

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RUSHTON PARISH COUNCIL
held at the JESSIE HUGHES VILLAGE HALL on MONDAY 20th April 2015 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs. D. Lilley, J.O'Shea, S. Roberts, M. Wilson (Chair)

In Attendance: A.Martell, G.Johnson, R.McKnight (all representatives from Little Budworth PC for the "Connecting Cheshire Presentation only)

15.04.01 Apologies for Absence and Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

Resolved: that the apologies received from Cllrs. M. Scott, E. Shaw and A. Nicholas be received and accepted.

Apologies also received from A. Stubbs (clerk). There were no disclosures of interests.

15.04.02 Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 16th March 2015 be agreed and signed as a correct record. Proposed Cllr. O'Shea, seconded Cllr. Roberts and all agreed.

15.04.03 Public Speaking Time

Connecting Cheshire attended to update the Parish Council on broadband speed improvement in the Eaton/Little Budworth Area.

Presentation by Andrew Arditti
 Connecting Cheshire Partnership
 Digital Engagement Manager
 Cheshire East Council

assisted by Aron Briggs – BT Manager

Summary (MW notes):

Phase 1 (£30m investment to 80,000 premises) is near completion (June 2015).

Tarporley has a new cabinet on the High Street giving high speeds to the town. However the distance of Eaton means that superfast speeds cannot be reached by the 730 numbers in the village. Improvement may be considered in Phase 2.

Little Budworth exchange has/is being worked on but this will affect the centre of the village only and no improvement is expected to those Rushton premises with 760 numbers. Improvement may be considered in Phase 2.

Phase 2 (£6m investment to 10,000 premises) commences in Autumn 2015. Postcodes for phase 2 are being considered and will be announced in next couple of months

Those not selected for Phase 2 will be in Phase 3 which is currently un-funded although most parties in the upcoming election are promising more money for Rural Broadband.

15.04.04 Matters Arising

Picnic Area

Further pressure on Cheshire West and Chester Council has resulted in Land Registration being processed. If the land is determined to be "Public Open Space" then the transfer to Rushton PC has to be advertised with a waiting period of 28 days. Consequently, we may still be looking at a summer 2016 deadline. The implications of the proposed development on the Millpool restaurant site will also have to be taken into account to ensure synergy.

ACTION – with Cllr. Roberts

Plaque for trees on Kings Lane/Edgewell Lane

ACTION – With Cllr. Scott to progress

Path to the Village Hall - Kerb

The letter sent to the residents of the adjoining 4 properties has resulted in a reply from 2 of the premises. Again, the question of possible damp ingress has been raised and although in favour of the kerb, assurances, inspections etc have been requested.

Resolved: that the content of the response will be discussed with the Highways department.

ACTION - with Cllr Wilson

Provision of affordable housing

Further to the discussions at the March meeting of the Parish Council, a further meeting was held on 1st April attended by 6 of the councillors and the Parish Clerk. The meeting looked at the various issues surrounding future housing needs and possible development within the Parish and more particularly the role of the Parish Council in such matters. A conclusion of 5 statements was agreed as follows:

1. At this stage, Rushton Parish Council do not wish to take an active role in promoting and/or leading a new initiative regarding further housing development.
2. Looking at the evidence collected by the Parish Council over the past 2 years there does not appear to be a great need for the development of affordable housing in our Parish.
3. Over the next 2 years it is expected that there will be the addition of 4 (3+1 Red Lion) and 5 (Millpool) to the current housing stock i.e. 9 in 210 or 4.2%.
4. The Parish Council would however want to be involved and would support future developments of open market or affordable housing particularly with regards to design and quantity (which would be small and to the appropriate scale of the parish).
5. The current local Plan Part 2 indicates that it is unlikely that Rushton would be considered for additional housing due to the criteria used for sustainability.

Resolved: that a letter will be sent to those land-owners who responded to the land availability request, thanking them for their response and giving the conclusion of the Council above.

Resolved: that the above to be posted on the Village Website & included in the May Newsletter.

ACTION - Clerk to draft letters and post above statements on to the web-site.

Cllr. Wilson: to include an article in the May Newsletter.

Red Lion Pub

At the request of Cllr Wilson, concrete posts have been installed by the developer across the 2 openings to prevent travellers using the site. We await a visit to the area by the developer and the agreed progress meeting.

ACTION – Cllr. Wilson to progress the meeting.

Succession Plan for current projects

Cllr Wilson now has the list of projects currently being carried out plus the individual responsibilities and these will be handed over at the Annual Meeting for the new Parish Council to allocate.

Election process and dates

The Council are pleased to announce that Mrs Jade Plumbley and Mr Neil Thompson have agreed to become Parish Councillors in place of the retiring Cllrs. Lilley and Scott. As this results in the required number (7 councillors), no election is needed on 7th May and names of all councillors have now been accepted at CWAC.

Resolved that Cllr. Wilson to present the 2014/15 Annual Report at the Annual Meeting on Tuesday 19th May which will include an update of all projects. This meeting will be followed on the same evening with the PC AGM plus the May Council Meeting.

ACTION – Cllr. Wilson

Communications

Website

It was agreed that more Parish Council output/project progress could be posted on the web-site to encourage use. Work by our teenage compilers will speed up after A levels in June.

Resolved: that more opportunities of posting PC progress e.g. Road Safety, to be considered.

ACTION - Cllr Wilson & Clerk

Newsletter

Next issue due 1st week of May. Publicity of the Annual Meeting will be major to encourage the residents to attend.

ACTION - Cllr Wilson

Superfast Broadband

See above.

Development/Planning/Environment

Village Green

Cllr. Scott has completed weed killing and grass sowing on the Green.

Village Green Kerb

Cllr Scott has produced a layout proposal to install a kerb along the east side of the Green which has been "spoilt" by vehicles mounting the grass verge. The proposal involves the re-instatement of the existing sandstone kerb plus the addition of salvaged (currently stored in the churchyard) and new railway sleepers down to the Lower Lane end. At this point the radius of the bend would be increased to help vehicles turning.

ACTION - Cllr Wilson to include this project in the imminent discussions with the Highways department.

Road Safety

RS Working Group Progress

The minutes of the recent Eaton Road Safety Group have been circulated to all councillors and it was agreed to post these on the website.

ACTION - Clerk to post minutes

The Vehicle Activated sign is due in the next couple of weeks and its position has been agreed with the landowner and will be opposite the village side entrance to the Red Lion site. Paul Healey has agreed to receive the data generated from this sign which will be analysed and forwarded to the police for action if necessary.

A speed assessment has been carried out by Highways on the key roads within the village and a meeting is being arranged to discuss possible lowering of speed limits.

ACTION - Cllr Wilson to arrange meeting

Services

Electricity sub-station

Scottish Power have advised that the project has to be re-submitted but this should allow a new work programme to be formulated which will be passed on to the parish council.

ACTION – Cllr. Wilson to chase

Youth/Social/Community

Play Zone

The WREN decision on funding is due by the end of April. The lease is hopefully in its final stages and the team are going back to the final 2 suppliers now being considered for updated quotes and re-evaluation of the equipment specification. Helen Thompson and other mothers on the team are holding a baby/child clothes table top sale on Saturday 9th May as an additional fund-raiser towards the £4,800 that we have to raise locally.

ACTION - Mrs. Wilson and O'Shea to progress the above.

15.04.06 Planning Matters**a) Applications received since the last meeting:**

15/01019/FUL – amendments to planning permission at Stone Cottage, Sapling Lane

Resolved: that the Parish Council has no objections to these amendments

15/01292/FUL – carport/store at Sunnyside, Moss Hall Lane

Resolved: that the Parish Council has no objections to this application

b) Decisions made:

None

c) Other

With regards to the proposed caravan site at Eaton Fisheries no date has yet been received for this to go before the Planning Committee.

A Consultation on the Allocation of Local Service Centres has been received.

This document was completed at the Parish Council meeting on 1st April.

ACTION – Document to be posted on the website

An appeal has been lodged for the conversion of an “agricultural” building at Owlscoote to residential use. It was noted that the Parish Council had objected to the original planning application and these objections would be forwarded to the appeal.

Resolved: that as this has not been an agricultural building in the past, further information regarding the history of the site would be sent to the appeal inspector to facilitate a decision.

15.04.07 Highways

The speed limit sign on the exit of the village towards Cotebrook has been re-aligned.

A letter has been sent to United Utilities asking them to again cut their hedge on Sapling Lane.

Sapling Lane Flooding: Cllr Scott has sent a comprehensive account of the remaining problems in this area to highways requesting information on what further work has been included in this years budget.

15.04.08 Correspondence

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

| SENDER | DATED | DETAILS | ACTION |
|-------------------------|----------|--|--------------------|
| Oulton Estate | 16/03/15 | Letter regarding Housing Land availability | See 15.04.04 above |
| Denis and Sheila Parton | 30/03/15 | Acknowledgement of housing land letter | See 15.04.04 above |
| CPRE | | Newsletter | Circulated |

15.04.09 Finance Matters

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

| PAYEE | DESCRIPTION | NET (£) | VAT (£) | TOTAL (£) |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|-----------|
| Jessie Hughes Village Hall | Hall Hire Jan/Feb | 38.00 | | 38.00 |
| Amelia McCourty | Village Design Statement expenses | 82.32 | | 82.32 |
| Alex Stubbs | 4 th quarter expenses | 52.54 | 5.78 | 58.32 |

The quarterly balance sheet until the end of March was discussed and despite some fairly hefty bills being handled currently and in the next few months, all felt that we are in a good state financially.

15.04.10 Quality Parish Scheme

Now re-issued as the Local Council Award Scheme which is being investigated.

ACTION - Clerk

15.04.11 External Meetings

Cllr. Lilley reported back from the from the Vale Royal meeting of CHALC held on 26th March at Darnhall Village Hall. Amongst the issues discussed was the promotion of Village Design Statements in lieu of full Neighbourhood Plans for small villages such as ours. This confirms the action that the Parish Council decided on.

15.04.12 Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 19th May 2015 at 7.15pm in the Jessie Hughes Village Hall. This will consist of the Parish Council AGM, the Annual Parish meeting and the Ordinary Parish Council meeting.

15.04.13 Any Other Business

Cllr. Wilson discussed issues that need addressing as we approach the Community Pride Competition:

- a) Litter pickers to be informed of tour of judges
- b) The grit bins (particularly the yellow one at the approach to Elm Tree Court), need cleaning
- c) Certain signs need cleaning and adjacent hedges to be trimmed.

ACTION – Cllr. Wilson to progress

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.45pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____