

**ETCHINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Etchingham Parish Council Meeting**  
**held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2021 at 7.30pm The Social Club, Etchingham**

**Members Present:** Cllrs: J Barnes (in the Chair), Mrs M Barnes, Mr C Boylett 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.*

**2314. Apologies for Absence:**

There were apologies for absence from Cllrs S Barrow and R Beeney, County & District Cllr Eleanor Kirby-Green, Mr Paul Stott of ETSR and another member of the public, which were accepted.

**2315. Minutes of the previous meeting:**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021 having been previously circulated, were agreed and signed as an accurate record of that meeting.

**2316. Declarations of Interest:**

Cllr. J Barnes declared a personal interest in respect of agenda item 11, 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 11, Village Community Halls as a member of the Parochial Church Council and reminded Council that she is a member of the RDC Planning Committee.

**2317. Etchingham Parish Council – Dispensations:**

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

**2318. Chairman's Announcements:**

The Chairman informed the meeting that the parish church is proposing to appoint a professional Director of Music and Organist, who will undertake secular concerts and recitals to be held in the church as well as his religious duties. His fee will be paid by a specially created Trust. This expansion of musical experience for the village, in addition to the established and well-loved annual Festival, can be applauded and welcomed. It has also been announced that a new Rector has been appointed and is expected to be licenced in time for Christmas.

**2319. Public Time:**

- a) County Councillor Cllr Eleanor Kirby-Green confirmed, in her absence, that she had nothing to report at this time.
- b) District Cllr Barnes updated the meeting on the appointments made, and expected shortly, to create the new RDC structure.
- c) In his absence the Chairman of ETSR, Mr Paul Stott, reported that the handover by the NHS, being satisfactorily completed, all efforts were being made to not only bring bookings back up to pre-covid levels but to improve on that in due course.
- d) There were no members of the public present but Cllr Boylett had received a request from a resident to raise issues which were answered as follows:-
  - i) Gray Nicolls will be contacted again regarding the vegetation encroaching on a public footpath crossing their land. Overtures will again be made regarding allowing EPC to take over management of the pond.
  - ii) County Cllr Kirby-Green is already asking for action from ESCC Highways to tackle the flooding issue in Church Lane threatening dwellings from the front and preventing residents access and egress from their own properties.
  - iii) Railtrack are also to be contacted regarding clearing the ditches that overflow due to lack of maintenance which regularly flood the back gardens and in heavy rain threaten the cottages from the rear.
  - iv) The landowners of the field opposite the cottages will be asked to consider reinstating the pond that was lost when Church Farm Close was built.
  - v) The MP will also be approached to push for dredging the River Rother again to benefit Etchingham which has not been done for a considerable time.
  - vi) The Little Barden blocked footpath does require extensive attention. The landowner will be approached but is understood to be on holiday at present.
- e) As no members were to be excluded this right was not exercised.

**2320. Parish Matters:**

- a) **Village Amenities:**
  - i) The roofer still to submit a quote has apologised as bad weather has prevented him for visiting the premises to assess the work required. As soon as conditions permit he will proceed to visit and to quote.
  - ii) The Monthly Inspection Reports for the playgrounds were accepted. The budget for 2022-2023 will include allowance for the funding of new gates and posts for vehicular/pedestrian access to Queen's Garden.
  - iii) Coffee & Cake Club – the Bistro is looking forward to welcoming guests to the inaugural 'club' meeting in September.
  - iv) There were no other matters to consider.
- b) **Children and Young People:**
  - i) As the school is currently on the long summer break Cllr Turner had nothing to report.
  - ii) The Barclays Bank account having been closed due to lack of activity the funds are to be transferred to the HSBC charity account and following that the appropriateness of the HSBC account will be considered as some of their Community Accounts are shortly to incur fees where there had previously been free banking.
  - iii) There were no other matters to consider.

- c) **Highways, Footpaths and Community Safety:**
  - i) The agenda for the next SLR meeting, due to be held in September 2021, will include concern over the overgrown vegetation on Burgh Hill obscuring road signs, some of which are residents' responsibility but also ESCC, both Highways and Education as little routine maintenance appears to take place on and around the old school site. Siting of suitable posts for a Black Cat unit together with associated costs will also be raised.
  - ii) Cllr Boylett presented the monthly Speedwatch report which was accepted and is on file.
  - iii) Cllr Boylett presented the monthly report from PCSO Emma Phillips which was accepted and is on file. It was noted that both Daryl and Emma, our PCSOs were able to 'drop in' to the church, having noticed unusual activity on a Sunday evening, to join the Churches Together mixed congregations enjoying refreshments following the Sung Evensong and had the chance to meet and chat with many people.
  - v) There were no updates this month.
  - vi) There were no other matters to consider.
- d) **Environment and Other issues:**  
There were no other matters to consider.
- e) **Communications:**  
The amended copy deadline for the Parish magazine has been noted and Cllr Barrow, who will be writing the next page, is aware.

**2321. 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/2021/1132/P – Red Rose Cottage, 11 Borders Lane. **It was Resolved that the Council had no objection to this application.** RR/2021/1813/RN – Etchingham Station footbridge. **It was Resolved that the Council supported the application to refurbish and repair the footbridge and was appreciative of the continued care of this attractive amenity.**
- b) District Cllr J Barnes reported that the outstanding matters regarding the application at Strand Meadow, Burwash have been referred to a judicial review. There were no other planning matters to discuss.

**2322. Finance**

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

Payments August		TOTAL PAID
P Barton	Salary & Expenses August 2021	1543.77
L Worton	Salary & Expenses July 2021	156.13
SLCC	Ann membership fee – Society of Local Council Clerks	166.00
RALC	Ann subscription fee	30.00
PWLB	Half yrly repayment of loans	6724.44
Crane Designs Ltd	NP Mthly charge for hosting site DD 06/08/2021	15.00
Crane Designs Ltd	EPC Mthly charge for hosting site DD 06/08/2021	15.00
Focus Group	Office Phone - No calls DD 26/08/2021	28.16
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>£8678.50</b>

**It was Resolved that the payments for August 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.**

**2323. Etchingham Neighbourhood Plan**

The Clerk reported that the Consultant, who had created the source document, has returned the amendments she had been sent. Unfortunately she had not worked from the document supplied which contained other completed amendments but returned to the completely untouched original. Efforts to correct this are in hand.

**2324. Village Community Halls**

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

As reported under minute 2319 c above.

**2325. To receive Reports from Members and Representatives and pass such resolutions as may be necessary:-**

- a) ESALC – nothing to report.
- b) RALC – paperwork required by RALC was completed by Cllrs J Barnes and R Turner. The clerk will return to RALC.
- c) There were no other meetings or conferences attended.

**2326. Correspondence**

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

**2327. Etchingham Parish Council – Notification to members of Council decisions:**

There were no notifications.

**2328. Agenda items for the next meeting to be held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021 in The Parker Hall at 7.30pm.**

As noted through the above minutes.

Signed.....

Date.....