

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RUSHTON PARISH COUNCIL
held at the Jessie Hughes Village Hall
on Tuesday 21st April 2026 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs. Emma Leslie, Graham Sime, Neil Thompson, Olga Vertija, Phil Hodgson
In Attendance: Lindsey Worrall (Clerk), Mike Wilson.

26.04.01 Apologies for Absence and Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

Resolved: that the apologies from Cllrs. Shaw, Chrisp and Hardy be received and accepted.

26.04.02 Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the 17th March 2026 to be agreed and signed.

Proposed: Cllr. Leslie

Seconded: Cllr. Sime

26.04.03 Public Speaking Time

Mike Wilson

Village cross has been hit, photos to be taken and assess how to repair.

We have more volunteers to assist with litter picking, additional equipment will be required.

Newsletter content will be required in two weeks.

26.04.04

To review the draft budget for 2026-27

The budget was reviewed and amended. The budget will be reviewed every quarter the budget was agreed and signed off.

Proposed: Cllr. Leslie

Seconded: Cllr. Sime

26.04.05 Planning Matters

1- To note planning decisions received.

**2 -To consider response to planning applications received
 Applications received since the last meeting.**

26.04.06 Highways

The Highways Report It App will no longer be active from 1st May 2026, to report Highways faults use the Report It function on the website.

Outstanding Road Safety Issues from Previous Meetings

a. Highways Issues

Highway and signage Defects

All Councillors to take photographs of damage and defects of signs and roads within the village. The Parish Council will set up one e-mail thread for Highways defects. This will enable us to catalogue what is being reported to Highways and when/if they are responding.

village entry signs

Quote obtained from Sign Of the Times (SOTT), sign makers

Jerry Gibbs (Highways) clarified the licences required for working on highways land. Highways confirmed that Rushton Parish Council own the signs and can update, maintain them as long as appropriate licences in place to do so.

United Utilities have confirmed they will contribute £5,000 to the project.

Quote received, to be sent to UU for their contribution

Actions – continue liaison with Highways and UU Cllrs Sime, Leslie and Vertija.

To contact Cllr. Hardy for members budget contribution

United Utilities Road Closures

Sapling Lane will require a further 4 weeks of closure for the new water pipe

b. Road Safety Matters

The Parish Council are awaiting feedback and clarification from highways on several matters

1. The Hall Lane, the speed signs are facing the wrong way and need turning correctly, Clerk has reported this, works order in place.
2. The road sign on the corner of Hickhurst and Dogmore Lane is broken, a works order is in place.
3. The road sign on the corner of Dogmore and Kings Lane is broken; a works order is in place.
4. Eaton Lane Drainage issues.
Water flows from the telephone box down the road, Unities Utilities have confirmed it's not chlorinated and therefore not a water leak. Highways believe it's water flowing from Higher Ground or even from the well.
Dye tracing shows the outflow by Rock Cottage is not flowing down Lower Lane and therefore not contributing to any drainage.
Contractor to attend.
5. Beech Lane Layby has a replacement sign, a bin would also be a asset but since new sign less waste has been deposited.
A school bus was observed having to reverse as they couldn't pull out of the layby due to the concrete posts that have been deposited. Residents complaining about the concrete blocks on the layby that make it appear messy.
Bin assessment undertaken but this site does not fit the criteria,
6. Sapling Lane, water running down both sides of road, created a ravine, water running into field, dangerous if two vehicles meet as the drop off the road is deep. Some pothole repairs have been undertaken but not addressing the deep drop on either side of the road. Road subsiding and has been reported to Highways. One vehicle lost a tyre in the drop off.
7. The hedge on Eaton Lane at the corner opposite the monument is overgrown, homeowners within village have been asked for the hedge to be cut back twice.
8. The 20mph signs on both Winterford and Sapling Lane are the wrong way around, work order in place
9. Speed signs on both Sapling Lane and Eaton Lane are facing the wrong way.
10. Give Way sign at junction of Beech Lane and Eaton Lane has been knocked down, reported to Highways who will assess.

The VAS on Eaton Lane, SIM no longer supported by the company who supplied it, to fully operate the VAS a new SIM will be needed, Cllr Sime to coordinate.

Vas On Lower Lane not working, fault identified, unit sent for repair. Unfortunately, while at company for repair they have gone out of business. Cllr. Sime has spoken with the receiver, and it is hopeful that the Parish Council will have the VAS unit returned to us, but it will still be broken and not repairable by any other company.

Clerk to contact insurance company to determine whether claim can be made.

Highways Scheme, utilising Highways operatives to enable signs to be turned to the correct positions, hedges to be cut away from signs, signs cleaned and projects where only small amount of workforce and tools required. List of works with Highways. Tarporley to have projects undertaken in Spring 2026.

School Parking

Concerns have been raised about the vehicles parking to drop off and collect children from the school, issues arising on both Lower Lane and Edgewell Lane with poor parking.

Met with School representatives to discuss options available.

To left of school entrance there is a small green on Lower Lane, Highways confirmed it is adopted highway, plastic bollards could be installed here to stop vehicles parking and obstructing the road. Signage could be used outside the school. School encouraged to look at bus options. Clerk to continue liaison with school, Highways and Cheshire Constabulary.

26.04.07 Reports from Working Groups Communications

Clerks e-mail address and GDPR meeting outcome

To remain compliant with the requirements of the external auditor the Parish Clerk's e-mail address will need to change.

Parish Online has now created a new e-mail address for Clerk and Communication Officer and update the website for the parish council. Once the clerk knows how to use these fully they will be used fully.

Oulton Mill Picnic Area Project.

The Picnic Area bin has now being emptied by Street Scene. The site is used regularly, fruit trees and snowdrops have been planted.

Tarporley High School have been approached to encourage students to assist at the picnic area as part of their Duke of Edinburgh awards scheme. Cllr. Leslie to co-ordinate.

Saplings are now growing and need some maintenance; this will form part of the wildlife project with a working party thinning and maintaining new growth.

The Parish Council and local birds would like to thank the mystery person (Dave) who fills the bird feeders at the entrance to the picnic area.

Nick Rayner will undertake regular mowing of the picnic area, with great thanks from all Rushton parish Council and all the regular users of the picnic area.

The information board needs updating, this will be undertaken when the spring arrives. Anyone wishing to volunteer with the picnic area project, please contact the Clerk Lindsey at, rushtonclerk@aol.com

Youth/Social/Community

Jessie Hughes Centenary

The celebrations for the centenary kicked off with the New Years Party and will continue through 2026 with a weekend of activities in May (16th-17th) and a fun weekend in September (6th), along with a Dinner on 19th December and Thanks Giving on 20th December..

Part of the celebrations will be the creation of three new stained glass windows for the Jessie Hughes Village Hall.

Action

Would the Parish Council like to contribute towards the project?

Resolved: that Ruston Parish Council would like to contribute £200 towards the stained glass project

Proposed: Cllr. Leslie

Seconded: Cllr. Sime

Wildlife Project

The project was launched at the Drays in September 2025, at least 40 attended throughout the morning. Cheshire Wildlife Trust have shared information and attended Gardening Group in February.

This will be a two-year project, looking at small areas of the village green, play zone and picnic area and giving advice through a booklet to help residents encourage wildlife into their own gardens. The first edition of the booklet was published in February.

Cheshire Wildlife Trust have donated the project 500 wildflower plug plants, which have been planted at the picnic area along with fruit trees and snowdrops.

On 18th April the Village Green area around The Smithy was weeded and the wildflowers already in place given space to grow, others planted. A path will be mown around the village green and the remainder of the green allowed to grow until June. During the tidy, sandstones were found by the post box and more by the phone box.

Village Green

Water flows from the telephone box down the road, Unities Utilities have confirmed it's not chlorinated and therefore not a water leak. Highways believe it's water flowing from Higher Ground or even from the well.

Dye tracing shows the outflow by Rock Cottage is not flowing down Lower Lane and therefore not contributing to any drainage.

Contractor has attended and will place a drain on the village green.

CAT Scan will be required on site.

Risk Assessment (RA) required

Actions - Clerk to undertake RA and Cllr. Hodgson to organise CAT Scanner

During the wildlife project tidy on the village green volunteers discussed how a curb to the village green would be an asset and keep the green tidier. The sandstones in place start at the telephone box and end part way down the village green.

The curbing project will be looked at once the drainage system is in place, the village green is dry and all ground disturbed is settled

Play Zone Project

Wet pour sealing repairs have been successfully undertaken. More repairs are required, a new system of repair has been developed and hopefully this will be quicker and result in longer lasting repair.

Further repairs are required. Another kit will be required at a cost of approximately £200.

A spring clean will be required.

The 52 team are working well, and we thank everyone involved in keeping the Play Zone a well maintained and enjoyable space for the children of the Parish.

A Spring Clean is required, this will incorporate basic repairs to the flooring, weeding of the flower bed and cleaning.

Footpath between Jessie and Edgewell Lane

In 2015 the Parish Council and Jessie Committee looked at whether a path could be created in front of Royal Farm Mews to make it safer to walk to and from The Jessie.

To look at proposal again this again, possibly weed barrier.

Approach JHVI and home owners for their input in first instance.

Specification of what is required, possibly contact Terry Ball for information and quote.

Contact Highways, stressing importance of this, safety of pedestrians, especially at night in rain.

Footpaths and styles

Neighbouring Parish Councils are undertaking surveys of the footpaths to ensure the accessibility for all. This requires removing some styles and replacing with kissing gates, the neighbouring Parish Councils have been supported by United Utilities (UU) in the project. The aim of the project is to make Parishes accessible and connect neighbouring parishes through footpaths.

Many of the footpaths within the parish are already Bridle paths and therefore accessible, but some styles still exist.

The footpath officer from CWaC has sent letters to landowners asking for works to be undertaken on some styles. The Footpath Officer has subsequently been asked to contact the Parish Council firstly who will liaise with landowners where works are required.

Going forward if anyone walks a footpath and issues arise, contact from the parish council to the landowner will be made to ensure open liaison with landowners.

A further walk will be undertaken on 2nd May.

Query to be sent to Footpath Officer as to who is responsible for replacement of broken styles CWaC or landowners?

Village Survey

Survey undertaken of the Parish, the aim was to understand the priorities the community would like for the Parish

Road safety and state of the roads especially potholes are the main concern of the residents, along with ensuring the rural character of the Parish is maintained.

Bin for layby

Regular amounts of rubbish are left in the layby at Beech Lane, to combat this the Parish council initially approached CWaC to supply a bin, but the area didn't pass the survey. The PC decided to purchase a bin, we were told the area needed to pass the bin survey and even with privately purchased bins it could be removed by CWaC if they felt it was detrimental and attracting fly tipping.

The Parish Council will clear rubbish but take photos of what is discarded, this photographic evidence and further bin surveys by Street Scene may lead to a bin being supplied at the end of a trial period.

The Parish Council have purchased and installed a litter sign

The layby is an adopted Highway.

Community Speed Watch

Community Speed Watch with radar guns, may be an option for the Ward utilising shared technology.

Issues have arisen from doing this in the past with possible conflict with commuters, therefore if this is to be adopted for the Ward it would be best if those trained to operate the Radar Guns did not use them in the Parish they live in or are councillors in.

Matters Arising

The main road (Eaton Road) through Eaton is covered by a "7.5 tonne accept for access" weight limit (signed from A49/Eaton Road & A49 Nantwich Road/Eaton Road junction). The weight limit does not cover agricultural vehicles.

Given the "accept for access" element it is worth noting that many vehicles observed may be using Eaton Road legitimately. Enforcement of this restriction would be a matter for the Roads and Local Policing Units within Cheshire Constabulary.

26.04.08 Correspondence

Resolved: that correspondence received as detailed below be noted and the action list be agreed:

Reporter	Date	Description	Action
Highways	20/11/24	Eaton Village utility plans	Circulated
UU	20/11/24 onwards	Drainage issues at village green, and road markings needed in village Liaison for funding for projects	On going liaison
MOP and Ward Councillor	17/02/26	Large volumes of sewage being tankered from Eaton STW. Technical issue on site requiring tankering. MOP contacted	Liaison with UU ongoing Meeting to be organised
UU Rob Allen	25/02/26	Confirmed the technical issues at the Eaton STW, once rectified will arrange meeting	Passed to Chair
Highways	18/02/26 and 10/03/26	Re-instatement of white line from Elm Tree Court down to school. E-mails between several Highways ops	Ongoing Liaison
MOP	18/03/26 to 04/03/26	Lower Lane resurfacing not completed up to all the driveways. Complaint to Highways submitted Colas confirmed works will be rectified but awaiting date for	Circulated

		remedial works	
MOP	27/02/26	Resurfacing of Lower Lane Speed concerns have increased, situation not improved. Resurfacing was a missed opportunity to undertake traffic calming	Chair responded
Cheshire Constabulary	18/03/26	Responding to queries about collision clarification, VAS installation and painting roundels	Circulated
MOP	23/03/26 onwards	Annual Spring Clean e-mail response Concerns about debris of A frame sign on footpath 13/04/26 concerns about new signage in place Clerk requested Highways place signs in alternative locations	e-mail to highways sign now removed
Highways	13/03/26	Patching works on Oulton Mill Lane and Sapling Lane scheduled for 13 th April rescheduled for 20 th April	Circulated and placed on FB
Eaton Primary School	13/04/26	E-mail to Eaton primary School following up previous correspondence reg. Traffic management. Response received 14/04/26	Circulated
Ward Councillor	13/04/26	Member of public received information that Lower Lane may be due to have works	Clerk contacted Highways for clarification
Highways	13/04/26	Notification for full road closure of Eaton Lane 15 th and 16 th April for Top Dress Preparation to be completed in summer 2026.	Circulated and put on FB
Report It	14/04/26	Clerk reported that Give Way sign at Beech Lane damaged	

26.04.09 Finance Matters

Resolved: that the following net accounts are passed for payment:

Cheque No.	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	NET (£)	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)
1108	Parish Online	Annual subscription	£258		£258

26.04.10 External Meeting

26.04.11 Any Other Business

Eaton Village Police Surgeries

*Please note times and dates for next police drop-in sessions. These are important opportunities to build relationships with our community police officers and share any issues. Note that while members of Cheshire Constabulary always intend to be present, they will understandably prioritise urgent call outs. Thank you for your understanding"

2026 Dates at the Jessie Hughes Village Hall

12th May 10am

7 Sept 11am

9th June 5pm

13th October 5pm

14th July 11am
11 August 6pm

25th November 5pm
9th December 2pm

26.04.12 Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 19th May 2026 at 7:00pm at the Jessie Hughes Village Hall. The May meeting will include the Annual Parish Meeting, AGM and May Ordinary Meeting

The meeting closed at 20.25pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

DRAFT