

RUSHTON PARISH COUNCIL
Annual Parish Meeting – 2021/2022
Held Tuesday 17th May 2022

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.

Covid-19

The response from the community continued to be fantastic as we moved out of the Pandemic that gripped the entire world and we are humbled by the volunteers who supported 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. Thank you to all who supported this initiative in very difficult circumstances.

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 continued 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 continued to dedicate his time in making the publication a much-loved product. **Phil will be retiring from his role following the publication of the August 22** newsletter 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.
- 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 continued to be slow despite continued action from a number of villagers in trying to move forward with Community Fibre projects which have proved prohibitive due to extortionate costs quoted by BT Openreach. Other options continue to be looked and there is hope that further grants will come available in future years to support the installation of Superfast broadband fibre to remaining properties.

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 purchased from CWaC by the Parish Council in 2015 continues to be well maintained, well used, and well visited by local residents and those further afield. Mike Wilson 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 along with planting of several more fruit trees.
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- **Our Ward Councillor, Eveleigh Moore Dutton** must also be thanked her continued 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 and followed Covid guidelines to once again clear up the area in record time – 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 thank all volunteers who continue to work to keep the Parish tidy and free from litter.
- **The Telephone Box on the Green** continues to be well used although looking in need of some maintenance which will be carried out later in May along with other prominent features on the Green in time for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations.
- **Trees on the Green** – the Parish Council arranged for the pruning of the Trees on the Green which we hope will help the surrounding residents at the same time as continuing to allow the Trees to remain in situ.

Road Safety for All

The following projects have continued this year:

- **Speeding** – the efforts of previous years continue to pay dividends though we continue to monitor the situation through resident reports and VAS data.
- **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 are in the process of reviewing for remediation.
- **Entrances to the Village** – the Parish Council have begun looking 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. Our thanks to Sue and Graham Bennett who repeated the work they started last year by planting flowers around the 5 Eaton entrance road signs.

Community, Youth and Social Activities

- **The annual Village Fun Day** was held this year in conjunction with the Village Hall and over 80 people attended to enjoy food, entertainment, fun and games, many thanks to all those who helped setup and run.
- **The youth club** has sadly remained closed through the year due to lack of volunteers to continue to run it. It is hoped that 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 Annual Village Golf Day was also held.
- **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. The fabulous team of 52 helpers continue to support the facility and our new Councillor Olga Vertija has begun to take over Mike Wilson’s duties as he gradually steps back during 2022. Our thanks to Richard Potton, Mike Wilson, Mary Wilson, Nahid Daly and the Corradine family for their support in the site ‘spring clean’ this year.
- **Collaboration with the Village Hall** - continued in great spirit this year with Fun Day, Newsletter and up coming Jubilee 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 it was decided to raise the precept in this financial year. The accounts are shown at the AGM which follows this meeting.

Help & Volunteers.

The Parish Council re-iterate their request for support via volunteers to help 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 and this year give a special mention to Paul and Hilary Healey and Sue and Graham Bennett who have supported the community in several areas (Footpaths, Speed Camera Data, Litter Picking, flower planting to name but a few) and are sadly leaving the village for pastures new.

Long Standing Parish Councillor and Community Legend Retires from the Council -

This year Mike Wilson retired from the Council after over 10 years of service to this community and we will miss his enthusiasm, drive, tenacity, and above all his community spirit and desire to make our village and community a wonderful place to live. Whilst Mike's efforts spanned a huge number of activities, Mike has been instrumental in the creation of two of the outstanding features of the Parish – firstly the Playzone and MUGA which has been and will continue to be, enjoyed by a huge number of children, and the acquisition and re-generation of the Millpool picnic area which is such a beautiful spot that it attracts visitors from far afield. Mike has also been the lead on the much-loved Village Fun Day.

We'd also like to express our thanks to Mike's wife Mary, who has also been fantastic in her support and given up many, many hours of her time that the community has benefited from – thank you Mary.