

ETCHINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Etchingham Parish Council Meeting
held on Thursday 21st October 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 R Beeney and Ms Roma Turner.

Also present: 10 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.

2344. Apologies for Absence:

There were apologies for absence from Cllr C Boylett, County & District Cllr Eleanor Kirby-Green and Mr Paul Stott of ETSR, which were accepted.

2345. Minutes of the previous meeting:

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 16th September 2021 having been previously circulated, were agreed and signed as an accurate record of that meeting.

2346. 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.

2347. Etchingham Parish Council – Dispensations:

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

2348. Chairman's Announcements:

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

2349. Public Time:

- a) County Councillor Cllr Eleanor Kirby-Green had tabled a written report which had been previously circulated. The report explains that the anticipated deficit will be met from reserves but that this could not obviously be maintained long term. The report was accepted.
- b) District Cllr Barnes updated the meeting on the disappointing financial news and, as with ESCC, the deficit will have to be met from reserves but at the current rate reserves would be completely depleted by 2024/25. Attempts to boost income via housing are being explored and implemented.
- c) Members of the public expressed continued alarm regarding the planning applications for New House. The Chairman allowed extended time for all attending to speak. Councillors engaged with the attendees to ask questions so their decision making might be better informed under agenda item 8.
- d) As no members were to be excluded this right was not exercised.



2350. Parish Matters:

a) **Village Amenities:**

- i) The roofer has visited the shop and submitted a quote, to be submitted in due course in written format. As the total cost is going to be in excess of £1,000 two further quotations will need to be sought so that Council can seek best value for money.
- ii) The Monthly Inspection Reports for the playgrounds were accepted. Some short-term remedial work will be required in QG prior to the complete re-fit.
- iii) Coffee & Cake Club – the Bistro reported a good turn out with some more new faces. Councillors were invited to attend when they could and the next date is 16th November.
- iv) Outline discussions began on the opportunities for Council run and funded events for the village to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Anniversary next year. Replacing the commemorative tree in QG could be combined with a children's tea party and a Saturday seems the best option. The Clerk will check any potential for clashing dates with the local villages and investigate any possible grants available. Cllr Mary Barnes and Cllr Roma Turner to progress the children's party plans and Cllrs Barrow and Beeney to progress the choice of tree, including costs.
- v) There were no other matters to consider.

b) **Children and Young People:**

- i) Cllr Turner deferred her report until after the half-term break. This was accepted.
- ii) Cllr Boylett's report on ERGT fundraising having been previously circulated was approved and is available on file.
- iii) There were no other matters to consider.

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

- i) The Clerk reported that responses are awaited from the various landowners contacted regarding footpaths blocked with vegetation and the flooding issues in Church Lane and Station Approach. ESCC Highways has responded and acted on the information regarding the old school site and has cut back vegetation causing difficulties for drivers and pedestrians. The overview survey of the trees and shrubs along the A265 will be presented prior to the next SLR meeting.
- ii) It was **Resolved that the offer of 4-additional urban cuts by ESCC be accepted.**
- iii) Concerns will again be raised with ESCC regarding excessive growth of the trees and shrubs along the A265 (see (i) above) impacting on visibility turning out of the junction with Burgh Hill and also the dark and forbidding nature of walking along the footway between that growth and the overgrown hedges and collapsing fencing between Burgh Hill and the level crossing. Safety issues arising from the Tree Survey reports of Council owned land will need to be highlighted and addressed as quickly as possible. The Clerk will obtain quotes for the immediate work required.
- iv) It is understood that arrangements should now be progressed for the Highways Steward to visit and assess sites for the Black Cat units. The Clerk will progress with ESCC.
- v) Cllr Boylett presented the monthly Speedwatch report which was accepted and is on file.
- vi) Cllr Boylett presented the reports from Rother Police and our PCSOs which listed an attempted farm break-in in Fontridge Lane.
- vii) There were no updates on the footpath programme.
- viii) 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.



2351. 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) There were no new planning applications this month to discuss however RR/2021/1573/P New House Farm, discussed last month and raised again in Public Time at this meeting, has been revisited and the strong objections raised on RR/2021/1574/L will also be credited to 1573/L online.
- b) There is on-going dialogue with the Enforcement Officer regarding the area adjacent to Church lane being utilised, it is believed, as a dog exercise area to ensure that there are no breaches of planning being committed. Also raised, on behalf of a neighbour, the extension being built at The Nursery, High Street is being reviewed by the Enforcement team.
There were no other planning matters to discuss.

2352. Finance

- a) IT issues have again delayed presentation of the Half Year accounts which will be presented at first opportunity. It was **Resolved that all CIL payments received will be placed in an Ear-Marked Reserve and only released against a capital/infrastructure project.**
- b) Authorisation of payments – the Clerk presented the accounts for payment to the Council.

| Payment October | | TOTAL PAID |
|----------------------------|---|-------------------|
| P Barton | Salary & Expenses October 2021 | 1,369.63 |
| L Worton | Salary & Expenses September 2021 | 17.60 |
| HMRC | Qtr 2 payment NICs & PAYE (x 2 staff) | 988.45 |
| Curley Consultants | Site work & written report A265 trees & shrubs | 525.00 |
| Curley Consultants | 4 Site tree surveys, written report and recommendations | 2,900.00 |
| E Sussex ALC Ltd | Finance Training - Clerk | 48.00 |
| Co-Op Bank | Auto chg Fee Sweep | 30.00 |
| Crane Designs Ltd | NP Mthly charge for hosting site DD 06/10/21 | 15.00 |
| Crane Designs Ltd | EPC Mthly charge for hosting site DD 06/10/21 | 15.00 |
| Focus Group | Office Phone DD 27/10/21 | 29.36 |
| | Total Payments | £5,938.04 |

It was Resolved that the payments for October 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.



2353. Etchingam Neighbourhood Plan

Delays continue but RDC being kept fully informed.

2354. Village Community Halls

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

The Clerk assured those present who might have noticed the broken lamp shade in Parker Hall that this is to be replaced as soon as possible and that the cost will be covered by the NHS as the damage occurred during its tenancy.

2355. To receive Reports from Members and Representatives and pass such resolutions as may be necessary:-

- a) ESALC – nothing to report.
- b) RALC – the content of the recent zoom meeting revolved around the ongoing issue of speeding through villages but also the issues being faced at Westfield surrounding a large site due for residential development and the make up of the different housing types i.e. affordable vs market.
- c) The Annual Rother Parishes Meeting was held virtually and very well attended. The Chairman and Clerk were present. The Clerk also attended a Finance Training course organised by ESALC on-line which demonstrated that, while the Council finances are not in any way being run illegally or negligently, the systems and processes are now out of date and should be subject to a rigorous overhaul to make them fit for current use.

2356. Correspondence

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

2357. Etchingam Parish Council – Notification to members of Council decisions:

There were no notifications.

2358. Agenda items for the next meeting to be held on Thursday 18th November 2021 in The Parker Hall at 7.30pm.

As noted through the above minutes.

Signed.....*AB Barnes*.....

Date.....18.11.2021.....