

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RUSHTON PARISH COUNCIL
held at the Jessie Hughes Village Hall
on Tuesday 18th November 2025 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs. Graham Sime, Ed Shaw, Olga Vertija, Paul Chrisp, Neil Thomson (arrived at 8pm)

In Attendance: Lindsey Worrall (Clerk), and Charles Hardy (Ward Councillor), Mike Wilson, Jerry and Hilary Markham

25.11.01 Apologies for Absence and Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

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

25.11.02 Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the 21st October 2025 to be agreed and signed.

Proposed: Cllr. Sime

Seconded: Cllr. Chrisp

Resolved: that the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the 3rd November 2025 to be agreed and signed.

Proposed: Cllr. Chrisp

Seconded: Cllr. Sime

25.11.03 Public Speaking Time

Cllr. Charles Hardy

Planning application for Tarporley area (25/03281/OUT) Land at Arderne House Farm, development of up to 140 houses. Not a suitable proposal for Tarporley, land is unsuitable due to regular flooding, access is poor.

Eaton Primary School planning application (25/00291/Ful), installation of air source heat pumps. This application will be heard by the planning committee on 2nd December. One Parish Councillor and one member of the public can attend, Cllr. Sime the most technically suited and Mr Markham the closest impacted resident.

Meeting with Jamie Baron of Highways on 10th December, Utkinton Village Hall. Priorities for the PC already submitted.

Mr and Mrs Markham

Environmental Health have attended when the temporary boiler has been in use. On Sunday the temporary boiler was starting every 15 minutes at a noise level of 52db Very stressful, images supplied of the enclosure not suitable for a conservation area.

Mike Wilson

500 wildflower plug plants have been planted in the picnic area. Hedges to be cut by Nick Rayner

Remembrance Day service was very well attended

Upcoming events in the village

Leaf Clearance 22/11/25, Cllr Chrisp to attend, Street Scene to collect leaves the following Monday

CPR training 23/11/25 at 2pm at Jessie

Oulton Park Lunch 8th December

Carols on the Green 22/12/25

New Years Eve Party at the Jessie

25.11.04 Planning Matters

1- To note planning decisions received.

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

25/00291/FUL

Location- Eaton Primary School, Lower Lane, Eaton, Tarporley, CW6 9AN

Proposal – Installation of air source heat pump and sub station

The full wording of the Parish Councils Response will be available separate to these minutes.

The Parish Council does not object to the principal of the school making improvement, but the parish council has an **Objection** to this Planning Application on the basis of the information provided.

Proposed – Cllr. Sime

Seconded – Cllr. Chrisp

The Sandstone Trust have explained that the heating failed, the Air Source Heat Pump and Substation are required to heat the school as no other heating option.

The legal noise limit for the UK is 42 decibels, the system proposed emits 77 decibels. To mitigate this an acoustic fence is proposed that will reduce the noise to within limits during the daytime but not nighttime, therefore the Air Source Heat Pump will be switch off at 11pm other than for frost protection mode, details of which have been requested.

The acoustic fence is very industrial, not in-keeping with the village or conservation area, is 2.75m high, almost 5 m wide and almost 11 m long, the Sandstone Trust have said that the Substation will disguise it.

Parish Council have highlighted to CWaC that they anticipate that the school will be cold in a morning, therefore for the welfare of the children the ASHP will be utilised more throughout the night that the current timings suggest.

The above planning application will be heard at the Planning Committee on 2nd December.

25/03281/OUT

Location: Land at Arderne Farm House, Eaton Road Tarporley, CW6

Proposal: Demolition of existing dwelling, stables and associated structures, and outline planning permission (with all matters reserved other than access) for the development of up to 140 dwellings, public open space, landscaping and associated infrastructure works.

The Parish Council **Objects** to this Planning Application

Proposed – Cllr. Leslie

Seconded – Cllr. Sime

The full comments can be obtained in the minutes of the meeting of 3rd November 2025. The three areas in which the Parish Council Object are

- 1- Impact on Infrastructure
- 2- Traffic and Road Safety
- 3- Environment and Visual Impact

25.11.05 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.

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. Lower lane,
Parish Council has asked for full resurfacing to be undertaken before line painting, Highways have no provision to resurface. If evidence that Highways have previously committed to road surfacing, this can be re-addressed.
3. The road sign on the corner of Hickhurst and Dogmore Lane is broken, a works order is in place.
4. The road sign on the corner of Dogmore and Kings Lane is broken; a works order is in place.
5. 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.
6. Beech Lane Layby has a sign which is in need of replacement (now removed), 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,
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. The 20mph signs on Winterford Lane are the wrong way around, work order in place
10. The 20mph signs on Sapling Lane are the wrong way around. Work order in place
11. Speed signs on both Sapling Lane and Eaton Lane are facing the wrong way.
12. Eaton Lane, by Rock Cottage, road appears to be subsiding, reported to Highways.

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.

Highways have announced two schemes in recent months, clarification of the differences in these required.

The first was a volunteer scheme in which Highways would supply some equipment and enable small works to be undertaken by groups of volunteers.

The second led by Highways, undertaking similar works as the first scheme but utilising Highways Staff. Both projects would enable signs to be turned to the correct positions, obscure hedges to be cut away, signs cleaned and projects where only small amount of workforce and tools required.

At the meeting with Jamie Barron to clarify the differences in these schemes.

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. Could Bollards/cones be placed on the green on Lower Lane to stop vehicles parking and obstructing the road?

Clerk to contact Highways regarding the positioning of bollards on Highways land.

Clerk to contact School regarding a meeting to discuss options to ease the parking issues.

25.11.06 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.

A quote was received for a Gov.uk address, this was just under £2,000, with approx. £600 annual cost, second quote of just over £300, to liaise with company to determine if can be undertaken for less.

Other Clerks use an address that is Org.uk, at less cost.

Meeting held at Jessie to discuss GDPR requirements for Parish Council and Jessie Hughes, to discuss who should be official holder of the information used by communications officer.

Actions Review e-mail quote received and contact other local Clerks for details of companies used.

Can use an Org.uk account, Clerk continuing the research with guidance for other clerks.

CHaLC confirmed Mike Wilson can be given official role on PC even though not a councillor.

To further discuss with Parish Online

Oulton Mill Picnic Area Project.

The Picnic Area bin has now been emptied by Street Scene. The site is being used regularly. 4 fruit trees have been ordered

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 who fills the bird feeders at the entrance to the picnic area.

Great thanks to Nick Rayner who is regularly cutting the grass at the picnic area, and has done a great job in preparing the ground for the wildflowers.

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

Wildlife Project

On September 5th, the project launch was held at the Drays between 10-12, at least 40 attended throughout the morning. Cheshire Wildlife Trust have shared information and will visit Gardening Group next Spring

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.

It 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.

Cheshire Wildlife Trust have subsequently given the project 500 wildflower plug plants; these were planted by a group of volunteers in the picnic area on Saturday 25th October.

A area around The Smithy and phone box will be planted with wildflower seeds in spring, the seed will cost around £100

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

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.

Cllr. Chrisp has walked one part of the Parish with Eaton Ramblers on 8th October and found several locations were inaccessible, his report has been sent to CWaC Footpath Officer.

A further walk was scheduled for November but not undertaken. The footpath Officer then undertook some walks by herself.

Village Survey

To undertake small survey of the Parish, both electronic and paper versions, circulated in the newsletter.

The survey aim is to understand the priorities the community would like for the Parish 25 responses so far. 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 but was 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.

Over the next three months 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 the three-month period. After this initial period a decision will be undertaken as to whether the site requires a bin.

The Parish Council have purchased a sign that will be installed by Cllr Leslie and the Clerk.

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, there is 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.

Job Of PCSO

The role of PCSO has now been made redundant, Cllr. Chrisp will write a letter of recommendation for PCSO Ferreira.

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.

25.11.07 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
Member of Public	02/06/25	Hole appeared in Lower Lane, concerned it maybe sink hole. Already reported to Highways Clerk circulated to Highways and Councillors Clerk noticed similar happening on Eaton Lane to chase Highways	Circulated To chase Highways again 11/07 to chase again To chase again
MOP	25/10/25	Purchasers of Smithy asking who owns of well	Responded
Sandstone Trust	28/10/25	Acoustic Enclosure Drawings and pictures	Circulated and

			responded
MOP	03/11/15	Groundworks beginning at the primary school Ward Councillor contacted planning regarding the activities	Circulated
Highways	01/10/25 onwards	Streetlight on Royal Lane, confirmed works to be complete by end of week beginning 10/11/25	Circulated
MOP	06/11/25	Water issues on Village Green Water issues in garden (from culverted stream) have resolved since UU have undertaken works on Sapling Lane	Circulated
Highways and Ward Councillor	10/11/25	Ward Councillor and Highways would like to organise a meeting with the Parish Councils	Circulated

25.11.08 Finance Matters

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

Cheque No.	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	NET (£)	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)
1095	JHVI	Hall Hire	£49		£49
1096	L Worrall	Salary Q3	£1254.24		£1254.24
1097	L Worrall	Expenses Q3	£167.86	£7.79	£175.65

25.11.09 External Meeting

Oulton park Christmas Lunch Monday 8th December, 60+ can attend, David Lilley to co-ordinate the names for the Parish.

100th Anniversary of the Hall fire, 14th February 2026, service to be held and a memorial garden will be created.

25.11.10 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"

2025 Dates at the Jessie Hughes Village Hall

10th November 5pm

11th December 5pm

25.11.11 Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 20th January 2026 at 7:30pm at the Jessie Hughes Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 21.02pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____