

ETCHINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of the Etchingham Parish Council
held on Thursday 20th February 2020
at 7.30pm at the Parker Hall, Parsonage Croft, Etchingham

Members Present: Cllrs, J Barnes (in the Chair), Mrs M Barnes, Mr S Barrow, Mr R Beeney, Mr C Boylett and Mr D Lambert.

Also present: District Cllr Eleanor Kirby-Green , Ms P Barton – Clerk to the Council and 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.

2049. Apologies for Absence:

There were apologies for absence from Cllr Ms Roma Turner and Mr Paul Stott Vice-Chair ETSR, which were accepted.

2050. Minutes of the previous meetings:

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th January having been previously circulated, were agreed and signed as a correct record of that meeting.

2051. Declarations of Interest:

Cllr. J Barnes declared a personal interest in respect of agenda item 14, Village Community Halls as the Chairman of ETSR.

Cllr. M. Barnes declared a personal interest in respect of agenda item 14, Village Community Halls as a member of the Parochial Church Council and reminded Council that she is a member of the RDC Planning Committee.

2052. Etchingham Parish Council – Dispensations

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

2053. Chairman's Announcements:

There were no Chairman's announcements.

2054. Public Time:

- a) It was reported that the ESCC Budget has been confirmed. It was also reported that the urgent temporary repairs that have been made on the A265 will be superseded in due course with the permanent surface works during the forthcoming financial year.
- b) It was reported that after the Budget is resolved the expected rise in rate for a Band D property will be £4.65 per month. The Climate Change Group is going to consultation and new members of staff have been appointed to manage the outcome. RDC has followed up the issues at New House Farm, meetings with both Planning and Enforcement officers have taken place. Enforcement officers in particular are actively investigating and taking action as necessary. The Environment Agency is also aware and it is within their power to 'stop' all business on the site, should it be necessary, without regard to other action being progressed.
- c) It was reported by a member of the public that a donation of £100 had been made to playground fund, for which the Council expressed its sincere thanks.
- d) No members of council will be excluded from the meeting so no further reports or comments.

2055. Parish Matters:

a) **Village Amenities:**

- i) The Clerk reported that the repairs to the roof at the Old Stores have been completed.
- ii) There were no other matters to consider.

b) **New Website & Email System:**

Cllr Boylett reported that early 'teething' problems with the site and email system have been addressed. He also repeated his offer to assist any councillor still having problems setting up their email address.

c) **Children and Young People:**

- i) In Cllr Turner's absence it was noted that a new Head Teacher has been appointed ***it was Resolved that on taking up this position EPC will write a letter of congratulation and welcome to him.***
- ii) Cllr Boylett reported Fund raising for the playground improvements remains steady. The full report is on file.
- iii) It was reported that the interviews of the four candidates for the position of Caretaker/Handyperson being completed, among a very strong field, the panel recommended that Council offer the position to Mr Laurence Worton. ***It was Resolved that Mr Worton be offered the position and that the unsuccessful candidates be informed and thanked for their interest. It was also Resolved that a professional day of training on playground equipment, maintenance and safety be arranged for Mr Worton. Additionally that there would be a review of his remuneration in October/November in time for Budget discussions.***
- iv) Cllr Lambert reported that the Working Party had considered the four quotes currently on the table and recommended that a further site meeting be conducted with Lappsett, the company that came nearest to the village vision, so that final queries could be settled before a final choice was recommended to Council. The full report is on file. ***It was resolved that representatives of the working Party should proceed as suggested and report back to Council in due course.***
- v) There were no other matters to consider.

d) **Highways, Footpaths and Community Safety:**

- i) It was agreed that work to remedy potholes was of varied success and it was hoped that lessons would be learned for the future.
- ii) Cllr Boylett reported that PC Tomlinson has been able to join the team for some sessions and he is pleased with results. The full Speedwatch report, having been previously circulated, was taken as read and approved and is on file.
- iii) There are no current issues regarding footpaths that Council is aware of, however – as previously minuted – there do seem to be remaining problems with the fp/track to Forge House remaining unresolved.
- iv) The Council insurers and the appointed Loss Adjuster continue work on the issue of the oak adjacent to No 1 The Orchard.
- v) a) The Clerk advised Council that recommended urgent work to individual trees in Queen's Garden was being progressed. Similar work will be progressed on the land at Fysie Lane in September/October referencing the Contractor's schedule of works made as part of the major Tree Survey of 2019.
b) It was noted that there had been no recent contact from the PCSO and confirmation of an individual officer has still to be confirmed.
c) There were no other matters to consider.

e) **Environment and Other issues:**

There were no matters to consider.

2056. Planning:

Cllr Mary Barnes reminded Council that she is a member of Rother District Council Planning Committee

- a) There were no new applications to be considered this month.
- b) It was reported that the issues surrounding the Nortrade site, to the eastern side of the level crossing, have been referred to the Ombudsman by a local resident.

There were no other planning matters to consider.

2057. Council Regulations and Policies:

As yet there is no official guidance on changes required in Standing Orders to comply with new regulations following Brexit, Council will follow the advice and delay amendments until such time as the guidance is available.

The revised Financial Regulations, using the NALC recommendations of 2019, having been prepared and previously circulated for consideration ***it was Resolved to adopt the Financial Regulations dated February 2020 as tabled by the RFO.***

2058. Finance

- a) 3rd Quarter Accounts – The Clerk apologised that these accounts are outstanding .
- b) ***It was Resolved that an additional £1000 be awarded to EIC for use towards the urgent repairs required to windows the total cost of which is quoted at £2000.***
- c) Authorisation of payments – the Clerk presented to Council the 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.***

Payments February		PAID
P Barton	Salary & expenses - February 2020	878.49
Surrey Hills Solicitors	Progress & query registration of VIPER land	150.00
SSALC Ltd	Visioning Evening - 21st January 2020	240.00
Archer Roofing Services	Repair & replace slates to pitch roof	456.00
SSALC Ltd	Clerk - Training course	150.00
ETSR	Contribution to running costs of the Parish Office	500.00
Crane Designs Ltd	NP Mthly charge for hosting site DD 5/02/2020	15.00
Crane Designs Ltd	EPC Mthly charge for hosting site DD 5/02/2020	15.00
Focus Group	DD 27/02/2020 Office Phone to 31/01/2020	23.42
	Total Payments	£2,427.91

2059. Rother Parish Conference

Currently scheduled for 27th May in the Seddlescombe Village Hall, there was discussion but no resolution as to whether Council should raise questions on the 4 subject areas. While Climate Emergency and the Waste Hierarchy were discounted, consideration to be given to grass cutting vs wild flower verges and CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) at the next meeting.

2060. Etchingham Neighbourhood Plan

Additional offers of assistance were made by Cllr J Barnes and Cllr Lambert to progress the Plan.

2061. Public Realm Working Party There was nothing to report.**2062. Village Community Halls**

There would still appear to be no change to the status of the land registration, an update will be sought from Rupert Chubb at ESCC.

2063. To receive Reports from Members and Representatives and pass such resolutions as may be necessary:-

- a) Cllr J Barnes had nothing new to report
- b) Cllr Lambert reported the continuing discussion on addressing speeding traffic. The issue of on-line mapping will be re-addressed by Council.
- c) There were no other meetings or Conferences by the Members or the Clerk.

2064. Correspondence

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

2065. Etchingham Parish Council – Notification to members of Council decisions:

There were no notifications.

2066. Agenda items for the next meeting

As noted through the above minutes.

Signed.....

Extract from Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 28th May 2020 at 7.30pm via ZOOM

2069. Minutes of the previous meetings:

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th February having been previously circulated, were agreed and will be signed as a correct record of that meeting.

Date *17.11.20*..... *As soon as Covid-19 restrictions allow*