

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RUSHTON PARISH COUNCIL
held at the Jessie Hughes Village Hall
on Tuesday 19th May 2026 at 8.00pm

Present: Cllrs. Emma Leslie, Graham Sime, Neil Thompson, Olga Vertija, Phil Hodgson, Ed Shaw Paul, Chrisp

In Attendance: Lindsey Worrall (Clerk), Mike Wilson, Charles Hardy

26.05.01 Apologies for Absence and Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

Resolved: None

26.05.02 Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the 21st April 2026 to be agreed and signed.

Proposed: Cllr. Sime

Seconded: Cllr. Shaw

26.05.03 Public Speaking Time

Mike Wilson

Village green not being mowed until June for wildflowers and wildlife. The longer it is left the grass, it will be more difficult to cut and grass will need to be collected. Councillors have received complaints from residents about the grass on the green.

Litter picking equipment now bought.

A lot more newsletters copies are being printed, a quote is being received by The Neuromuscular centre in Winsford to assess whether comparative.

The centenary events at the Jessie Hughes were very well attended, with cllr. Hodgson, Chrisp and the clerk in attendance. The book created by Peter Holloway is very informative.

Cross has been damaged by a vehicle, insurance claim to be put in

26.05.04 Planning Matters

1- To note planning decisions received.

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

None

26.05.05 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.

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. 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.

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.

26.05.06 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.

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 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. 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 in in place, the village green is dry and all ground disturbed is settled

Village Green 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.

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

Lights around The Green not working, Cllr. Hodgson to contact 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.

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The curbing project will be looked at once the drainage system in 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.

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 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.

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.

26.05.07 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	Circulated
Cheshire Constabulary	18/03/26	Responding to queries about collision clarification, VAS installation and painting roundels	Circulated
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
Member Of Public	22/04/26	Grass cut at picnic area, Nick not made aware of wildflower area	Circulated,
Member of public	23/04/26	Cones and signage for road works obscuring view,	Highways and Core asked to relocate them
Member of public	01/05/26	Vehicle going to Oulton park hit wall due to road closures, over weight for road. Police need notifying. Oulton park will pay for damage	Replied and sent to Police

26.05.08 Finance Matters

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

Cheque No.	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	NET (£)	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)
1109	Zurich	Insurance	£11180.53		£11180.53
1110	JHVI	Donation for centenary	£200		£200
1111	JHVI	Hall Hire	£42.00		£42.00
1112	Chalc	Subscription 2026-2027	£157.40		£157.40

26.05.09 External Meeting

Oulton Park Villagers Day 14th June, go to website to book activities

26.05.10 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

26.05.11 Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 16th June 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: _____

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	