

ETCHINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Etchingham Parish Council Meeting
held on Thursday 20th January 2022 at 7.30pm The Parker Hall, Parsonage Croft, Etchingham

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

Also present: District Cllr Eleanor Kirby-Green, 2 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.

2389. Apologies for Absence:

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

2390. Minutes of the previous meeting:

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 9th December 2021 having been previously circulated, were agreed and signed as an accurate record of that meeting.

2391. 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 also 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.

2392. Etchingham Parish Council – Dispensations:

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

2393. Chairman's Announcements:

The Chairman called a one minute's silence to remember Mr Geoff Barrow, Cllr Barrow's father, who sadly passed away that morning.

2394. Public Time:

- a) County Councillor Cllr Eleanor Kirby-Green's full report is attached at Appendix 1 in it there is an explanation of the background to the setting of the 22/23 Budget. Happily, she was also able to report that just before Christmas the majority of the drainage remedial work urgently needed in Church Lane had been completed. The final repairs will be done as soon as possible and ESCC is following up on the other landowners who have to upgrade their arrangements to alleviate the flooding issue.
- b) District Cllr Barnes reported that RDC continues its efforts to improve the performance of the planning department including outsourcing where it can to deal with the backlog of applications.
- c) Two members of the public were present and aware that their points to be raised were of a similar nature, combined their comments where applicable.

Current state of the playgrounds: the Clerk was able to update the meeting regarding the Viper equipment; quotes are waited for the replacement of the cable which is frayed and the ramp which has deteriorated and is unsafe to walk on, because of this the unit has been completely taken out of use. The Queen's Gardens playground, apart from the swings and the picnic table relatively recently replaced, has to be completely replaced including new surfacing.

Cllr Mary Barnes and Roma Turner explained that while efforts for on-line contributions continue the major fundraising events had been stopped by the pandemic and public confidence is only slowly returning to enable the Working Party and CIC – which offer of help is greatly appreciated – plans are in place to restart these activities. It was agreed that this must be a priority.

The second issue is that of road safety in the village and, one of the members of the public being a School Governor with particular responsibility for safety, in particular in the environs of the school. A full discussion followed and County Cllr Eleanor Kirby-Green offered her full support and will progress once she receives background materials. In order to support the County Cllr, the Clerk will prepare for a Public Meeting in the Ahrens Hall one Saturday before Easter to fully air the subject and enrol volunteers for The Etchingham Safety Action Group (a sub-committee of the Parish Council able to include non-councillors). An offer was made by the other member of the public to stand wearing a hi-vis vest on the corner of Parsonage Croft/High Street (A265) every school day at drop-off and pick-up times in order to deter speeding by the school, while thanked for this offer it was not taken up at this time. The Clerk will investigate the procedure for requesting an occasional police presence at those busy times. The Clerk also explained that two attempts at securing permission for a Lollipop person had failed due to issues with lines of sight. This does not preclude another request being made in the future.

Enquiries having been made about the disposal of the old school, the school governor confirmed that he had been told the same as ETSR and the Parish Council, ESCC says it is waiting for a reply from the Diocese and the Diocese that it is waiting for a reply from County. County Cllr Kirby-Green is going to chase again with County.

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

2395. Parish Matters:

a) Village Amenities:

- i) The Clerk reported that arrangements had been made for a professional structural survey to be made but delayed due to covid isolation issues. A new date will be set.
- ii) The Monthly Inspection Reports for the playgrounds were accepted but included further work needed to the zip wire unit ramp so the whole unit is now placed out of action. The Clerk has revised the request for quotes to include the ramp as well as the cable.
- iii) Coffee & Cake Club – continues successfully.
- iv) There were no other matters to consider.

b) Children and Young People:

- i) Cllr Turner is waiting for a date to meet with the headteacher. Cllrs Turner and Mary Barnes will liaise with the school regarding plans for the Jubilee. The Clerk to liaise with FES.
- ii) Cllr Boylett's report on ERGT fundraising having been previously circulated was approved and is available on file. He will promote the Give As you Live opportunity again via E Bulletin and the other social media channels.
- iii) There were no other matters to consider.

c) Highways, Footpaths and Community Safety:

- i) As covered under item 2394c, it is **Resolved that a Public Meeting be held before Easter and a sub-committee of the Council be formed to be called The Etchingham Safety Action Group**. This group will continue the work begun pre-Covid by the Council and also involve the acquisition of the Black Cat data capture system. County Cllr Eleanor Kirby-Green will be present at the public meeting. The Clerk to facilitate.
- ii) Cllr Boylett presented the monthly Speedwatch report which was accepted and is on file. He also reported a successful case of co-ordination between groups raising a single vehicle exceeding the speed limit through different sites on the same day.

- iii) Cllr Boylett presented the reports from Rother Police, in particular vehicle damage and our PCSOs, farm break-ins. There was a good example of police use of Data Capture – suspicious activity in Etchingam was reported to the police including a registration number. A further sighting involving that vehicle and a break-in in Groombridge a couple of hours later led to police interception on the M25 and being taken into custody in Brighton 2 hours after that.
 - iv) There were no other matters to consider.
- d) **Environment and Other issues:**
There were no matters to consider.
- e) **Communications:**
Cllr Boylett reported that the transfer of content from the old to the new website is almost complete. It was ***Resolved that arrangements to cancel the old web site be delegated to Cllr Boylett and the Clerk once the transfer was complete.***

2396. 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

RR/2021/1573/P: New House Farm, Sheepstreet Lane : Change of use of dwelling and land at New House Farm to mixed use of dwelling and holiday accommodation with inclusion of separate site managers accommodation within the dwelling. Use of curtilage listed barn by resident guests of the holiday lets and by occupants and guests of the house at New House Farm. (Retrospective)
It was Resolved that EPC could find no reason to amend its previous resolution to object strongly to this retrospective application. Also, that should officers be minded to support and accept this application that it should be 'called in'.

RR/2021/1574/L : New House Farm, Sheepstreet Lane : Creation of two en-suite bathrooms in New House Farmhouse and alterations to permitted stairs and internal layout within the Long Barn (Retrospective)
It was Resolved that EPC could find no reason to amend its previous resolution to object strongly to this retrospective application. Also, that should officers be minded to support and accept this application that it should be 'called in'.

RR/2022/2860/P and RR/2022/2861/L: Red Rose Cottage, Borders Lane: New double-glazing timber casement windows, painted white. New double-glazing into, timber door, painted white.
It was Resolved to Support this application.

2397. Finance:

- a) The second revision to the Draft Budget for 2022-2023 was presented to Council. After final adjustments the Budget was accepted and ***it was Resolved to set the Precept figure for 2022-2023 at £71,000.***

b) Grants and Donations for 2022 -2023

It was Resolved to make the following during the next financial year

Hurst Green First Responders – our local team	£
Battle Area Community Trust – BACT	£150.00
Rural Rother Trust	£50.00
Etchingham Poppy Appeal 2022 – Wreath on Remembrance Sunday	£30.00
CPRE 2021/2022	£50.00
Etchingham Neighbourhood Plan (Contingency)	£500.00
KSS Air Ambulance	£100.00
Etchingham Music Festival	£500.00
Etchingham Church PCC (grass cutting)	£600.00
EIC/PCC (Annual Village Fete)	£125.00
Annual Subscription to SLCC	£90.00
Subscriptions for 2022/2023 for membership of SALC & NALC	New figures not available in time.
To consider and agree any other requests for grants or annual subscriptions that the Council may receive during the course of 2022-2023 and resolve to be appropriate within the parameters of given s137 limits.	

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

<i>Payments for January 2022</i>		TOTAL PAID
P Barton	Salary & Expenses January 2022	1,653.91
L Worton	Salary & Expenses December 2021	63.75
HMRC	Q3 PAYE & NICS x 2	1,405.46
SLCC	Annual subscription	90.00
SLCC	Clerk Training	18.00
Richard Pelham	Repairs to QG iron gate	72.00
Bistro @ the station	Dec Coffee & Cake x 20	49.95
Bistro @ the station	Jan Coffee & Cake x 19	48.35
Co-op Bank	Auto Fee Sweep Chg	30.00
Crane Designs Ltd	NP Mthly charge for hosting site DD 06/01/22	15.00
Crane Designs Ltd	EPC Mthly charge for hosting site DD 06/01/22	15.00
Focus Group	Office Phone DD 27/01/22	30.36
	Total Payments	£2,381.96

It was Resolved that the payments for January 2022 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.

d) Cllr Mary Barnes and the Clerk were delegated to further inspect the findings of the Tree Survey with the Tree Warden to establish whether partial felling might be a better option than Cobra bracing for the trees marked in Burgh Woods/Fysie Lane and take advice from the Tree Warden as to the timescale on the previous Survey recommendations for work to be scheduled. Following this visit a revised quote will be sought from KPS and brought to Council for consideration.

e) After due consideration and discussion, ***it was Resolved to respond to the Public Consultation on the RDC proposed budget for 2022-2023 thus:***

RDC should not remove all tax support for Community Grants and rely on the newly constituted Lottery, being entirely untried so while hoping for its success this cannot be guaranteed but calls on RDC for assistance with funding most definitely will continue.

RDC should invest more into the Enforcement team without impacting on the rest of the Planning Department as improvements are sought across the board.

2398. Etchingham Neighbourhood Plan

Delays continue but RDC being kept fully informed.

2399. Village Community Halls

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

The Trustees have met and been told that while still in the black, finances are not secure going forward as school holiday periods show very poor uptake on bookings impacts severely on the year.

2400. To receive Reports from Members and Representatives and pass such resolutions as may be necessary:-

- a) ESALC – no meeting to report
- b) RALC – the meeting revisited and updated on previous issues.
- c) The Clerk asked the Council to consider the possibility of changing the portfolio responsibility system to one of sub-committees in order to better share the workload. This suggestion follows a number of training sessions recently attended.

2401. Correspondence

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

2402. Etchingham Parish Council – Notification to members of Council decisions:

There were no notifications.

2403. Agenda items for the next meeting to be held on Thursday 17th February 2022 in The Parker Hall at 7.30pm.

As noted through the above minutes.

Signed.....

By the Chairman

Date.....

17th February 2022