

L. Worrall – Parish Clerk, Mr Charles Hardy (Ward Councillor)

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. E. Leslie, P Hodgson

2. Chairman's Welcome

Cllr. Thompson welcomed all those who were present.

4. Minutes

The minutes of the last Annual Parish meeting held on 17th May 2022, had already been signed off and were noted.

5. Matters Arising from the minutes of 17th May 2022

None

6. Chairman's Annual Report

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

Chairman's Annual Report

Please note that the official Annual Report will be posted on the Parish Website

Cllr. Neil Thompson - Chairman, presented the annual report.

Communications

- The website has continued to be developed by Parish Clerk, Lindsey Worrall.
- The Parish Newsletter continues to go out quarterly to the Parish. This year it continued via email, and a smaller number of printed copies. Our editor-in-chief, Phil Allcock retired this year following 6 years of service and we'd like to place on record our thanks for all the work he has done in producing a quality publication enjoyed by the residents over the last 6 years. Mike Wilson has taken over on a temporary basis until a new editor can be found.
- 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 – There is still hope that further funding will help to get Fibre Broadband to the remaining areas of the Parish and Councillor Hodgson along with support from local residents is working with local MP to try and secure this funding/prioritisation of work.
- Facebook – a Facebook page was setup this year and is administered by Councillors Oliga Vertija and Emma Leslie.

Environment and Development

- 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** continues to be well maintained, well used, and well visited by local residents and those further afield. Nick Raynor has supported with grass cutting and Councillor Eddie Shaw with hedge cutting along with members of the community who also supported with the maintenance and upkeep of the site. **Our Ward Councillor, Eveleigh Moore Dutton** must also be thanked her support, guidance and support to the Parish Council and in particular on this Picnic Area project.
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- **The leaf collection on the village green** was repeated this year and again, supported by a large number of volunteers who turned out for this yearly event which really helps with the surrounding area – our thanks to all those that participated and the Burgon’s supporting with refreshments.
- Mary Wilson continued for another year as “litter picker co-ordinator” and the Council would like to again thank all volunteers who continue to work to keep the Parish tidy and free from litter.
- **Platinum Jubilee** – the Parish Council together with the Jessie Hughes Village Hall and organising committee arranged a number of events for the Parish over the Jubilee weekend across 3rd – 5th June. A Tea Party at the Drays kicked things off on the Friday with over 60 guests enjoying tea, cake and sandwiches along with a Baking Competition (thank you to Declan and Anne for organising). Saturday began with a Treasure Hunt around the village organised by St Thomas’ church followed by drinks on the Green and then Live Screening of the Jubilee concert at the Jessie Hughes Village Hall. On the Sunday over 30 people gathered at Eaton Primary School (indoors due to poor weather) to enjoy the ‘Big Lunch’ together. Many thanks to Mike, Mary, Jan Freeman and all of the organising committee and helpers.
- **The Death of Queen Elizabeth II and Coronation of King Charles** – on 8th September 2022 our nation lost its longest serving Monarch and the Parish came together to remember her long life of service through moments of reflection including a book of condolence which was open at St Thomas’ church. The Coronation of King Charles was celebrated over the weekend of 5th – 8th May 2023 with events starting on Friday evening with a special Film Night screening of Richard III. Then on Saturday, events continued in the village hall with a screening of the coronation ceremony and BYO lunch that went on well into the afternoon with free Coronation mugs for children along with ice creams and games! On Sunday the Coronation concert was screened at the Village Hall and many local residents gathered to watch a great concert with drinks and food. Some residents were then also involved in the Big Help Out on Monday. Thanks to Mike and Mary Wilson along with Jan and John Freeman and other helpers on the organising Committee and Jessie Hughes Committee for putting on these events along with Local Ward Councillor Eveleigh Moore Dutton for her support towards the costs of running the events.

Road Safety

The following activities have continued this year:

1. **Speeding** – the efforts of previous years continue to pay dividends though we continue to monitor the situation through resident reports and VAS data. The Police have also been out through the year on enforcement activity.

2. 20mph speed limits - concerns about the positioning of 20 mph signs continue to be raised by the Parish Council to Highways who are in the process of reviewing for remediation.
3. Entrances to the Village – the Parish Council continue to look at ways to shape the areas around entrances to the village, including potential new signage in order to help create a feel of village community and deter speeders.

Community, Youth and Social Activities

- **Remembrance Day** – each year a growing number of residents are gathering at the Cross to remember those who have lost their lives in conflict. This year, Reverend Jim led a short service at The Cross where wreaths were laid and children from the village read out the names of villagers who lost their lives in the two world wars.
- **The Annual Village Golf Day** was again held this year.
- **The Play Zone and MUGA** has continued to be a popular and attractive part of our Village that is also enjoyed by the pupils of Eaton Primary School. The fabulous team of 52 helpers continue to support the facility and our new Councillor Olga Vertija has now taken over the majority of Mike Wilson's duties though Mike and Mary continue to provide support in a number of areas especially in helping to organise the Spring Clean. Thanks to Mike Wilson, Mary Wilson, Councillor Vertija, Julie Earner, Jane and Richard Potton, Gill Dennett, Brian Oldham, Barbara Burgon for helping with the Spring Clean which took place on Sat 1st April.
- **Collaboration with the Village Hall** – continued this year with Newsletter and Jubilee/Coronation celebrations examples of great joint initiatives – thanks to the Village Hall and its committee members.

Finances

With increasing financial needs due to increases in costs of maintenance of key facilities like the Playzone, MUGA, Picnic Area, and Village Green, along with a macro backdrop of high inflation, it was again decided to raise the precept in this financial year. The accounts are shown at the AGM which follows this meeting.

United Utilities work on Supply Pipes

The United Utilities project to reline the old (1890) water pipes supplying many Northwest towns from the Vyrnwy reservoir began work in the Parish this year and is expected to last at least 18 months.

CPR and Defibrillator Training

CPR and defibrillator training was run at the Jessie Hughes hall attended by over 20 residents – thanks to Kathryn and Stuart Telford for running the training along with Mike and Mary for organising.

Help & Volunteers.

Finally the Parish Council continues to ask for support via volunteers to help arrange and promote projects etc which enhance the village. 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.

7. Any Other Business

A special thank you to Eveleigh Moore-Dutton, who has worked for over 20 years within Cheshire West and Chester Council and their predecessors. This term of office has been very impressive giving great support to Rushton Parish Council and individuals within the Parish, she has given advice and guidance as well as financial support for numerous projects that would not have been possible without Eveleigh's guidance. Thank you for all you have done to help improve this Parish, we hope that your future projects prove to be as positive and successful.

The meeting was closed at 7.55pm.

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