

ETCHINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of the Etchingham Parish Council
held on Thursday 19th November 2020
at 7.30pm under strict Covid-19 regulations

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

Also present: Ms P Barton – Clerk to the Council, there were no 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.

2165. Apologies for Absence:

There were apologies for absence from Cllr Roma Turner, District Cllr Eleanor Kirby-Green and a member of the public, which were accepted.

2166. Minutes of the previous meetings:

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 15th October 2020 having been previously circulated, were agreed and signed as an accurate record of that meeting.

2167. Declarations of Interest:

Cllr. J Barnes declared a personal interest in respect of agenda item 12, Village Community Halls as a Trustee of ETSR and that he is now appointed as substitute should a Conservative member of RDC Planning Committee be absent.
Cllr. M. Barnes declared a personal interest in respect of agenda item 12, Village Community Halls as a member of the Parochial Church Council and reminded Council that she is a member of the RDC Planning Committee.

2168. Etchingham Parish Council – Dispensations

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

2169. Chairman's Announcements:

The Chairman had no announcements to make.

2170. Public Time:

- a) ESCC is very concerned that with rising numbers of Covid cases the pressure on our hospitals is rising. A financial deficit at year end is inevitable.
- b) RDC is anticipating a financial deficit at year end of £1-2M so rates are almost certain to rise. The second round of Community Grants is now open and the new Core Strategy is still in preparation.
- c) None.
- d) As no members were to be excluded this right was not exercised.

2171. Parish Matters:

- a) **Village Amenities:**
 - i) It was **Resolved that a rent be negotiated with the tenant of the Old Stores to commence after lockdown** even if the full amount could not be secured.
 - ii) The Monthly Inspection Reports for the playgrounds were accepted. As the playgrounds can now be open notices advised personal responsibility for adhering to Covid regulations will be revised and posted. Training for upto 3 people to be considered during Budget discussions.
The work to the trees on the Fysie Lane/Burgh Hill junction to prevent possible interference to the telephone overhead cables has been completed.
Cllr Beeney continues to try for a date for the coppicing work required on Fysie Lane.
 - iii) Discussion on the RALC presentation regarding wildflower verges and grass cutting to be deferred to the February meeting.
 - iv) It was **Resolved that the response to the ESCC consultation on Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure be that formalising these activities in the Parish would not be feasible and current conditions, while not perfect, are at least acceptable.**
 - v) There were no other matters to consider.



- b) **Children and Young People:**
- i) In Cllr Turner's absence it was reported that the new Head is settling in well and the school remains open.
 - ii) Cllr Boylett presented the report on ERGT fundraising for the playground which had been previously circulated and is on file. The report was approved and accepted.
 - iv) There were no other matters to consider.
- c) **Highways, Footpaths and Community Safety:**
- i) The SLR meeting had to be postponed but it was confirmed that work to A265 is postponed until April 2021. Work is promised to the poor road surface and pot holes in Oxenbridge/Ludpit Lanes.
 - ii) Cllr Boylett's Speedwatch reports were presented to the meeting, having been previously circulated and they are on file. The reports were approved and accepted. It is becoming increasingly difficult to hold sessions under Covid regulations.
 - iii) The PCSOs will now be making monthly reports to the Parishes in their care.
 - iv) There was nothing to report on footpaths.
 - v) There were no other matters to consider.
- d) **Environment and Other issues:**
There were no other matters to consider.

2172. **Planning:**

Cllr Mary Barnes reminded Council that she is a member of Rother District Council Planning Committee and Cllr John Barnes reminded Council that he is now listed as a substitute member of Rother District Council Planning Committee should there be an absentee

- a) RR/2020/2085/P- Hillside Farmhouse, Sheepstreet Lane. *It was Resolved that the objections to the original application remain; access is poor and potentially dangerous: the design is poor and not in keeping with High Weald design rules: and holiday let properties are at saturation point in Sheepstreet Lane.*
- b) *It was Resolved that the Council would object strongly to the revised application for Strand Meadow as the designs are not compatible with High Weald designs and there are not enough affordable homes*
- c) *It was Resolved that the application for the purchase of land to be a gypsy site by RDC be supported.*
There were no other matters to consider.

2173. **Finance**

- a) The second Quarter Accounts were presented and approved for acceptance.
- b) The draft Budget was presented to Council and agreed in principle. *It was Resolved that support should be given to ETSR both as a valuable village amenity and because as Guarantor and Custodian Trustee there was already an obligation but should action as Guarantor be needed as Custodian Trustee all rights currently with ETSR would revert to EPC.* However, the final draft showing a figure against that support will not be prepared and presented until there is firmer information from ETSR.
- c) Authorisation of payments – the Clerk presented the accounts for payment to the Council.

| Payments November | | TOTAL PAID |
|--------------------------|--|-------------------|
| PWLB | Half Yrly payment of loans (paid in August) | 6724.44 |
| P Barton | Salary & Expenses Nov 2020 | 1677.26 |
| L Worton | Salary & Expenses October 2020 | 41.65 |
| Netwise UK | Domain renewal 29/11/2020-28/11/2021 | 15.00 |
| Brian Hutchins | Repair window etc in Old Stores inc materials | 240.00 |
| K McKay | Urgent tree work re overhead cables and branches | 450.00 |
| PKF Littlejohn LLP | External Audit fee for year end March 2020 | 360.00 |
| Crane Designs Ltd | Fix Village Website to update Wordpress | 180.00 |
| Crane Designs Ltd | NP Mthly charge for hosting site DD 05/11/2020 | 15.00 |
| Crane Designs Ltd | EPC Mthly charge for hosting site DD 05/11/2020 | 15.00 |
| Focus Group | DD 25/11/2020 Office Phone to 29/10/2020 | 21.05 |
| | Total Payments | £9739.40 |

It was Resolved that the payments for November 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.

- 2174. The Emma Beeney Award for Outstanding Service to the Parish of Etchingham**
Cllr Boylett has completed more work on the website (hidden) and the image of the selected trophy will be imposed.
- 2175. Etchingham Neighbourhood Plan**
The Clerk, as Acting Secretary to the NP Steering Committee, reported that there was no change to status since last Month however there was ongoing dialogue between her and RDC.
- 2176. Village Community Halls**
Cllrs J & M Barnes reminded the meeting of their personal interest in ETSR.
There is no change to the status and work continues to draw up final proposals to put before EPC prior to the final Budget being approved.
- 2177. To receive Reports from Members and Representatives and pass such resolutions as may be necessary:-**
- a) SSALC – discussions continue as to future of SSALC as West Sussex considers withdrawal..
 - b) RALC –Cllr Lambert reported on a lively Parish Conference. Fergus Garrett was its informed and enlightening speaker.
Work on Climate Change Strategy will continue.
 - c) There were no other meetings or Conferences attended by the Members or the Clerk.
- 2178. Correspondence**
All correspondence having been distributed by e-mail upon receipt there were no further items to discuss.
- 2179. Etchingham Parish Council – Notification to members of Council decisions:**
There were no notifications.
- 2180. Agenda items for the next meeting to be held on Thursday 21st January 2021at 7.30pm**
As noted through the above minutes.
If a meeting is held in December it will be an F & GP not full Council.

Signed..........

Date.....21.1.2021.....