

**ETCHINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of the Etchingham Parish Council**  
**held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021**  
**at 7.30pm via Zoom**

**Members Present:** Cllrs: J Barnes (in the Chair), Mrs M Barnes, Mr S Barrow, Mr R Beene, Mr D Lambert and Ms Roma Turner.

**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.*

**2222. Apologies for Absence:**

There were apologies for absence from Cllr Boylett and District Cllr Eleanor Kirby-Green, which were accepted.

**2223. Minutes of the previous meetings:**

The Minutes of the Meetings held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021 having been previously circulated, were agreed and signed as an accurate record of that meeting.

**2224. Declarations of Interest:**

Cllr. J Barnes declared a personal interest in respect of agenda item 13, 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 13, Village Community Halls as a member of the Parochial Church Council and reminded Council that she is a member of the RDC Planning Committee.

**2225. Etchingham Parish Council – Dispensations**

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

**2226. Chairman's Announcements:**

Due to a delay in receipt of his correspondence with the Chairman, Cllr Lambert informed the meeting that he had written to the Chairman tendering his resignation as of today's date. Both the Chairman and Council expressed regret and thanked him for his excellent service as Parish Councillor. The clerk to notify RDC and to proceed as instructed.

The Chairman reported that the Annual Council Rates letters have been sent.

There were no other announcements.

**2227. Public Time:**

- a) County Cllr Barnes asked if there were any questions regarding the annual rates but there were none.
- b) It was reported that the RDC Lottery has been signed off and is due to be launched.  
The Scrutiny Committee is to review spending plans for the new Town hall in Bexhill.  
As the Parker Hall is being used as a Vaccination Centre the forthcoming Police and Crime Commissioner, and the County Council Elections will be held in the Etchingham Social Club on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021.
- c) There were no questions as no members of the public were present nor had any questions been lodged in advance.
- d) As no members were to be excluded this right was not exercised.

**2228. Parish Matters:**

a) **Village Amenities:**

- i) As Covid restrictions are easing *it was Resolved that the 'rent holiday' would be reviewed in September 2021.*
- ii) The Monthly Inspection Reports for the playgrounds were accepted. Cllr Barrow was thanked for removing the picnic bench from Viper.  
Cllr Beene reported that he is waiting for two estimates for work to the Fysie Lane/Burgh Wood area. The clerk to obtain a third from Kirby McKay, who has undertaken work for the Parish previously.
- iii) Notification of ESCC weed killing program for verges having been received Cllr J Barnes undertook to investigate the nature of this process with ESCC. In the meantime work continues in an effort to list additional verges warranting protection.
- iv) There were no other matters to consider.

b) **Children and Young People:**

- i) Cllr Turner reported that the re-opening of the school has gone smoothly
- ii) Cllr Boylett had previously circulated the report on ERGT fundraising for the playground which is on file. There being no questions the report was approved and accepted.
- iii) There were no other matters to consider.

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

- i) Available dates for the next SLR meeting are awaited but expected to take place 'virtually' in April.
- ii) As the Speedwatch sessions are suspended because of the Covid restrictions there is no report this month.



- iii) Cllr Boylett having previously circulated the monthly reports from Rother Police and from the PCSOs they were accepted and will remain on file.
  - iv) The Clerk reported that the monthly meeting for PCSOs, clerks and interested councillors has still to take place this month so would be reported at the next EPC meeting.
  - v) Cllr Lambert reported that there were no apparent issues with footpaths.
  - vi) There were no other matters to consider.
- d) **Environment and Other issues:**  
There were no other matters to consider.
- e) **Communications:**  
The first submission for the Parish Magazine has been sent. The clerk will devise a roster going forward for subsequent submissions by councillors to try and cover as many areas of Parish Council work as possible.

**2229. 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 Conservative member of Rother District Council Planning Committee should there be an absentee**

- a) RR/2021/205/P- Badgers Wood, Myskyns Road. ***It was Resolved that there were no objections to the application. However confirmation is reliant on the groundwork required to support the additional parking area not being visible from the public highway.***
- b) The RDC Enforcement Officer has served a 14-day notice for the removal of the industrial unit placed on the agricultural land adjacent to Church Lane. The tenants have agreed that this will be done.

**2230. Finance**

- a) The annual financial report will be available at the next meeting prior to presentation for annual audit.
- b) The request for a donation towards two ventilators made by the local Air Ambulance (and previously circulated) was considered and ***it was Resolved that a donation of £150 be made in April and that the local Air Ambulance should be automatically considered for a donation when the annual grants and donations are discussed as part of the Budget calculations for the following financial year.***
- c) Authorisation of payments – the Clerk presented the accounts for payment to the Council.

<b>Payments March</b>		<b>Total Paid</b>
P Barton	Salary & Expenses March 2021	1,581.45
L Worton	Salary & Expenses February 2021	250.09
PWLB	Half Yr repayment of loans	6724.44
SSALC Limited	Developing an Effective Comms Strategy & Policy	36.00
East Sussex ALC	ESALC & NALC subs for 2021/2022	294.98
Crane Designs Ltd	NP Mthly charge for hosting site DD 07/03/2021	15.00
Crane Designs Ltd	EPC Mthly charge for hosting site DD 07/03/2021	15.00
Focus Group	DD 25/03/2021 Office Phone	25.76
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>£8881.07</b>

***It was Resolved that the payments for March 2021 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.***

**2231. EPC Policies**

***It was Resolved to approve The Civic Awards Policy.*** Available in hard copy and downloaded to the Parish Council website.

**2232. Etchingham Neighbourhood Plan**

Work progresses on the Plan and discussions are held regularly with RDC.

**2233. The Emma Beeney Award for Outstanding Service to the Parish of Etchingham**


The trophy is with a local craftsman being fitted with an oak plinth to enable engraved plaques to be affixed as necessary to name the recipient and the year of presentation.

**2234. Village Community Halls**

**Cllrs J & M Barnes reminded the meeting of their personal interest in ETSR.**

It was noted that while Covid restrictions are being eased, the possible occupancy of Parker Hall remaining with the NHS as a Vaccination Centre means that only the Ahrens Hall will be available and for evening and weekend bookings only, without the use of communal facilities.

- 2235. To receive Reports from Members and Representatives and pass such resolutions as may be necessary:-**
- a) SSALC – Cllr J Barnes reported that, as anticipated, SSALC would be wound up on 31<sup>st</sup> March and the newly incorporated East Sussex ALC would begin to operate on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021. It was also reported that Cllr J Barnes had been elected as Vice Chairman.
  - b) RALC – following Cllr Lambert’s resignation there is now a vacancy for a rep along with Cllr J Barnes who remains in position.
  - c) The Clerk had attended a virtual Communication Strategy workshop. Following on from this the setting up of a Parish Council E-newsletter – to be used alongside the excellent E Bulletin not a replacement for or to be in competition – to build on the social media presence already created via the website, Facebook and Twitter accounts.
- 2236. Correspondence**  
A response, in line with the article by Cllr J Barnes in the Parish Magazine, explaining in greater detail why it has been necessary to increase the rate so much for the next financial year has been prepared and is being used by the Clerk.  
All other correspondence having been distributed by e-mail upon receipt there were no further items to discuss.
- 2237. Etchingam Parish Council – Notification to members of Council decisions:**  
There were no notifications.
- 2238. Agenda items for the next meeting to be held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom**  
As noted through the above minutes.
- 2239.** On closing the meeting the Chairman again expressed thanks and best wishes to outgoing councillor, Doug Lambert, a hands-on, active Councillor who will be genuinely missed.

Signed.....

Date.....15.10.2021