

ETCHINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of the Etchingham Parish Council
held on Thursday 28th May 2020

at 7.30pm via ZOOM electronic communication

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 there were no members of the public.

The Chairman would normally explain 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 but as no members of the public were present did not do so on this occasion.

2068. Apologies for Absence:

There were apologies for absence from Mr Paul Stott Chairman of ETSR, which were accepted.

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.

2070. Declarations of Interest:

There were no Declarations of Interest.

2071. Etchingham Parish Council – Dispensations

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

2072. Chairman's Announcements:

There were no Chairman's announcements.

2073. Public Time:

- a) It was reported that ESCC is facing unprecedented demands, as are all councils at this time, but is still managing to maintain the programme of road works, including the A265. In fact during the particularly quiet traffic weeks had managed to complete many pothole repairs.
- b) District Cllr Kirby-Green reported that RDC now has robust procedures in place to cope with home working and virtual meetings. The Hub in Bexhill reports that the referrals system is working well, Planning is back up and running and the Garden Waste Service has been resumed.
- c) There were no members of the public present but an query as to the return of the Speedwatch team had been received. This will be answered under 2074.c.ii
- d) No members of council will be excluded from the meeting so no further reports or comments.

2074. Parish Matters:

a) **Village Amenities:**

- i) The Clerk reported that the redecoration to the water damage caused by the leaking roof to the ground floor at the Old Stores has been completed. ***It was Resolved that there was no objection to Find Beauty putting vinyl decals, image supplied and circulated prior to the meeting, in a ground floor window. It was also Resolved that the 'rent holiday' continue for at least another month, to be reviewed thereafter.***
- ii) There were no other matters to consider.

b) **Children and Young People:**

- i) Cllr Turner reported that in line with Government advice the Etchingham Primary School Reception Class will open again on 1st June, other year groups to return as appropriate with the possibility that Year 1 might return on 15th June.
- ii) Cllr Boylett's full report is on file. Currently there is £105.00 pending including a donation of £5 direct from a resident.



- iii) The Clerk reported that Queen's Garden and the Viper site are now both properly entered with the Land Registry.
The maintenance reports from the Caretaker/Handyman having been previously circulated were approved. **It was Resolved that the repair to the plank bench should proceed and that an estimate be made of the cost of repairing the picnic table for safe use against the cost of purchasing a new unit to be incorporated into any future design for QG playground, against removing and not replacing at this time.** The query regarding the repair of the grille on one of the storage containers will be raised with EIC as it is responsible for these.
 - iv) Cllr Lambert reported that the Working Party had been unable to meet due to the imposition of the Covid-19 restrictions. In addition the major fund raising event to be organised by the CIC on behalf of the project had been cancelled due the same restrictions. It is hoped it will be possible to hold this event as soon as restrictions are suitably lifted.
 - v) There were no other matters to consider.
- d) **Highways, Footpaths and Community Safety:**
- i) The Clerk reported that ESCC Highways agreed work should be done to the tall trees on the boundary of the Haremere property opposite Tollgate Cottage and were investigating ownership prior to contacting the landowner direct. The Clerk also reported that the drain outside 2 Church Cottages that has been blocked since road resurfacing many years ago remains blocked. The collapsed fence encroaching on the pavement by the A265 between the Burgh Hill junction and the level crossing reported by a member of the public is believed to be in the ownership of ESCC Highways. **It was Resolved that the Clerk report both these issues via the ESCC website.**
 - ii) Cllr Boylett reported that Speedwatch sessions are still not possible under the Covid-19 restrictions. In view of the query raised by the member of the public, and the agreement of councillors that speeding through the village, in both directions, has increased considerably since lockdown, Cllr Boylett was asked to make these concerns known to the Police. A request that PC Tomlinson undertake some random speed checks in the village will be made but it is fully appreciated that police time is very stretched at present. The full Speedwatch report to date of the current temporary cessation, having been previously circulated, was taken as read and approved and is on file.
 - iii) As the footpath leaving Borders Lane has been reported as almost impassable Cllr Lambert volunteered to investigate further. He is hoping that ex-Cllr Frank Brophy will be able to bring the council owned strimmer to him shortly, Cllr Beeney volunteered to assist if needed. Cllr Turner raised the question of nesting birds but was assured the work to be undertaken would not constitute a threat.
 - iv) The Clerk reported that work has been completed on felling the oak and making good the council owned land adjacent to 1 The Orchard. Residents reported that the work had been done efficiently and with the minimum of disruption possible. A decision on any landscaping required will be taken later along with the position of the replacement tree which cannot be where the oak had been.
 - v) The Clerk reported that the recommended urgent work to individual trees in Queen's Garden has been completed. 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.
 - vi) A query having been received regarding rural cuts undertaken by ESCC Highways, Cllr J Barnes confirmed that Parish Councils could only take over the urban cuts, not the rural at this time. With regard to Wildflower verges, Cllr Lambert had surveyed those in the Parish and reported that they had, correctly, remained uncut at this time. **It was Resolved that the issue of recommending verges suitable for protected status be revisited at a later meeting taking action if needed in the Autumn.** There were no other matters to consider.
- e) **Environment and Other issues:**
There were no matters to consider.

2075. Planning:

As there were no planning applications to consider this month Cllr Mary Barnes did not need to remind Council that she is a member of Rother District Council Planning Committee.

It was noted that as no further complaints had been received regarding noise emanating from the refrigeration units at Nortrade it must be concluded that the issue has been settled,

2076. Finance

a) Authorisation of payments – the Clerk presented to Council the accounts for payment.

| | | | PAID |
|--|---|--|-------------------|
| Payments March | | | |
| P Barton | Salary & expenses - March 2020 | | 1,367.54 |
| Curley Consultants | 2 x specialist testing to lime tree in QG | | 450.00 |
| John O'Dea | Fixing new notice board to Community Halls | | 30.00 |
| Crane Designs Ltd | NP Mthly charge for hosting site DD 5/03/2020 | | 15.00 |
| Crane Designs Ltd | EPC Mthly charge for hosting site DD 5/03/2020 | | 15.00 |
| Focus Group | DD 26/03/2020 Office Phone to 27/02/2020 | | 21.08 |
| Total Payments | | | £1,898.62 |
| Payments April | | | |
| P Barton | Salary & expenses - April 2020 | | 755.83 |
| Co-Op Bank | Auto Chg Fee Sweep DD 3/04/2020 | | 30.00 |
| Crane Designs Ltd | NP Mthly charge for hosting site DD 5/04/2020 | | 15.00 |
| Crane Designs Ltd | EPC Mthly charge for hosting site DD 5/04/2020 | | 15.00 |
| Focus Group | DD 24/04/2020 Office Phone to 30/03/2020 | | 23.88 |
| Total Payments | | | £839.71 |
| Payments May | | | |
| P Barton | Salary & Expenses May 2020 | | 719.17 |
| L Worton | Salary & Expenses March & April 2020 | | 139.43 |
| Sue Westbrook | Reimbursement costs of Fund raiser at Bistro for Queens Garden Playground | | 74.64 |
| De Etchingam CIC | Half cost of repairs to VIPER play area | | 2731.72 |
| K. McKay | Tree Maintenance Queen's Garden | | 1,650.00 |
| Surrey Hills Solicitors | Fees Queen's Garden - title & charity advice | | 336.00 |
| Surrey Hills Solicitors | Fees Queen's Garden - First Registration HMLR | | 936.00 |
| ESALC Ltd | ESALC (232.92) & NALC (50.54) annual sub 2020/21 | | 283.46 |
| Zurich Town & Parish Insurer Trust A/C | Annual Insurance Premium | | 994.54 |
| KPS Contractors Ltd | Remove oak, grind stump, remove all arisings | | 5820.00 |
| ESCC | 4 x additional urban grass cuts 2020/21 | | 265.20 |
| Mrs C Hayler | Final payment cleaning play areas | | 310.00 |
| Paul Gilbert | Preparing and redecorating water damaged areas ground floor Old Stores | | 227.49 |
| Crane Designs Ltd | NP Mthly charge for hosting site DD 6/05/2020 | | 15.00 |
| Crane Designs Ltd | EPC Mthly charge for hosting site DD 6/05/2020 | | 15.00 |
| Focus Group | DD 26/05/2020 Office Phone to 30/04/2020 | | 31.98 |
| Total Payments | | | £14,549.63 |



It was **RESOLVED** that the payments for March, April and May 2020 be approved and that proof of the BACs payments together with copies of the relevant invoices be signed by two councillors to comply with Financial Regulations and best practice as soon as possible.

2077. Etchingham Neighbourhood Plan

The Clerk, as Acting Secretary to the NP Steering Committee, reported that amendments suggested by RDC planning have been incorporated into the Draft Reg 14 Pre-consultation document and that a final set of amendments are awaited from the Heritage Officer. The District Councillors undertook to query the delay with the appropriate officer. Arrangements suggested by the NP Steering Committee for conducting the public consultation during the period of the Covid-19 restrictions have been accepted by RDC as being sufficient at this stage of the process.

2078. Village Community Halls

There would still appear to be no change to the status of the land registration, an update is awaited. A £10k Grant has been successfully made to RDC under the Pandemic assistance package and together with the Furloughing of the Administrator should mean that ETSR remains viable for the rest of this year at least. **It was Resolved that thanks should be minuted to Mr Paul Stott, the chairman and to Mr Steve Millea, the treasurer for their hard work in securing this outcome.**

Request

2079. RDC Environmental Policy 2020-2030

The Draft response, previously circulated was approved subject to the inclusion of the High Weald AONB comments on woodland management. **It was Resolved that the Clerk should insert this item and submit the response to RDC.**

2080. To receive Reports from Members and Representatives and pass such resolutions as may be necessary:-

- a) Cllr J Barnes reported that the Board of East Sussex ALC had met and will be pressing RDC to use the latest available Statistics for housing numbers in the High Weald, ie to use the 2016 and not 2014 figures.
- b) Cllr confirmed that there had been no meetings of RALC.
- c) There were no other meetings or Conferences attended by the Members or the Clerk.

2081. Correspondence

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

2082. Etchingham Parish Council – Notification to members of Council decisions:

There were no notifications.

2083. Agenda items for the next meeting to be held via Zoom on Thursday 25th June at 7.30pm

As noted through the above minutes, to include Wildflower verges.

Signed.....*ALB*.....

Date...*17.11.20*...