

ETCHINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of the Annual General Meeting (Statutory) for Etchingham Parish Council
held on Thursday 20th May 2021
at 7.30pm The Social Club, Etchingham

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

Also present: Ms P Barton – Clerk to the Council and five 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.

2257. Election of Chairman:

Nominations were called. Cllr R Turner nominated Cllr John Barnes and was supported by Cllr C Boylett. There being no other nominations, Cllr J Barnes was unanimously declared Chairman.

2258. Declaration of Acceptance of Office in respect of the Chairman:

Cllr J Barnes duly signed the Declaration of Office, witnessed by the Clerk.

2259. Apologies for Absence:

There were apologies for absence from Cllr R Beeneey and County/District Cllr Eleanor Kirby-Green also Mr Paul Stott, ETSR.

2260. Election of Vice-Chairman:

Nominations were called. Cllr J Barnes nominated Cllr C Boylett and was supported by Cllr M Barnes. There being no other nominations, Cllr C Boylett was unanimously declared Vice-Chairman.

2261. Declaration of Acceptance of Office in respect of the Vice-Chairman:

Cllr C Boylett duly signed the Declaration of Office, witnessed by the Clerk

2262. Declarations of Interest:

Cllr. J Barnes declared a personal interest in respect of agenda item 19, 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 19, Village Community Halls as a member of the Parochial Church Council and reminded Council that she is a member of the RDC Planning Committee.

2263. Etchingham Parish Council – Dispensations:

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

2264. Review of portfolios and appointment of portfolio holders:

It was *Resolved that the current arrangements remain until the vacancy for Parish Councillor be filled except Cllr John Barnes to take on Finance and Cllr Simon (Sid) Barrow to take on Footpaths.*

2265. Election of Representatives to outside bodies:

- a) Rother Association of Local Councils (RALC) – Cllr John Barnes and Cllr Roma Turner
- b) East Sussex Association of Local Councils – Cllr John Barnes and the Clerk

2266. Schedule of Meeting Dates for 2021-2022:

Attached as Appendix A

2267. Minutes of the previous meeting:

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 15th April 2021 having been previously circulated, were agreed and signed as an accurate record of that meeting. The Minutes of the last AGM held in 2019 having been signed at the June meeting in 2019 and there being no AGM held in 2020 due to the covid-19 epidemic there were no further minutes to sign.

2268. Chairman's Announcements:

There were no announcements. However, as an addendum to last month's minutes and in the interest of clarity, the Chairman confirmed that it is the wish and the intention of the Parish Council to bring the rate of Council Tax down in 2022-2023 to nearer the rate that existed in 2020-2021 as it was only extenuating circumstances created by the Covid-19 Emergency that occasioned the unprecedented rise in 2021-2022 so long as it is expedient to do so in whatever situation the Parish finds itself at that time.

2269. Public Time:

- a) Following the election of a new County Councillor, Cllr John Barnes was thanked for his many years of service and Cllr Eleanor Kirby-Green, in her absence, congratulated on her success at taking on that role.
- b) There was nothing to report from the District Council.
- c) i) A member of the public, unable to attend, had asked whether the monthly lunch club would be reinstated at the Bistro. The answer is likely to result in the affirmative but detailed arrangements will be discussed at the meeting in June.
ii) The five members of the public attending all wished to raise the planning application to be discussed for Oaklands, Sheepstreet Lane under agenda item 15a. The applicant opened explaining the reasons behind the application. The other members of the public, neighbours to the site expressed their concerns, objections and suggested compromises. Having answered questions raised by councillors this item concluded to be resolved at the appropriate time. The public were thanked for their attendance having provided relevant and useful information regarding the application.
- d) As no members were to be excluded this right was not exercised.



2270. Parish Matters:

a) Village Amenities:

- i) The Clerk has still to contact the tenant regarding a phased return to normality following the 'rent holiday'. A spec will be taken by Cllr Barrow to a local contractor for an estimate for the repair to the shop roof.
- ii) The Monthly Inspection Reports for the playgrounds were accepted. The estimate provided by the Caretaker to remove the concrete block and reinstate a sound fence post was approved and the work will commence on his return from a short holiday.
The siting and species of commemorative trees, Remembering Covid; Duke of Edinburgh; Queen's Platinum Jubilee to be deferred until the July meeting.
- iii) There were no other matters to consider.

b) Children and Young People:

- i) Cllr Turner reported that with an incredible amount of extra work being undertaken by staff in terms of hygiene and cleaning to keep everyone Covid secure the return to school is progressing successfully in spite of the continuing restrictions. A huge vote of thanks has to go to everyone involved.
A project 'Field to Fork' has been particularly popular. *25 PJB*
46 Barn Owls are fledging to Big School this year, to Burwash, Robertsbridge and of course Etchingham itself. The new intake is being gradually introduced to their new school.
- ii) Cllr Boylett reported that donations are still coming through on Give as You Live.
- iii) There were no other matters to consider.

c) Highways, Footpaths and Community Safety:

- i) The next SLR meeting is due to be scheduled for September 2021. The potholes in Church Lane are beginning to cause concern again.
- ii) It is hoped that the Speedwatch sessions will recommence within the next couple of weeks.
- iii) Cllr Boylett reported that thefts of catalytic converters are being reported locally by Rother Police and highways drain covers are being stolen to sell for scrap creating a dangerous hazard for all road users.
- iv) The report from the informal PCSO meeting held on 29th April having been previously circulated was approved. The full report is at Appendix B.
Asked if there was any update on Dean Walker, the PCSOs reported that there was no new information that they could reveal at this time but that matters were in hand with the relevant authorities.
- v) It was suggested that there should be an ongoing program to check the local footpaths, to be deferred to a future meeting for full discussion. Cllr Barrow showed Council images of a newly designed gate he has built that prevents stock from leaving a field while allowing pedestrian and dogs to enter without necessarily closing the gate behind them. This project will be included in the above footpath discussion. Tim Crane's stile is to be repaired/replaced by him shortly without intervention of ESCC Environment or Highways departments' involvement.
- vi) The ditch behind the northern houses on the High Street above the Post Office has been checked with possibility of improvement work being undertaken later this year.
There were no other matters to consider.

d) Environment and Other issues:

There were no other matters to consider.

e) Communications:

It was Resolved that authors for the Council page in the Parish Magazine going forward to be:

Cllr Boylett	July 2021
Cllr Barrow	September 2021
Cllr Turner	Christmas 2021 issue

Later issues to be confirmed.

2271. 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/2020/2450/P - 1 Church Cottage, High Street. *It was Resolved that the Council would support this application.*
RR/2021/409/P - Strand Meadow (Shrub Lane), Burwash. *It was Resolved that this application remains unacceptable and a strongly worded objection be made.*
RR/2021/611/P - Oaklands, Sheepstreet Lane. After further discussion, helped by the comments made during public time, *it was Resolved that while EPC had no objection in principle to the single storey round house, the new 2-storey house proposed to replace the demolished existing bungalow, should that permission be granted, is an over-development of the site if the round house is permitted. The larger house, as proposed would also impact unfairly on the neighbouring property by proximity to the boundary and also by virtue of the additional storey compared to the existing. Finally, if the garage is built with the storage room above to facilitate the resident during the build of the larger house, that this permission be temporary only.*
- b) There were no other planning matters to discuss.

2272. Finance

- a) The Year End Accounts were tabled and will be reviewed by the Internal Auditor as part of his annual audit on 2nd June 2021.

AB

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

Payments May		TOTAL PAID
P Barton	Salary & Expenses May 2021	1534.77
L Worton	Salary & Expenses April 2021	121.39
CPRE	Annual donation	40.00
Rugsy Lugsy	Kiln dried oak plinth for Emma Beeney Award	50.00
Co-Op Bank	Auto-charge Fee Sweep D/D 05/05/21	30.00
Crane Designs Ltd	NP Mthly charge for hosting site DD 08/04/2021	15.00
Crane Designs Ltd	EPC Mthly charge for hosting site DD 08/04/2021	15.00
Focus Group	Office Phone - No calls DD 27/05/2021	25.76
Total Payments		£1831.92

It was Resolved that the payments for May 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.

- c) **Cllr Mary Barnes declared an interest as a member of the PCC for Etchingham Church.**
A memorandum of costs to be incurred to clean and renovate the community war memorial situated on church land having been received *it was Resolved that on receipt of copy invoices for the completed work EPC would contribute up to a maximum of £1,500 towards this work.*

2273. Etchingham Neighbourhood Plan

Work progresses on the Plan and discussions are held regularly with RDC. The final draft to be submitted to RDC for review prior to formal submission to Reg 14 as soon as possible thereafter.

2274. The Emma Beeney Award for Outstanding Service to the Parish of Etchingham

The award will be made at the June meeting if Covid Regulations allow.
The Council *Resolved unanimously that the recipient for 2020 should be Clara Batten and the Covid-19 Volunteer Team.*

2275. Village Community Halls

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

It was reported that the NHS have extended the booking as a Vaccination Centre until 6th August. The co-operation of the school, including Barn Owls, has been exceptional and a huge vote of thanks must go to them for enabling this booking to be so successful.

2276. To receive Reports from Members and Representatives and pass such resolutions as may be necessary:-

- ESALC – Cllr J Barnes reported that East Sussex ALC has already begun work on considering and lobbying as necessary to achieve an acceptable outcome to the changes being made to planning law.
- RALC – RDC is still hopeful that a Parish Conference will be achievable this year. Work on combating speeding and anti-social vehicle behaviour continues, as does the evaluation of the Black Cat device.
- There were no other conferences or meetings attended.

2277. Correspondence

All correspondence having been distributed by e-mail upon receipt there were no further items to discuss. A card has been received from Paul at the Post Office thanking the Parish Council for their contribution to the fund in Phil's name and the words of condolence that were sent. The Council, in its turn, is very pleased to see that Paul has been able to reopen the Post Office and shop, and is so very grateful that the postal service was able to continue as normal so far as the village is aware. This must have been very difficult for all concerned and this should be noted.

It was Resolved that the Council should send a 'Good Luck' card to Mr & Mrs Copland, Charles and Jill, as they move from the village after many years of service and involvement in many aspects of village life.

2278. Etchingham Parish Council – Notification to members of Council decisions:

There were no notifications.

2279. Agenda items for the next meeting to be held on Thursday 17th June 2021 in The Social Club at 7.30pm

As noted through the above minutes.

Signed.....

Date..... 17 Jun 2021

APPENDIX A
ETCHINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING PROGRAMME 2021 – 2022

Thursday	20 th May 2021	FULL COUNCIL MEETING Annual General 'Statutory' Meeting <i>The Etchingham Club</i>	7.30 p.m.
Thursday	17 th June 2021	FULL COUNCIL MEETING <i>The Etchingham Club</i>	7.30 p.m.
Thursday	22 nd July 2021 <i>n.b. 4th Thurs not 3rd</i>	FULL COUNCIL MEETING <i>The Etchingham Club</i>	7.30 p.m.
Thursday	19 th August 2021 <i>if required</i>	FULL COUNCIL MEETING <i>The Etchingham Club</i>	7.30 p.m.
Thursday	16 th September 2021	FULL COUNCIL MEETING T.B.C.	7.30 p.m.
Thursday	21 st October 2021	FULL COUNCIL MEETING	7.30 p.m.
Thursday	18 th November 2021	FULL COUNCIL MEETING	7.30 p.m.
Thursday	9 th December 2021	F & GP COMMITTEE MEETING only if called by Full Council at November meeting	7.30 p.m.
Thursday	20 th January 2022	FULL COUNCIL MEETING (Budget & Precept Discussions)	7.30 p.m.
Thursday	17 th February 2022	FULL COUNCIL MEETING	7.30 p.m.
Thursday	17 th March 2022	FULL COUNCIL MEETING	7.30 p.m.
Thursday	21 st April 2022	FULL COUNCIL MEETING	7.30 p.m.
Thursday	19 th May 2022	FULL COUNCIL MEETING Annual General 'Statutory' Meeting & ANNUAL PARISH MEETING	Times to be confirmed

APPENDIX B
Report from the PCSO meeting held on 29th April 2021

Both PCSOs were in attendance.

Parish Councils attending were Brightling, Burwash, Etchingham, Hurst Green, Robertsbridge & Salehurst and Cllr Sue Prochak, Rural Affairs RDC. There were apologies from Dallington.

A slight upward trend is being seen in crime locally. Sheds and outbuildings are being particularly targeted with tools, machinery and a motorbike being stolen. Theft of Catalytic convertors from vehicles is more prevalent. At least three of these incidents taking place in Etchingham. Concern remains regarding the welfare of Dean Walker.

Cllr Prochak informed the meeting that ESCC is funding additional youth work in Battle, Bexhill and Robertsbridge.

Etchingham confirmed that its Speedwatch team would be recommencing during May, assuming Covid restrictions do not regress.

Stephen O'Connell, Sussex Safer Roads Partnership (SSRP) joined the meeting and asked for questions.

Q Speeding and noisy motorbikes on the B2096 (Brightling). Road through the village has no pavement or safe verge to set up observation safely and Operation Crackdown is impractical as it demands the use of Reg numbers which are impossible to collect.

A In this instance must keep a log/diary of incidents to build a pattern, submit to the PCSOs and it may be possible to bring in Traffic police at peak nuisance times to assess the best course of action.

Q How to go about getting traffic calming.

A This is the remit of ESCC Highways but can be assisted by evidence from the Police Traffic Engineers. A VAS installed by ESCC may fall to the responsibility of the Parish Council to maintain. Mobile VAS are often preferred as once various sites have been licenced by ESCC then the sign can be moved around to avoid 'sign blindness'. The Black Cat equipment (which can be shared between a number of villages) is a good evidence builder but does not automatically create individual letters (major issue with computer security/compatibility).

Q How effective are the VAS that show the Reg number as well as the actual speed.

A Called AMPRs, there are none in Sussex. Evaluation not known but definitely very expensive.

Q Suggestions for new signs suitable near schools offered.

A Signs have to be considered in light of legibility for a driver of a moving vehicle and also ensure not a distraction to the detriment of safe road use. However, the local police are to produce some new signs "We've got our eyes on you", no sample available for meeting but sounded striking! Etchingham to apply for near the school. (This has been done)

Steve closed by offered a huge 'thank you' to the Speedwatch teams saying that reports were back up to 7k in April (from 5k) and expected to rise closer to pre-Covid as more groups recommence duties.

With thanks to Steve the meeting closed. Date of the next meeting to be confirmed.