

ETCHINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of the Etchingham Parish Council
held on Thursday 21st March 2019
at 7.30pm at the Parker Hall, Parsonage Croft, Etchingham

Members Present: Cllrs Mr John Barnes, Mrs M Barnes, Mr S Barrow, Mr C Boylett, Mr F Brophy, Mrs A Childs and Mr G Lucas.

Also present: Ms P Barton – Clerk to the Council, also members of the public. *The Chairman explained that the Parish Council meeting was a meeting held in public but not a Public Meeting. Any person present wishing to speak about any item on the agenda should do so under agenda item 6 'Public Time'. There would not be any other opportunity for the public to speak at the meeting.*

1883. Apologies for Absence:

There were apologies for absence from District Cllr Robert Elliston and Mr Paul Stott, Vice Chairman of ETSR, which were accepted.

1884. Minutes of the previous meetings:

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st February 2019, having been previously circulated, were agreed and signed as a correct record of that meeting.

1885. Declarations of Interest:

Cllr. J Barnes declared a personal interest in respect of agenda item 13, Etchingham School and Community Development as the Chairman of ETSR.

Cllr. M. Barnes declared a personal interest in respect of agenda item 13, Etchingham School and Community Development as Churchwarden and reminded Council that she is a member of the RDC Planning Committee.

Cllr. Mrs A Childs declared a personal interest in respect of agenda item 13, Etchingham School and Community Development as the Chairman of School Governors.

Cllr. G. Lucas declared a personal interest in respect of agenda item 13, Etchingham School and Community Development as a School Governor and as Churchwarden.

1886. Etchingham Parish Council – Dispensations

The Clerk confirmed that no written requests for dispensations had been received.

1887. Chairman's Announcements:

The Chairman asked councillors who was going to stand at the forthcoming elections and it was confirmed that there will be three vacancies and of course should four or more nominations be made then there will be a full election including those current councillors who wish to stand again.

The Chairman took the opportunity to thank the outgoing councillors for their hard work, enthusiasm and varied areas of expertise which have so useful to a Parish Council over the years.

1888. Public Time:

a) ESCC County Cllr John Barnes reported that there is an overall rate rise of 4% with the Police taking the highest percentage at 14%, however there has been a promise to raise policing visibility levels in rural areas with a lesser increase in urban. The Spending and Funding Reviews are due but unlikely to prove generous or to make decisions going far forward. **It was Resolved that Cllr John Barnes would draft a letter to the MP**, to be circulated to Council for approval prior to dispatch, outlining local concerns that the illusion of the 'rich' south-east be exposed as Rother District Council is the poorest District for salaries in England, so that a better division of support might be achieved nationwide.

b) It was reported that RDC will be accepting applications for the next round of Community Grants from April – July.



- c) It was reported that the while ETSR funds show steady improvement so that operating costs can be met, fund raising is still necessary to cover other necessary expenses such as administration. A reminder was made that Nick Smith will be giving a talk on 6th April called "Slow Boat around the UK" about his travels around the coast of the UK.
It was also to be minuted that anyone wishing to view the halls should contact the Administrator who will arrange a mutually convenient time, as regular bookings mean that the halls are in almost constant use and it should not be the Clerk undertaking viewings unless by prior arrangement with the Administrator.
- d) A broken road sign at the junction of Burgh Hill and the A265 was reported. However it was to be noted that in fact this has enhanced visibility and as and when the post is replaced consideration should be given to removing as many redundant signs (mainly referring to the old school) as possible so the improved visibility might be maintained.
- e) No members of council will be excluded from the meeting so no further reports or comments.

1889. Parish Matters:

a) Village Amenities:

- i) It was **Resolved to follow the solicitor's advice and prepare a draft lease for 10 years, for the Old Etchingham Stores.** Floor plans needed to show division between two tenants to be prepared. Clerk to progress.
- ii) Cllr Boylett reported that progress continues in a steady way. The outcome of two applications for grant is still awaited. Full report is on file.
- iii) The Clerk reported that a further company had visited Queen's Garden and would be considering innovative improvements rather than replacing like with like where repair is impossible. Quotes waited and a third company (a previous supplier) to visit shortly. A Village inclusive working party to be formed after the election in May.
- iv) Under 'other matters', the increasing incidence of dog fouling both in and around the village was raised. The Clerk to prepare and send an article to E Bulletin stressing the health hazards as well as the unpleasant nature of this nuisance.
The Council was informed that the date of Saturday 7th September has been selected for the Village Fete and Dog Show, to be held – courtesy of Parish Council – in Queen's Gardens with additional events in the Church. Full insurances are already in place to cover Council in its role for this event.

b) Footpaths:

- i) There was nothing to report on footpaths this month
- ii) Plans are well underway for the Village Spring Clean and Tidy on Saturday 13th April. Posters have been prepared and information being circulated to get volunteers. Cllr Brophy acting as liaison and co-ordinator including preparation of the Risk Assessment document, assisted by Cllr Childs.
- iii) Clerk able to report a very speedy and satisfactory conclusion to the tree blocking the path being removed and resulting timber being stacked by pathway for wildlife habitat by Gray Nicolls on their land beside the pond.
- iv) There were no other matters to consider.

c) Highways and Community Safety:

- i) a) The '20 is Plenty' Group campaign is proceeding. There is liaison with the Burwash Group. **It was Resolved that Council would do all it could to support this campaign.**
ESCC (and RDC) informed that bogus driveway contractors are targeting the village. Trading Standards need to be informed of these incidents. The suggestion that Etchingham become a 'Cold Calling Free Zone' was considered but this would incur considerable expense without necessarily bringing any improvement to the situation so was rejected at this time.
- b) Two of the three companies approached have now supplied quotes for the Engineering Survey. A response from the third is still awaited.
- ii) Cllr Boylett presented the monthly report from Speedwatch. There is still steady improvement in the data from the sessions. The full report is on file.
- iii) There is a Fire Service Advice Session in the Hurst Green Community Café & Shop on 25th March at 10am. Open to all.

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iv) Cllr John Barnes raised the report from the Police Crime Commissioner confirming the appointment of 100 more PCSOs, their deployment to have a rural bias. This initiative was welcomed by all. The tall trees bordering the A265 on Haremere Hil, particularly opposite Tollgate Cottage continue to be a matter of concern. Clerk to contact owner's agent to discuss.

d) **Environment and Other issues:**

i) A further contact with Southern Water regarding raw sewage in the field opposite the Church and behind the shop prompted immediate action, the blockage has been traced and the pipe jetted. There were no other issues to consider.

1890. **Planning:**

Cllr Mary Barnes reminded Council that she is a member of Rother District Council Planning Committee. Cllr John Barnes reported the applicants' daughter to be friends with his granddaughter, but there is no pecuniary interest.

a) There was one application to consider.

RR/2019/425/P: Badgers Wood, Stonegate - Proposed Orangery to rear elevation. **It was Resolved to make no objection.**

b) There were no other planning matters to consider.

1891. **Finance:**

a) **2nd & 3rd Quarter Accounts 2018/19.**

Accounts for both the 2nd & 3rd Quarters were presented. It was **Resolved that both Quarters accounts** be approved as presented.

b) **Authorisation of payments** – the Clerk presented to Council accounts for payment. It was **Resolved that the following payments be approved and that the cheques together with copies of the relevant invoice be signed by two councillors to comply with Financial Regulations and best practice.**

Statement of Receipts & Payments for March 2019

Receipts			
De Etchingam CIC	1 month rent due 01/02/19 Cali & Co		416.50
		Total Receipts	£416.50
Payments February			
		VAT	PAID
P Barton	Salary & expenses - March 2019	14.73	880.40
HMRC	PAYE due for Qtr 4		703.82
ESALC	ESALC (222.25) & NALC (48.93) sub 2019/20		271.18
P. Collins	Grant support Lunch Club @ Bistro (1 year)		405.00
Surrey Hills Solicitors Ltd	Fee (1st) for services in connection with Lease of Old Etchingam Store	55.00	330.00
Crane Designs Ltd	Monthly charge for hosting Neighbourhood Plan website	2.50	15.00
Crane Designs Ltd	Monthly charge for hosting Village website	2.50	15.00
Focus Group	DD 26/03/19 Office Phone to 30/01/2019	3.76	22.57
		Total Payments	£3,663.97

c) National Pay Award for Clerk was discussed and resolved in closed session at the end of the meeting. This session was duly minuted for restricted circulation only.



1892. Etchingam Proposed Cricket Field Development:

Following the Resolution to revisit this project during the life of subsequent Councils it became necessary to apply again for Planning Permission to carry out this work, the initial approval being due to run out. This application has been made by Appleby Petfield on the Council's behalf.

1893. Etchingam Neighbourhood Plan

Work continues on the final draft prior to submission to Rother District Council for comment. Permissions are being sought from landowners on the provisional Local Green Spaces nomination list. No land would be nominated without the landowner's express permission to do so.

1894. Public Realm Working Party

Following on from the issue of dog fouling raised earlier (1889 (a) iv), Cllr Mary Barnes undertook to see if there was any help or advice available from Rother District Council.

1895. Etchingam School and Community Development

Cllr. J Barnes declared a personal interest as Chairman of ETSR.

Cllr. M Barnes declared a personal interest as a Churchwarden.

Cllr. G Lucas declared a personal interest as a Churchwarden and School Governor.

Cllr. A Childs declared a personal interest as Chairman of School Governors.

Cllr John Barnes reported that the final resolution of the Lease is unexpectedly delayed but should be concluded shortly. The delay is outwith the control of either ETSR or EPC.

1896. To receive Reports from Members and Representatives and pass such resolutions as may be necessary:-

- a) There had been no meetings of SALC so there was no report.
- b) There had been no meetings of RALC so there was no report.
- c) Cllr. Childs reported on school activities including the new style maths teaching, Stay and Read, Rainforest workshop and work on Climate Change and the Oceans. Full report on file.
- d) The Clerk reported that a Local Elections Briefing for Clerks organised by SSALC had been a very useful and worthwhile session. There were no other meetings or conferences attended.

1897. Correspondence

All other correspondence having been distributed by e-mail upon receipt there were no further items to discuss.

1898. Etchingam Parish Council – Notification to members of Council decisions:

There were no notifications.

1899. Agenda items for the next meeting

As noted through the above minutes.

Closed Session after departure of press and the public due to the personal nature of subject matter

Will be minuted separately for restricted circulation.

Signed..........

Date.....18. iv. 2019.....