

ETCHINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Etchingham Parish Council Meeting
held on Thursday 16th September 2021 at 7.30pm The Parker Hall, Parsonage Croft, Etchingham

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

Also present: County & District Cllr Eleanor Kirby-Green, 12 members of the public and Ms P Barton – Clerk to the Council.

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.

2329. Apologies for Absence:

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

2330. Minutes of the previous meeting:

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 19th August 2021 having been previously circulated, were agreed and signed as an accurate record of that meeting.

2331. 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.

2332. Etchingham Parish Council – Dispensations:

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

2333. Chairman's Announcements:

The Chairman had no announcements to make that would not be covered under the agenda points.

2334. Public Time:

- a) County Councillor Cllr Eleanor Kirby-Green will in future offer a written report but had nothing to report at this time.
- b) District Cllr Barnes updated the meeting on the appointment of the Director - Place and Climate change, Ben Hook. This department includes the Planning function.
- c) Members of the public drew attention to the planning applications for both New House Farm and Shortridge House. The Chairman allowed extended time for all attending to speak and for a video of New House Farm hirers partying in the grounds, excessive and inappropriate parking etc to be shown demonstrating the difficulties being experienced, time and date stamped to show these were not an isolated event. A purely verbal presentation regarding Shortridge House was also received. The applicant from Ladyfield was also present and explained the need for a retrospective planning application for which he was thanked. Having heard all the above, Councillors engaged with the attendees to ask questions so their decision making might be better informed under agenda item 8.

Another member of the public brought delays in producing the Traffic Survey to improve road safety in the village; delays in the Neighbourhood Plan; improvements in liaison between the school and wider village community which the school would like to foster; and the general malaise in promoting 'community' in the village, suggesting reinvigorating the Etchingham Improvements Committee and addressing the volunteer gap.

Cllr Boylett presented a query from a member of the public unable to attend the meeting concerned about vegetation blocking footpaths and the on-going flooding issues in Church Lane.

- e) As no members were to be excluded this right was not exercised.

2335. Parish Matters:

- a) **Village Amenities:**
 - i) The roofer is still waiting for weather conditions to permit him to visit the shop and prepare his quote.
 - ii) The Monthly Inspection Reports for the playgrounds were accepted. Work to the gate between QG and the churchyard will be progressed
 - iii) Coffee & Cake Club – the Bistro reported an excellent inaugural session. 32 attended, many of them new to the venue.
 - iv) There were no other matters to consider.
- b) **Children and Young People:**
 - i) Cllr Turner reported that the school is still coping well and Barn Owls likewise.
 - ii) There has been little change to the ERGT funds and another publicity drive will get underway soon.
 - iii) There were no other matters to consider.
- c) **Highways, Footpaths and Community Safety:**
 - i) The overgrown state of many footpaths is causing walkers to deviate away from the correct route. Contact will be made with the landowners to rectify.
Gray Nicolls will be notified about the state of their footpath and approach made again for the community to take over management of the pond. They will also be asked to manage their ditches and drains to alleviate the flooding problems in Church Lane and Station Approach. Network Rail likewise.
 - ii) Cllr Boylett presented the monthly Speedwatch report which was accepted and is on file.
It was **Resolved that EPC should purchase its own Black Cat Speed Recording Device**. Sincere thanks were given to the donor who has so generously offered to pay for this purchase. Licensing arrangements will be set in motion with ESCC Highways Department.

- iii) There was no monthly report available from PCSO Emma Phillips this month.
- iv) There were no further updates this month except as minuted under c i above.
- v) There were no other matters to consider.

d) **Environment and Other issues:**
There were no matters to consider.

e) **Communications:**
There were no matters to consider.

2336. 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/2021/1360/P & RR/2021/1153/P – Shortridge House, Sheepstreet Lane. *It was Resolved that the Council should request that both applications be overseen by one officer only and while there were reservations about the design of the new dwelling this would raise no objection but EPC objected strongly to the building of a free-standing ‘annexe’ to create substantial additional accommodation.*

RR/2021/1475/P - Ladyfield, High Street. *It was Resolved that the Council would support this retrospective application.*

RR/2021/1737/L - Etchingam Railway Station. *It was Resolved that the Council would support this application.*

RR/2021/1574/L - New House Farm, Sheepstreet Lane. *It was Resolved that the Council would object in the strongest of terms to this application.* District Cllr Kirby-Green informed the meeting that this application has already been ‘Called in’.

b) There were no other planning matters to discuss.

2337. Finance

a) IT issues have delayed the completion of the Qtr 1 accounts. The Half Year accounts will be presented at the next meeting.

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

<i>Payment September</i>		TOTAL PAID
P Barton	Salary & Expenses September 2021	1,231.05
L Worton	Salary & Expenses August 2021	57.10
ETSR	Half Yearly contribution	500.00
PKF	Professional Services AGAR 2020-2021	360.00
Bistro @ the Station	Cake & Coffee Morning 15 th September	33.30
Crane Designs Ltd	NP Mthly charge for hosting site DD 06/09/2021	15.00
Crane Designs Ltd	EPC Mthly charge for hosting site DD 06/09/2021	15.00
Focus Group	Office Phone - DD 27/09/2021	28.26
	Total Payments	£2,239.71

It was Resolved that the payments for September 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.

2338. Etchingam Neighbourhood Plan
Delays continue but RDC being kept fully informed.

2339. Village Community Halls
Cllrs J & M Barnes reminded the meeting of their personal interest in ETSR.
The Chairman reported that as the financial status of ETSR is currently favourable it will be possible to discuss a reduction in the Parish Council rate during budget discussion later in the autumn.

2340. To receive Reports from Members and Representatives and pass such resolutions as may be necessary:-

- a) ESALC – nothing to report.
- b) RALC – nothing to report.
- c) There were no other meetings or conferences attended.

2341. Correspondence
All correspondence having been distributed by e-mail upon receipt there were no further items to discuss.

2342. Etchingam Parish Council – Notification to members of Council decisions:
There were no notifications.

2343. Agenda items for the next meeting to be held on Thursday 21st October 2021 in The Parker Hall at 7.30pm.
As noted through the above minutes.

Signed.....

Date.....