

ETCHINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Etchingham Parish Council Meeting
held on Thursday 22nd July 2021 at 7.30pm The Social Club, Etchingham

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

Also present: County & District Cllr Eleanor Kirby-Green and 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.

2297. Apologies for Absence:

There were apologies for absence from Cllr S Barrow and Mr Paul Stott of ETSR, which were accepted.

2298. Minutes of the previous meeting:

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 17th June 2021 having been previously circulated, were agreed and signed as an accurate record of that meeting.

2299. 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.

2300. Etchingham Parish Council – Dispensations:

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

2301. Chairman's Announcements:

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, but had no further announcements to make.

2302. Public Time:

- a) Although County Councillor Cllr Eleanor Kirby-Green had nothing to report at this time, ESCC would be holding a Full Council meeting the following day and a number of controversial issues are in the pipeline.
- b) District Cllr. Barnes updated the meeting on the work to revitalise the Planning Department following the independent consultant's report. There are currently more problems that solutions but a team has been brought in to fast-track new applications to allow existing officers to concentrate on clearing the backlog. It is getting better but there is a long way to go. A Working Party led by the Senior Finance Officer is considering options for restructuring the Planning Department.
- c) In his absence the Chairman of ETSR, Mr Paul Stott, reported that there was nothing new to report this month.
- d) There were no members of the public present and no requests had been received to raise issues under this item in the agenda.
- e) As no members were to be excluded this right was not exercised.

2303. Parish Matters:

- a) **Village Amenities:**
 - i) The quote is still awaited for the roof repair but because of the quality of work of this contractor more time will be allowed.
 - ii) The Monthly Inspection Reports for the playgrounds were accepted. Cllr Turner and the Clerk will prepare a costed schedule of works to be considered for 2021-2022 budget discussions in November.
 - iii) Coffee & Cake Club – Cllr Barrow will provide an update at the next meeting.
 - iv) There were no other matters to consider.
- b) **Children and Young People:**
 - i) Cllr Turner reported that the Etchingham primary school children were looking forward to their summer break and that a Prom was being held for the 'leavers'.
 - ii) Cllr Boylett undertook to refresh the publicity for Give As You Live fundraising.
 - iii) There were no other matters to consider.
- c) **Highways, Footpaths and Community Safety:**
 - i) The next SLR meeting, due to be held in September 2021, will be arranged with the locum Customer Services contact, Corinne Black. The date of the inaugural meeting of the Working Party on Road Safety will fall shortly after this. Complex issues remain in Church Lane/Hill including potholes, drainage, the layby and degradation of verges. These issues will be raised via the ESCC website and at the next SLR meeting.
 - ii) Cllr Boylett presented the monthly Speedwatch report which was accepted and thanks given that sessions had been able to recommence. More volunteers are still needed.
There was discussion on the possible purchase of replacement/back-up equipment but in light of the developments in other devices it was **Resolved that Cllr Boylett investigate and report back on new equipment such as Black Cat. Provision will be made in 2021-2022 budget for replacement and/or new equipment.**
 - iii) Cllr Boylett presented the monthly report from PCSO Emma Phillips showing the pattern of criminal activity and the apparent focus on sheds and allotment sites.
 - iv) There had been no informal PCSO meeting held since the last Council meeting so there was no report.
 - v) Cllr Barrow is checking the fences bordering the pedestrian path beside the A265 between the river bridges and the junction with Burgh Hill.
 - vi) There were no other matters to consider.
- d) **Environment and Other issues:**

There were no other matters to consider.



- e) **Communications:**
Cllr Barrow will be writing the next page for the Parish magazine.

2304. **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/2021/1106/P – Burghfield, Sheepstreet Lane. *It was Resolved that the Council had no objection to this resubmitted application and noted its appreciation that improvements had been made to improve the general appearance to be more in keeping with the location.*
- b) There were no other planning matters to discuss.

2305. **Finance**

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

Payments July		TOTAL PAID
P Barton	Salary & Expenses July 2021	1374.73
L Worton	Salary & Expenses June 2021	53.58
HMRC	Q1 PAYE & NI	1259.97
Tim Crane	First half-payment 2021 Season	905.00
Mrs B Lang-Smith	Donation for rebinding & restoring Parish Magazines	50.00
Surrey Hills Solicitors	Legal advice post Oct 2020 inc advice on custodian trusteeship	60.00
Co-Op Bank	Auto Chg Fee Sweep	30.00
Crane Designs Ltd	NP Mthly charge for hosting site DD 06/07/2021	15.00
Crane Designs Ltd	EPC Mthly charge for hosting site DD 06/07/2021	15.00
Focus Group	Office Phone - No calls DD 28/07/2021	28.16
Total Payments		£3,791.44

It was Resolved that the payments for July 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.

- b) *It was Resolved that the Quotation from Curley Consultants of £2,900.00 be accepted and that they be instructed to begin work on the survey of woodland on Council land as soon as they could. In addition provision will be made annually in the budget to earmark funds for future surveys to be undertaken on a 3-yearly basis.*

2306. **Rother District Council Draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)**

It was Resolved to respond by saying that the Planning Department must be completely and successfully overhauled before other issues are addressed. In addition, if Parish Councils were tasked with the onerous and time consuming task of completing yet another consultation, assurance that this work would be properly taken into account is required.

2307. **Correspondence from Huw Merriman MP**

It was Resolved to respond thanking him for writing and its gratitude that the Boundary changes would not require this parish to leave the Battle & Bexhill Constituency, where it belongs geographically, economically and socially. Also to invite him to visit the parish towards the end of August on his 'tour' of the constituency.

2308. **Etchingham Neighbourhood Plan**

The Clerk reported technical difficulties in revising the source document and reported that the Consultant, who had created the source document, had been engaged to complete the amendments and additions with instruction from the Clerk.

2309. **Village Community Halls**

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

It was reported that the NHS has vacated the building but that redecoration and repairs are being carried out prior to a complete handover back to ETSR.

2310. **To receive Reports from Members and Representatives and pass such resolutions as may be necessary:-**

- a) ESALC – nothing to report.
- b) RALC – a lively and useful zoom meeting had been held. Cllr Turner confirmed that she would be willing to support Cllr J Barnes as a representative.
- c) There were no other meetings or conferences attended.

2311. **Correspondence**

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

2312. **Etchingham Parish Council – Notification to members of Council decisions:**

There were no notifications.

2313. **Agenda items for the next meeting to be held on Thursday 19th August 2021 in The Social Club at 7.30pm. The ERGT AGM will precede this at 7pm.**

As noted through the above minutes.

Signed.....

Date..... 19. VIII. 2021