

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RUSHTON PARISH COUNCIL
held at the Jessie Hughes Village Hall
on Tuesday 15th April 2025 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs. Graham Sime, Ed Shaw, Phil Hodgson, Olga Vertija,
In Attendance: Lindsey Worrall (Clerk), and Charles Hardy (Ward Councillor)

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

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

Resolved: that Cllr. Hodgson has a pecuniary interest in Planning application 24/03135/PDQ. and subsequent appeal

25.04.02 **Minutes**

Resolved: that the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the 18th March 2025 to be agreed and signed.

Proposed: Cllr. Hodgson

Seconded: Cllr. Sime

25.04.03 **Public Speaking Time**

Several residents have contacted the Parish Council regarding land off The Hall Lane which has recently been purchased and horses and ponies brought onto site.

Stables on skids have been installed, works have been undertaken on the entrance and driveway with the use of an excavator and a caravan arrived on site, which has been painted green so it blends with the environment.

Two further stables and a shed have been erected.

Queries regarding the planning regulations of change of use from agriculture to equestrian, plus whether planning needed for the construction of the buildings and the alterations of the driveway with the importation of hardcore.

Charles Hardy

As it's a new financial year, happy to assist in projects

Clerk, has two projects that were put to Charles

- 1- Bin and signage for layby near Beech Lane
- 2- Repairs to fingerposts, sign company who are undertaking the entry signs also make fingerposts. Ed Shaw will drive Parish in next month and check all fingerposts and assess what damaged or broken.

25.04.04 **Planning Matters**

1- To note planning decisions received.

25/00407/AGR

Location- Land opposite 1 Whalley Drive, Lower Lane, Eaton, Tarporley, CW6 9

Proposal – Erection of agricultural building for machinery, storage and fodder.

Granted 12th February 2025

Notification of a Planning Appeal –

Written Representations Site Address: Spinney Cottage, Lower Lane Rushton Tarporley, CW6 9AN

Description of development: Use of land to rear of Spinney Cottage as garden.

Appellant's name: Mr J Markham

Planning or Enforcement ref: 23/00961/LDC

Planning Inspector ref: APP/A0665/X/24/3344341

Planning Inspector: Appeal reference: 24/00077/REF

Appeal start date: 19 June 2024

Comment before: 31 July 2024

The Parish Council re-iterates the Objection and comments that were previously submitted

Appeal Allowed

Permission Granted

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

Notification of a Planning Appeal –

Written Representations Site Address: Land at Spinney Cottage, Lower Lane Rushton Tarporley, CW6 9AN

Description of development: Construction of one new dwelling

Appellant's name: Mr and Mrs J Markham

Planning or Enforcement ref: 22/02768/FUL

Planning Inspector ref: APP/A0665/W/24/3351355

Planning Inspector: Appeal reference: 24/000111/REF

Appeal start date: 16 October 2024

Comment before: 20 November 2024

The Parish Council re-iterates the Objection and comments that were previously submitted

25/00291/FUL

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

Proposal – Installation of air source heat pump and sub station

Additional time has been requested and the below questions raised

Within the application an acoustic fence is details between the school and the property Spinney Cottage, what is the noise level of the heat pump proposed?

Has background noise monitoring been undertaken to determine the noise levels within the village during day and night to determine whether the noise levels will be disturbance to other residents?

If the air source pump is noisy, could other mitigation measures be put in place at source to reduce the noise?

What are the Schools plans for parking issues during the construction phase, with contractors, containers, materials and staff needing to park? It is assumed this will be a lengthy construction which will likely to take place while the school is in term time a traffic plan is required.

A staggered drop off and collection could be introduced or the operation of a one way system. If this is successful during the construction phase these measures could be adopted for all school times to reduce congestion and enable a smoother drop off and collection for the parents, staff and children.

Reply from Planning Dept. – Case Officer not yet assigned to application, e-mail from PC placed on file, PC questions to be addressed once case officer in place.

Notification of a Planning Appeal**Site Address:** Land At The Hall Lane Rushton Tarporley**Description of development** - Prior notification for change of use of agricultural building to one dwelling house together with associated operational development**Appellant's name:** Miss E Hodgson**Planning or Enforcement ref:** 24/03135/PDQ**Planning Inspector ref:** APP/A0665/W/25/3362674**Planning Inspector: Appeal reference:** 25/00042/RPA**Appeal start date:** 2 April 2025**Comments before:** 7 May 2025

The Parish Council re-iterates their Support and comments that were previously submitted and would like to add this additional comment that the Parish Council believes that Local young People should be encouraged and helped to remain within the local community. Any structural or internal issues with the building could be addressed though comments and conditions.

25.04.05 Highways**Outstanding Road Safety Issues from Previous Meetings**a. Highways Issues

village entry signs and road marking at the entrances to the village, images have been previously circulated of designs of signs. All councillors have looked at these and discussion held as to the design preferences.

Clerk and Cllr. Sime has liaised with Utkinton and Cotebrook Clerk regarding the installation of the new signs within their Parish, details have been received and circulated. Prices obtained from this company and liaison regarding designs.

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.

Once proposal in place, to be sent to United Utilities to seek funding revenues.

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. The 30/40mph signs on Eaton Lane are the wrong way around and one missing, a works order is in place
6. Oulton mill lane to Cotebrook junction, visibility is very poor especially in large vehicles, Highways do not believe there are any safety issues with this junction
7. Eaton Lane Drainage issues Curbing project at village green, residents would like to assist in the project. Funding options to be assessed.

Theres water flowing from the telephone box down the road, Unities Utilities have confirmed it is not chlorinated and therefore not a water leak. Clerk has already reported this to Highways as a likely drainage fault, Highways believe its just 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.

Highways have visited the site on 15th October, believe its ground water, questions have been asked to help determine source and remedial actions.

Parish Councillors attended site 23rd November to undertake initial investigatory work and engage with a drainage contractor. Subsequent dye tracing has shown that outflow by Rock Cottage is not flowing down Lower Lane and therefore not contributing to any drainage.

Scottish Power undertook works in road starting 20th January but the locations of the excavations did not give any satisfactory assistance to these investigations

Drainage Contractor has been engaged and has a satisfactory action plan to rectify the situation, no works can begin until the village green is drier, if works begin while it is wet the damage to the village green will be irreparable.

Graham to contact an alternative contractor who has all the licences and ask to meet on site for a quote.

8. Beech Lane Layby has a sign which is in need of replacement, a bin would also be a great asset to the layby. A school bus was observed having to reverse as they couldn't pull out of the layby due to the concrete posts and soil that have been deposited. Bin assessment undertaken but this site does not fit the criteria, further information requested to understand how decision was taken in a conservation area.
9. 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.
10. The hedge on Eaton Lane at the corner opposite the monument is overgrown, to approach homeowners to ask for the hedge to be cut back.
11. The 20mph signs on Winterford lane are the wrong way around, work order in place
12. The 20mph signs on Sapling lane are the wrong way around. Work order in place
13. Dogmore Lane fingerpost is broken, to determine ownership.

Following the Clerk reporting to Highways that the gully and drains on Winterford Lane where blocked, they have been and undertaken some investigatory works. Charles Hardy (Ward Councillor) enquired why this has been prioritised over Lower Lane.

There have been works undertaken privately on Winterford Lane to clear the ditches on both sides of the road, the spoil has been piled on either side of the road on the verges, resulting in no passing places. The amount of silt removed is quite significant and was questioned whether some of this is coming from Sapling Lane. The soil will be removed from Winterford Lane once the neighbouring fields our dry enough to get on without causing damage.

Following the last storm (Storm Darragh, Dec 2024), there is still tree debris and partial trunk and roots on Eaton Lane. The landowner will remove this once the weather dries up and the public have removed as much as they want. The trees along Eaton Road by Portal Golf Club are also being slowly removed by the landowners

Highways have a new volunteering scheme, to enable working parties to undertake voluntary work. Highways insure the scheme and supply PPE. Cllr. Chrisp to be lead coordinator and apply for the scheme. This scheme will allow residents to undertake small projects such as correct signs that have been turned by passing vehicles. Cllr Chrisp liaising with Highways and creating a priority list of projects. Cllr. Chrisp will take some of the items listed above for the volunteer scheme.

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.

Hedges at Portal Golf Course

Along sapling Lane and Eaton Lane the hedges have not been cut, the roads are becoming too narrow and in places are only one vehicle wide.

Clerk to write a letter and ask for a meeting to discuss the hedges and especially to point out the tree on Eaton Road that dangerously sticks out.

Road Markings and signage

United Utilities working with Cheshire West and Chester Council will undertake a programme of repairs to road markings that have become faded, along with replacing some speed signage that have become dislodged. This work will be undertaken within the next few months.

25.04.06 Reports from Working Groups Communications

Newsletter

Cllr. Chrisp is preparing the parish councils element of the newsletter.

The content for the May edition of the newsletter is due on the 25th April.

Thank you to all those involved in putting the newsletter together and especially to Mike for his editorship and circulation.

Mike will continue to undertake this role for this year,

Editor role is still vacant. If anyone would like to now take on the role of newsletter editor, please do contact the Clerk, Lindsey via at e-mail at rushtonclerk@aol.com

Oulton Mill Picnic Area Project.

The Picnic Area bin has now being emptied by Street Scene. The site is being used regularly. All councillors agreed that 4 fruit trees should be purchased in Autumn 2025

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 has cut the hedges at 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

Youth/Social/Community

Play Zone Project

Wet pour sealing repairs have been 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. School side repair really good, but still a trip hazard to right of entrance and area in the MUGA are lifting.

Further areas of shrinkage have been observed and Mike, Sandy and Richard have undertaken repairs

The top bar on the ramp of the bridge was broken, this has been removed and made safe.

The flower bed sleepers have now been replaced by Greenspaces Ltd, very good repairs undertaken.

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.

Village Green

Drainage - As detailed within Road Safety

Trees on the Green – concerns were raised that the high winds from the winter storms and the high water table had caused the roots of one of the trees to appear higher and protruding out of the ground, raising concerns for the safety of the tree. A tree surgeon was asked to attend and assess the trees from this point of view but also for their general health. Both trees are in good health and do not require any works at the moment. The Parish Council will continue to assess the trees with the tree surgeon and when works are required this will be undertaken in a timely and safe fashion.

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 will walk the footpaths to assess the number that would need alteration.

Once details known, the Parish Council may approach UU to seek funding for the project.

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.

Oulton Park Visit

David Nicholls will attend an upcoming meeting to discuss the details of the upcoming visit of 25 families of American soldiers who were posted at Oulton Park during World War 2.

The families will be visiting between 11th and 14th July 2025, they intend to visit Oulton Park on 13th July and will take in some of the other locations where their loved ones trained.

The weekend will include re-enactment and military vehicles on site.

Camping and activities will be on the field next to the Edgerton Arms pub in Little Budworth.

Water Pressure

Arthur Nicholls explained they are suffering very low water pressure for the last three weeks.

United Utilities (UU), are experiencing a lot of leaks and have therefore reduced the pressure to prevent burst pipes, during the day it is not too bad but by evening the pressure has dropped and all the water troughs will be filling up. With 300 cattle this is not satisfactory, it's a welfare issue for the cows.

United Utilities have placed monitors on hydrants that they will monitor for one week, these will be removed on Thursday 17th April.

Clerk has said if the hydrant readings show that there is no improvements and UU have no immediate fix, she will contact UU and ask for further assistance.

25.04.07 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

TWM	14/01/25	VAS on Eaton Lane, SIM no longer supported by TWM	Ongoing Liaising with TWM. Cllr. Sime to Liaise
CWaC Highways	26/02/25 onwards	Report HW691023075 Pothole End of Eaton Lane between reservoir and houses Report received 7 th March NO ACTION REQUIRED Pictures taken and submitted to Highways	Circulated
CWaC Highways	26/02/25 onwards	Report HW691026931 Signs 30mph signs Eaton Lane Leaving Eaton Village heading towards Cotebrook One sign Missing, one facing field Report Received 13 th March NO ISSUE	Circulated
Member of public	20/03/25	Layby toilet, concerns about the layby by Beech Lane	Circulated, responded and sent to Highways
Opal	31/03/25	Online Auction	Circulated
Highways	03/04/25	Technical requirements for VAS New Highways officer introduced himself	To continue liaison
CWaC	03/04/25	Bin survey for layby , doesn't meet criteria Do not stock litter signs	PC to install these themselves
Member of public	04/04/25	Water on village green appears to be reducing, good time to undertake investigations	Cllrs. Responded
Sott	04/04/25	Sign quote	circulated
Member of Public	07/04/25	18 month Project in Parish to encourage wildlife	Circulated

25.04.08 Finance Matters

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

Cheque No.	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	NET (£)	VAT (£)	TOTAL (£)
1080	ChALC	Yearly Subs 2025-26	£153.60		£153.60

25.04.09 external Meeting

Oulton park Liaison Group

Residents Passes for Oulton park are now available to apply for, the office is open Monday to Friday 9-5. To gain a pass, take 2 passport photos, photo ID (Passport or driving licence) and a utility bill that has your name and address on it dated within the last three month.

In 2026 it will be 100 years since Oulton Hall sadly burnt down, February 2026 there will be a memorial at the Old Hall end of the circuit.

25.04.10 Any Other Business

Priorities for the Parish Council regarding Highways

The road surface of Lower Lane is terrible and needs resurfacing.
 Sapling Lane, resurfacing once works complete
 Drains at bottom of the village green
 Cleaning of gullies and manholes
 Hickhurst Lane- road surface needs repairing

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

Tuesday 18th March 10am
 Saturday 5th April 4pm
 Tuesday 15th May 4pm

25.04.11 Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 20th May 2025 at 7:30pm at the Jessie Hughes Village Hall. This evening there will be three meetings, there will be the Annual Parish Meeting, AGM and also an ordinary Parish Council Meeting

The meeting closed at 20.50pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____