

**ETCHINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Etchingham Parish Council Meeting**  
**held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 7.30pm The Parker Hall, Parsonage Croft, Etchingham**

**Members Present:** Cllrs: Mr J Barnes (in the Chair), Mrs M. Barnes, Mr S Barrow, Mr R Beeney and Mr C. Boylett.  
**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.*

**2419. Apologies for Absence:**

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

**2420. Minutes of the previous meeting:**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022 having been previously circulated, were agreed and signed as an accurate record of that meeting.

**2421. 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.

**2422. Etchingham Parish Council – Dispensations:**

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

**2423. Chairman's Announcements:**

The Chairman had no announcements.

**2424. Public Time:**

- a) County Councillor Cllr Eleanor Kirby-Green was pleased to report that 90% of children had been allocated a place at their 'first choice' school.
- b) District Cllr Barnes reported for information that Burwash had won its Judicial Review, due in no small part to Robert Banks and the Save Our Fields Campaign group. However planning difficulties beset Hurst Green as consultation did not take place regarding a s106 waver.
- c) Two members of the public (MOP) were present.  
A MOP congratulated the Council for reducing its Rate by 6.2% and went on to seek assurance that all discussion regarding the future of the Old Etchingham Stores would be completely transparent. Assurances were made and the delay in open discussion is only because detailed quotes from reputable builders experienced in listed building work are still awaited.

The second MOP wished to present a planning application he proposed submitting to RDC as soon as practicable but sought the opinion of EPC prior to doing so. The site is a 90acre farm, certified organic since 2000. The application involved the infrastructure required to change the main crop from hay to herbs. Full advantage has already been undertaken in seeking professional advice covering historical and environmental factors. Informed that the Pre-planning service is now available again, which the MOP did not know, he undertook to contact them for their advice also. Thanked for his presentation which had received a positive response, EPC could go no further until it was presented with the actual Planning Application.

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

**2425. Parish Matters:**

**a) Village Amenities:**

- i) The Clerk confirmed the answer given to the MOP, i.e. builders' quotes are awaited.
- ii) The Monthly Inspection Reports for the playgrounds were accepted. The 'quote' to repair the 'police' notice board in-house was accepted, Clerk to progress this. The revised quote to include the ramp as well as the cable having been received and presented was accepted. Clerk to progress.
- iii) Coffee & Cake Club – continues successfully and numbers remain stable.
- iv) Replacing the commemorative tree in QG; decision on choice is not fully established. There were no other matters to consider.

**b) Children and Young People:**

- i) Cllr Turner is understood to be waiting for an appointment with the Headteacher to provide an up to date report.
- ii) Cllr Boylett 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) On-going issues with the poor state of the highway on Fysie Lane, Oxenbridge/Ludpit Lanes have been escalated up to our County Councillor together with the failing state of the ESSC Highways fence along the stretch of footway from the level crossing to the junction with Burgh Hill.
- ii) The inaugural public meeting of TESAG (The Etchingham Safety Action Group) took place on 12<sup>th</sup> March. A lively attendance and sufficient volunteers stepped forward to form the Sub-Committee. Clerk and EPC Chairman to progress ToR which, together with other necessary paperwork, will be circulated and ready for the first meeting of the Sub-Committee. Clerk to facilitate and then to step down. Various current concerns were raised at the inaugural meeting - (a) the possibility of a compulsory purchase of the necessary land on the north side of the High Street near the pedestrian entrance to the school to widen the footway which is dangerously narrow here (b) Footways need cleaning of surface vegetation on the final stretch of the footway on High Street south side western end (c) broken ESSC Highways fencing to footway between level crossing and junction with Burgh Hill (d) temporary orange plastic mesh fencing is not being properly replaced which is a real concern when being used on river banks and deep gullies.
- iii) Cllr Boylett had submitted his Speedwatch report which was accepted and is on file. He also reported that Black Cat training would be taken by himself and the Clerk this month.
- iv) Cllr Boylett had submitted the reports from Rother Police which were accepted and are 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.

**2426. 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/2022/255/P: **Shortridge House, Sheepstreet Lane:** Conversion of outbuilding for temporary habitable space. Replacement of existing large double wooden door to 1.2m double glazed door. Addition of small kitchen area and single shower room including toilet. **It was Resolved that EPC would not object to this application so long as there was sufficient safeguard in the conditions to ensure this was ONLY a personal & temporary permission.**
- b) There had been no further information regarding the application for change of use for the strip of land to the East of Church Lane – agricultural to a dog exercise area.

**2427. Finance:**

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

<b>Payments for March 2022</b>		<b>TOTAL PAID</b>
P Barton	Salary & Expenses March 2022	1,878.12
L Worton	Salary & Expenses February 2022	26.40
Etchingham Trust for Sport and Rec.	Half-yearly contribution – 1 March to 31 <sup>st</sup> August	500.00
ESALC	Year End Finance training - Clerk	48.00
Bistro @ the station	Mar Coffee & Cake x 19	46.70
Crane Designs Ltd	NP Mthly charge for hosting site DD 04/32/22	15.00
Crane Designs Ltd	EPC Mthly charge for hosting site DD 04/03/22	15.00
Focus Group	Office Phone DD 25/03/22	33.04
	<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>£2,562.26</b>

**It was Resolved that the payments for March 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) As the MOPs had left the meeting the following was discussed and resolved without the need to go into closed session. Council was asked to consider applying the new hourly rate of pay backdated to April 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 to both the Clerk and the Handyman. **It was Resolved that this National Award be paid in this manner to both Members of Staff.** In addition, the Clerk suggested that in view of his exemplary service the Handyman should also be moved up a Grade on the Pay Scale payable from 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2022, thus further enhancing his hourly rate. **It was Resolved that the Handyman's Grade be raised to Level 11.**

**2428. Etchingham Neighbourhood Plan**

No further updates but work continues.

**2429. Village Community Halls**

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

It is a sad fact that although revenue is recovering slowly fixed costs are rising well ahead of this. Grants have been extremely useful but will not be repeated going forward. New banners advertising the Halls are being prepared and will be displayed in the vicinity of the Halls as soon as they are available.

**2430. To receive Reports from Members and Representatives and pass such resolutions as may be necessary:-**

- a) ESALC – Cllr John Barnes is now the vice-chair.  
 b) RALC – the next meeting is 6<sup>th</sup> April.  
 c) There were no other meetings on which to report.

**2431. Correspondence**

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

**2432. Etchingam Parish Council – Notification to members of Council decisions:**

There were no notifications.

**2433. Agenda items for the next meeting to be held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2022 in The Parker Hall at 7.30pm.**

A request for information from NALC regarding issues particular to smaller local councils and as noted through the above minutes.

Signed.....

**By the Chairman**

Date.....

**21<sup>st</sup> April 2022**