

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RUSHTON PARISH COUNCIL
held at the Jessie Hughes Village Hall
on Tuesday 16th June 2026 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs. Graham Sime, Olga Vertija, Phil Hodgson, Ed Shaw, Paul Chrisp

In Attendance: Lindsey Worrall (Clerk), Charles Hardy. Jim and Julie O'Shea, John and Barbara James and Chris Cleary

26.06.01 Apologies for Absence and Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

Resolved: that the apologies from Cllrs. Leslie and Thompson be received and accepted

In the absence of Chair Leslie, Vice Chair Sime will be the Chair of this meeting

26.06.02 Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of the 19th May 2026 to be agreed and signed.

Proposed: Cllr. Shaw

Seconded: Cllr. Vertija

Resolved: that the minutes of the Annual general meeting of the 19th May 2026 to be agreed and signed.

Proposed: Cllr. Chrisp

Seconded: Cllr. Hodgson

Resolved: that the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the 19th May 2026 to be agreed and signed.

Proposed: Cllr. Vertija

Seconded: Cllr. Hodgson

26.06.03 Public Speaking Time

Jim and Julie O'Shea

Traffic and Safety Concerns

- **Relating to narrow roads used by large vehicles**, large vans, tractors, HGV's. consider HGV weight limits (except for access) width restrictions, and improved route signage.
- **Dangerous and inconsiderate parking at school times**, esp. junction of Winterford and Lower Lane, regular congestion, poor parking including on the triangle, near misses and vehicle damage. Wednesday afternoon appears to be the worst day.
- **parking of vehicles causing restricted access for emergency vehicles**, parked vehicles may delay or block the route of emergency vehicles. Assess whether parking impacting emergency response, identify critical obstruction points.
- **damage to residents vehicles**, ongoing for many years, but worsening. Limited road space due to on road parking, congestion at peak times, large vehicles passing in narrow roads.
- **significant safety risks for children**, especially near the play zone, some families walk down Winterford Road, children can be ahead of parent, visibility poor.
- **Parking and congestion**, limited parking, many residents park on the roads due to limited drives. Vehicles park on both sides of the pavement on Edgewell and Winterford Lane.
- **At school time** parking is inconsiderate, parked vehicles can obstruct junctions, sight lines for drivers and pedestrians, restricts access to lower Lane. At the Winterford Lane/Lower Lane junction there's reduced visibility, restricts movements and vehicle damage risk of harm to pedestrians.
- **Requested actions** highways assessment for Winterford Lane, Lower Lane Junction and Play area access, focusing on traffic volume and type, parking impact, pedestrian safety and emergency access. Look at parking restrictions near junctions and enforcement.
- **School** Double yellow lines where appropriate, school 'keep clear' markings. Encourage safer drop off and pick up behaviours, encourage walking routes.
- **Child Safety measures** children crossing signage, some are present, but covered in hedges, non-clearly visible driving towards the play area from the top of Edgewell Lane.

Additional traffic calming measures and encourage families to use the safer footpath route with additional signage.

- Weaver Vale Housing Trust own the parking area on Edgewell Lane, school now using this area for drop off and pick up. Contact Weaver Vale Housing Trust to enquire about bay markings.

United Utilities have needed to remove slurry from the local works whilst maintenance has been undertaken, unfortunately UU cannot travel any other route other than through the village centre and up Winterford Lane/ Edgewell Lane.

Request Police to come on Wednesday afternoons to undertake checks

Request Parking attendants to visit the area at school times

Request a further meeting with the school and to ensure the Trust CEO is in attendance.

Seek advice from MP

Cllr. Charles Hardy and councillors

The two main issues Cllr Hardy deals with are Road surfaces and speeding.

Meetings have been held with the school, car sharing has been suggested but school said not possible due to child car seats required.

School have said to Parish Council that they employ a member of staff to start early to assist with the staggered off, there are pre-school and after-school activities that stagger the drop off and collection of children. The primary school allow the use of the carpark.

Some children are able to get a school bus, but this is a limited number. The Parish council suggested that a bus service could be developed for the children that come from a wider area, the school representatives said this was not a practical option.

There are limited number of families able to walk to the school due to distance from their home and footpaths.

Cllr. Hardy will use his Members budget to support the purchase of a SID by Cheshire Constabulary, this will be positioned by the Police in conjunction with Highways.

John and Barbara James, Chris Cleary

Proposed path between Jessie Hughes Village Hall and Edgewell Lane.

John and Barbara James currently keep the area clear and tidy, thank you for undertaking this for the community.

All are happy for the path to be created as long as it is not tarmac.

Cllr. Graham Sime said that the Parish council will look into the proposal but this may not be possible to undertake as the area closest to the Jessie becomes very narrow and may not be wide enough to comply with the requirements of a path.

Clerk confirmed that once details are known, the neighbours will be consulted and all residents will then be given the opportunity to give their feedback.

26.06.04

To agree accounts and audit

Resolved: that the risk assessment to be reviewed and accepted
 that the Asset Register to be reviewed and accepted
 that the 2025/2026 accounts to be reviewed and accepted
 that the 2025/2026 audit to be reviewed and accepted
 that the 2025/2026 Section 1 Annual Governance Statement to be reviewed and accepted.
 that the 2025/2026 Section 2 Accounting Statements be reviewed and accepted
 that the bank signatories be reviewed and accepted

Proposed: Cllr. Sime

Seconded: Cllr. Chrisp

Councillors noted the volume of work that has gone into the preparation of the accounts and thanked the clerk for the comprehensive accounts and documentation of explanation variances recorded.

26.06.05 Planning Matters

1- To note planning decisions received.

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

None

26.06.06 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. Letter required from Council to request the donation, now sent to UU

Quote received, to be sent to UU for their contribution

Quote received from an alternative sign company, very competitive, to assess sign variations in material type before determining which company to use.

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

Lower Lane resurfacing.

Following the resurfacing in February, remedial work to surface up to driveways was completed on Friday 12th and Monday 15th June.

United Utilities were due to undertake some pipeline works on Lower Lane; they have now been instructed that this cannot happen for three years. There are several properties within the parish that are suffering very low water pressure, these works should have been undertaken prior to the resurfacing.

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. 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.
4. 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.

5. The 20mph signs on both Winterford and Sapling Lane are the wrong way around, work order in place
6. Speed signs on both Sapling Lane and Eaton Lane are facing the wrong way.

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.

Roundels on Roads

Highways have confirmed that they will reinstate the roundel on Eaton Lane that was missed after the road resurfacing.

Highways have also confirmed that following road resurfacing they will paint lines on Lower Lane at the Junction by the village green to highlight the junction.

The Parish council have requested a price for the painting of 20mps roundels outside the primary school, the cost of painting is reasonable, but the traffic management costs are unreasonable. Cllr. Hardy to enquire whether there are any options available considering all schools are now covered by a 20mph zone.

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 and Chair to continue liaison with school, Highways and Cheshire Constabulary.

Email the school to request another meeting including the CEO of the Trust

Contact the MP

26.06.07 Reports from Working Groups **Communications**

Clerks e-mail address and GDPR meeting outcome

New e-mail address for clerk is clerk@rushtonparish.gov.uk

New website for the parish council is <https://rushtonparish.gov.uk/>

The website is still in progress and not fully operational, all documents can still be accessed on eatonandrushtonparish.org.uk

Oulton Mill Picnic Area Project.

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

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 clerk@rushtonparish.gov.uk

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 which will be unveiled later in the year.

Wildlife Project

The project was launched at the Drays in September 2025 and continues with activities such as the planting of wildflowers donated by Cheshire Wildlife Trust, snowdrops and fruit trees. The creation of a booklet, a spring working party at The Village Green and planting of more wildflowers. Pictures have recently been taken of the wildflowers in the picnic area, these have been sent to Cheshire Wildlife Trust to detail the progress of the wildflower meadow, flowers are just beginning to flower and appear healthy.

During the Utkinton and Cotebrook flower for nature flower show, the clerk met the owner of Lloyds Flower farm, Tarporley; Diane very kindly donated wildflower plug plants to the wildflower project which the clerk will plant in the picnic area and some at the village green.

Vicky Crawley has kindly donated foxgloves which have been planted at the village green.

Village Green drainage issues

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

Works now undertaken on the green and a new drainage installed.

Lights around The Green not working, Cllr. Hodgson has contacted SP Energy to notify of issue.

Thank you to Cllrs. Hodgeson and Sime for leading this project, and to contractors who donated materials to ensure this project was completed in a cost-effective manner.

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.

The wildlife group had requested that the village green not be cut until the end of June, this was mis-communicated to street scene by the Clerk as 'June'. The village green was cut on Monday 8th June.

The Parish Council request that through liaison with the wildlife group, the decision of timings of cutting grass and other activities on parish council owned assets should be decided within a parish council meeting. This will ensure no miscommunication can occur again.

The village green has a large amount of ground elder, regular cutting will help to control this and prevent further spread.

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.

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 will take place on June 27th, 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, possibly weed barrier and an aggregate.
 Approach JHVI and home owners for their input in first instance.
 Specification of what is required, Terry Ball contacted 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 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.

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.

Issues Raised –

Land Owner query – land to North of Towns Green
 Crops on FP 17 – footpath has been ploughed
 Redirection of path at Beech Lane Farm

In terms of responsibilities:

Stiles and gates are the landowners responsibility. However, where stiles are beyond repair, the Council will contribute at least 25% towards the cost of a replacement gate. We are looking to improve accessibility so gates are provided rather than new stile kits (unless there are exceptional reasons that a stile is the only option, in which case the landowner will have to justify that, if there is ever a challenge regarding accessibility).

Vegetation encroaching from the sides or above is the landowners responsibility, but the Council are responsible for anything growing out of the surface of the PRow, aside from where it crosses agricultural land, which then becomes the landowners responsibility.

CWaC will replace signs.

Closure of Tarporley Sorting Office

Tarporley Sorting office has now closed and anyone needing to collect post will need to travel to Crewe. All post for the Parish will come from the Crewe sorting office. First class and parcels are being delivered daily but second class post is being held at the sorting office and sent out bulk approximately twice a month.

Some of the elderly and vulnerable members of the parish do not have mobile phones, internet or laptops, they rely on the postal service for communications, especially for bills.

One resident has been approached by Scottish Power by telephone saying they hadn't paid their bill, but the resident had not received it, this continued until Scottish Power included a late payment fee, whilst the bill had still not been received through the post.

Royal Mail are charging members of the public and businesses for a second class postal system that they are currently not providing to the Parish. There are a large number of small parishes that have residents who will rely on the postal system for bills, hospital appointments and correspondence, many vital appointments could well be missed.

An E-mail to the MP (Aphra Brandreth) has already been sent from the clerk but another will be sent to highlight that this issue is parish wide.

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. Ward Councillor and Cheshire Constabulary are liaising to enable the purchase.

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.

26.06.08 Correspondence

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

Reporter	Date	Description	Action
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 remedial works. Works to be completed 12/06/26	Circulated
Highways	06/06/26	Roundel on Eaton lane was missed from the line painting and will be undertaken	Circulated
Highways	07/06/26	Proce for Roundels on Lower Lane	Circulated
MOP	10/06/26	Road traffic accident on Lower Lane	Circulated to PC and Highways
MOP	11/06/26	Only receiving post every two weeks due to Tarporley Sorting Office now closed. Bills received late and being charged late payment fees	Contacted Ward Councillor

26.06.09 Finance Matters

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

Cheque No.	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	NET (£)	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)
1114	L R Worrall	Q1 Salary	£1254.24		£1254.24
1115	LR Worrall	Q1 Expenses	£184.53	£29.91	£214.44
1116	Mr S Brassington	Digger and man to dig new drain	£200.00	£40.00	£240.00

Resolved: that the following net accounts recorded in the minutes and have previously been passed for payment

Cheque No.	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	NET (£)	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)
1083	Mr M Wilson	Paper and sealant	£45.48	£9.10	£54.58
1093	JHVI	Hall Hire July and Aug 2025	£28.00		£28.00
1098	Mr M Wilson	Ink, poppy wreaths, paper and 1 tonne sacks for leaf clearance	£107.32	£12.48	£119.80
1100	Mr m Wilson	Wine and mince pies for carols on the green	£23.25		£23.25

26.06.10 External Meeting

Oulton Park Villagers Day 14th June very well attended
Oulton Park liaison group meeting 29th July 2026.

26.06.11 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

12 th May 10am	7 Sept 11am
9 th June 5pm	13 th October 5pm
14 th July 11am	25 th November 5pm
11 August 6pm	9 th December 2pm

26.06.12 Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 21st July 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 21.16pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Meetings of Rushton parish Council will be held on the third Tuesday of each month, below is the following schedule of ordinary meetings for 2026/2027

Tuesdays at 7.30pm at the Jessie Hughes Village Hall

19 th May 2026	16 th June 2026	21 st July 2026
15 th September 2026	20 th October 2026	17 th November 2026
19 th January 2027	16 th February 2026	16 th March 2027
20 th April 2027	18 th May 2027	

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