

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RUSHTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**held at the Jessie Hughes Village Hall**  
**on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllrs. Emma Leslie, Graham Sime, Ed Shaw, Neil Thompson, Paul Chrisp  
**In Attendance:** Lindsey Worrall (Clerk), Cllr. Charles Hardy, Mike Wilson.

**26.03.01**     **Apologies for Absence and Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests**

**Resolved:** that the apologies from Cllrs. Hodgson and Vertija be received and accepted.

**26.03.02**     **Minutes**

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the 17<sup>th</sup> February 2026 to be agreed and signed.

**Proposed:** Cllr. Leslie

**Seconded:** Cllr. Shaw

**26.03.03**     **Public Speaking Time**

**Mike Wilson**

National Litter Pick week, Mike to e-mail residents and Paul to advertise on FB. Clerk e-mailed organisers regarding additional equipment., this is available on a hire and return basis.

**Charles**

Lower Lane resurfaced, Cllr. Hardy asked Highways for a 20mph roundel painted on the road. Their response was that one hadn't been there previously. Clerk to ask Cheshire Constabulary their view on roundel use.

Quarterly meetings with Highways preferred, there is a lack of communication Vehicle Speed Indicator, to share with the Parishes, locations for use would need Police approval, cannot be attached to any street furniture.

**26.03.04**

**To review the draft budget for 2026-27**

The budget was reviewed and will be re-assed at the April meeting due to Clerks illness.

**26.03.05**     **Planning Matters**

**1- To note planning decisions received.**

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

**25/01791/FUL**

**Location-** 24 Edgewell Lane, Eaton, Tarporley, CW6 9AG

**Proposal** – Demolition of existing dwelling and construction of new dwelling

The Parish Council has **No objection** to this Planning Application, but the comments regarding the design and materials

Proposed – Cllr. Sime

Seconded – Cllr. Leslie

The Parish Council have no objections to the development of a new property but object to the design and use of materials. Any new property design needs to be in-keeping with the village and conservation area.

Although the Parish Council can see that alterations have been made to the materials to be utilised from the original design, this development would remain very contemporary, appearing over-bearing to the surrounding properties, whilst looking out of place and not in-keeping with the village. The large use of glass may make the property appear more prominent.

There are many styles within the village area and includes new builds, such as those developed by CB Homes recently, these new properties are mindful of the character of the village and Parish.

This application must take into consideration the setting when designing the property to ensure it remains in-keeping with the village, Parish and conservation area.

## **26.03.06      Highways**

### **Outstanding Road Safety Issues from Previous Meetings**

#### **a. Highways Issues**

##### village entry signs

Sign Of the Times (SOTT), sign makers details have been received and circulated. Prices obtained from this company and liaison regarding designs. The designer is currently creating the design for us.

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.

Clerk to chase the sign design to then obtain a full quote.

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

##### **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. Clerk reported this to Highways as a likely drainage fault, Highways believe it's water flowing from Higher Ground or even from the well. Clerk has contacted UU to ask how to proceed with this, who have confirmed there are no assets leaking within the village.  
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.  
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.

The VAS on Eaton Lane, the SIM will no longer be 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 plastic bollards could be installed here to stop vehicles parking and obstructing the road?

School to identify whether this piece of land is adopted highway.

Clerk to chase school

### **26.03.07 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 to change e-mail address for Clerk and Communication Officer and update the website for the parish council.

#### **Oulton Mill Picnic Area Project.**

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

Tarporley High School have been contacted; students will 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.

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](mailto: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 stained glass project? To be an agenda item for April

### **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 will visit Gardening Group in February.

Ian Daniells of Lower Moss Wood Educational reserve and Wildlife Hospital attended with 4 native owls

Elisabeth Ekersley Jones joined us with a wealth of knowledge about how to encourage and protect hedgehogs

There was a bee hive to look at the construction

Local artist Gill Ellison brought her sketch book and some robins

James Arnolld, local photographer brought a selection of prints and cards

There were talks from all involved and local farmer and chair of the Parish Council Emma Leslie.

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 subsequently donated the project 500 wildflower plug plants; these were planted by a group of volunteers in the picnic area in October.

Fruit trees and snowdrops were planted in February.

Area around The Smithy and phone box will be planted with wildflower seeds in spring (provisionally planned for April 18<sup>th</sup>), the seed will cost around £200

### **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.

Creative play annual inspection undertaken in August 2025, some minor repairs and items to keep a watch reported. All rotten wood has been removed.

A local joiner has offered to help undertake the repairs at a cost of approximately £300

### **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.

### **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.**

### **26.03.09 Correspondence**

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

<b>Reporter</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Action</b>
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 tinkered from Eaton STW. Technical issue on site requiring tinkering. MOP contacted	Liaison with UU ongoing Meeting to be organised
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	Circulated
Cllrs. Shaw & Hardy	19/02/26	Highways undertaking pothole repairs on Kings Lane – 5 in total. 3 repaired then left site. Leaving traffic man. Team on site	Urgent e-mail to Highways regarding inefficiency

Highways	20/02/26	Kings Lane Repair team called to urgent repair but needed to return to complete works. Traffic man. Team needed to stay in place for security. Agreed not most efficient working practice but required for public safety	Circulated
Planning	19/02/26	Planning Enquiry Re-Consultation only gives 14 days for comment	Circulated
UU Emma Rooney	23/02/26	Cotebrook reservoir works and surrounding area update	Circulated
UU Jenna Seddon	23/02/26	Rob Allen now looking after the Vynwy maintenance project and will be our contact	Circulated
UU Rob Allen	25/02/26	Confirmed the technical issues at the Eaton STW, once rectified will arrange meeting	Passed to Chair
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
PC & Cllr Hardy Highways	02/03/26	Brook Rd Tarporley resurfaced and speed roundel painted on surface. Asked Highways why not undertaken at Lower Lane outside school	Circulated
Highways response	03/03/26	<b>the 30 mph roundel on Brook Road was already insitu, so was purely replaced following the carriageway resurfacing.</b>  <b>With regards to Lower Lane, there was never a roundel before the resurfacing took place. The 20 mph speed limit programme does not include for installing roundels on new 20 mph schemes.</b>	Circulated
Clerk & Highways	10/03/26	Safety around Eaton Village Vehicles speed around Eaton centre and also miss- use the roads around the monument driving onto Sapling Lane. Highways unable to assist	Circulated

### **26.03.09 Finance Matters**

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

<b>Cheque No.</b>	<b>PAYEE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>NET (£)</b>	<b>VAT (£)</b>	<b>TOTAL (£)</b>
1101	Mr Mike Wilson	Paper	£17.91	£3.58	£21.49

1102	Mr P Hodgson	Gift for picnic area maintenance	£60.00		£60.00
1103	Parish Online	Annual subscription	£45.00		£45.00
1104	JHVI	Hall Hire -Jan-Feb 2026	£49.00		£49.00
1105	LR Worrall	Q4 Salary	£1254.24		£1254.24
1106	LR Worrall	Q4 Expenses	£37.67	£7.55	£45.22
1107	LBPC	Donation towards memorial wreath	£30.00		£30.00

Little Budworth PC presented a wreath on behalf of both Parishes at the Oulton park memorial, £30 donation to be sent to LB PC towards this.

**26.03.10 External Meeting**

**26.03.11 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**

	11 August 6pm
12 <sup>th</sup> March 11am	7 Sept 11am
17 <sup>th</sup> April 7pm	13 <sup>th</sup> October 5pm
12 <sup>th</sup> May 10am	25 <sup>th</sup> November 5pm
9 <sup>th</sup> June 5pm	9 <sup>th</sup> December 2pm
14 <sup>th</sup> July 11am	

**26.03.12 Next Meeting**

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2026 at 7:30pm at the Jessie Hughes Village Hall.

**The meeting closed at 20.41pm.**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_