

ETCHINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Etchingham Parish Council Meeting
held on Thursday 17th February 2022 at 7.30pm The Parker Hall, Parsonage Croft, Etchingham

Members Present: Cllrs: Mr J Barnes (in the Chair), Mr S Barrow and Mr R Beeney (quorate)

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.

2404. Apologies for Absence:

There were apologies for absence from Cllrs M. Barnes, C. Boylett, R. Turner and Mr Paul Stott of ETSR, which were accepted.

2405. Minutes of the previous meeting:

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 20th January 2022 having been previously circulated, were agreed and signed as an accurate record of that meeting.

2406. 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.

2407. Etchingham Parish Council – Dispensations:

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

2408. Chairman's Announcements:

The Chairman had no announcements.

2409. Public Time:

- a) County Councillor Cllr Eleanor Kirby-Green confirmed that the budget has been approved and that by using £5M from reserves a balanced budget has been achieved. As the contract for Highways goes out to tender for 2023 efforts are being made by councillors and others to reach a much higher standard of transparency than for previous contracts.
It is hoped that the 'old' school and grounds will be offered for sale during March.
- b) District Cllr Barnes reported that the picture at RDC was less good. A balanced budget has been achieved but reserves are being sadly depleted to do so and while efficiency savings have been achieved running costs are up by £1M. Local communities are being encouraged to take on assets such as car parks (not in Etchingham) but there are worries that this will lead to a drop in income which has already been very negatively affected due to the lockdowns.
- c) Two members of the public (MOP) were present.
A MOP asked what ENF/110/16/ETC related to in terms of Hays Mill Oast? This is an enforcement of planning conditions but the current position is not fully known and it is possible that the new owners are being offered the opportunity to regularise the situation. This MOP also asked about progress for the Old Stores. The building survey has been completed and does not make good reading. This is to be discussed later in the meeting in Closed Session being a sensitive commercial matter.
The second corrected the address of one of the planning applications on the schedule, it should have read Red Rose and not Red Rose Cottage. The Clerk apologised and will correct this. The on-going delays to the Neighbourhood Plan was also raised and explanation given.

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

2410. Parish Matters:

a) Village Amenities:

- i) The Clerk reported that the professional structural survey had been completed and was a litany of issues, not unexpected in a building of this age. Builders quotes will be sought so that the Council can properly come to a resolution for the future of the Old Stores.
- ii) The Monthly Inspection Reports for the playgrounds were accepted. The revised quotes to include the ramp as well as the cable is still awaited.
- iii) Coffee & Cake Club – continues successfully, thanks were given to Cllr Barrow for his major part in supporting this initiative in conjunction with The Bistro.
- iv) There were no other matters to consider.

b) Children and Young People:

- i) In Cllr Turner's absence there was no report but the Clerk was able to confirm that FES are not planning an event for the Platinum Jubilee.
- ii) Cllr Boylett, although absent had submitted his report on ERGT fundraising and having been previously circulated it was approved and is available on file.
- iii) There were no other matters to consider.

c) Highways, Footpaths and Community Safety:

- i) ESCC Highways has completed its work on the drainage system at Church Lane, the abutting landowners are being contacted to get them to take similar action.
- ii) The inaugural public meeting of TESAG (The Etchingham Safety Action Group) will be on 12th March, 10-12 in the Ahrens Hall. The Clerk to undertake publicity and logistics on the day. It was ***Resolved that this Group will be a Sub-Committee of the Parish Council giving it official status to work and report its findings and recommendations to the Parish Council, also to allow it to comprise both councillors and members of the public.***
- iii) Cllr Boylett although absent had submitted his Speedwatch report which was accepted and is on file.
- iv) Cllr Boylett although absent had submitted the reports from Rother Police which was accepted and is on file.
- 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.

2411. Planning:

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/2021/3031/P & RR/2021/3032/L** : Kitchenham Farm, Sheepstreet Lane : Repair works to farmhouse roof. **It was Resolved that EPC would support these applications.**
- b) The application from Great Tott Farm, Burwash was discussed. It was agreed that granting permission to build an annex integral the main house is often a way employed to then turn the annex into a separate dwelling. Conditions to prevent this should be employed if RDC is minded to grant permission.

The issue of precedence was also raised in connection with the Hays Mill Oast complex as allowing the individual ‘buildings’ to be sold as separate units. If it become apparent this is going to be intention Cllr Mary Barnes will be asked to bring it before the planning committee.

2412. Finance:

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

Payments for February 2022		TOTAL PAID
P Barton	Salary & Expenses February 2022	1573.70
L Worton	Salary & Expenses January 2022	58.33
CPRE	Annual Donation	50.00
Bracketts	Fee for Stores Survey	1500.00
SLCC	Clerk Training	54.00
Kirby Mckay	QG tree work	2280.00
Bistro @ the station	Feb Coffee & Cake x 17	43.35
PWLB	Half Year Repayment of loan	6724.44
IOC annual fee	Licence to hold personal data	35.00
Crane Designs Ltd	NP Mthly charge for hosting site DD 04/02/22	15.00
Crane Designs Ltd	EPC Mthly charge for hosting site DD 04/02/22	15.00
Focus Group	Office Phone DD 25/02/22	29.56
	Total Payments	£12,378.38

It was Resolved that the payments for February 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.

- b) Cllr Mary Barnes and the Clerk together with the Tree Warden had concluded that partial felling would be a better option than Cobra bracing for the trees marked in Burgh Woods/Fysie Lane. A revised quote having been received from KPS and brought to Council for consideration ***it was Resolved that this quote be accepted and the work scheduled as quickly as possible to a limit of £23,000.***

2413. Etchingham Neighbourhood Plan

Delays continue but RDC being kept fully informed.

2414. Village Community Halls

Cllr J Barnes reminded the meeting of his personal interest in ETSR.

A fundraising illustrated talk is planned early in March to help raise funds for ETSR.

2415. To receive Reports from Members and Representatives and pass such resolutions as may be necessary:-

- a) ESALC – an excellent first year and particularly excelled with the quality and breadth of training on offer.
- b) RALC – is still concentrating on speeding issues for the most part.
- c) The Clerk reported verbally on a presentation from the Network Rail Eco team that is in the process of managing wildlife habitat on its land but not intrinsically part of the railway station. This includes Etchingham Station.

2416. Correspondence

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

2417. Etchingam Parish Council – Notification to members of Council decisions:

There were no notifications.

2418. Agenda items for the next meeting to be held on Thursday 17th March 2022 in The Parker Hall at 7.30pm.

As noted through the above minutes.

Signed..... By the Chairman

Date..... 17th March 2022