

**ETCHINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Etchingham Parish Council Meeting**  
**held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April 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, 1 member 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.*

**2434. Apologies for Absence:**

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

**2435. Minutes of the previous meeting:**

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

**2436. 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 a Conservative member of RDC Planning Committee.  
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.

**2437. Etchingham Parish Council – Dispensations:**

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

**2438. Chairman's Announcements:**

Today being the actual birthday of our Sovereign, the Chairman and Parish Council wished Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II it's heartiest good wishes on this, her 96<sup>th</sup> birthday.  
There were no further announcements.

**2439. Public Time:**

- a) County Councillor Cllr Eleanor Kirby-Green was pleased to report that the 'overage' wording in respect of the School and Community Halls has finally been agreed by both the diocese and ESCC Schools. The sale will be advertised shortly. The full report is on file.
- b) District Cllr Barnes reported that the proposal to change the decision-making process of the Planning Department be in the hands of a small sub-committee has been defeated. The planning difficulties in Hurst Green regarding a s106 waver continue. This is of direct interest to Etchingham as it impacts the % of affordable homes on any development in the Rother district.
- c) One member of the public (MOP) was present and asked for an update on the shop. This will be addressed under agenda item 7a. Similarly, an application for a grant towards a 'Queen's Jubilee' event in the village will be addressed under agenda item 9b.
- d) As no members were to be excluded this right was not exercised.

**2440. Parish Matters:**

a) **Village Amenities:**

- i) The Clerk confirmed that the builders' quotes are still awaited and finding other suitable builders to take on the work is proving unexpectedly difficult.

Should there be no substantial changes to current knowledge three options were put before the councillors for the future of the shop:

- a) Sale in current condition and without attempting a 'change of use' to a developer or other interested party.
- b) Sale to a business which would not require any change of use.
- c) Complete only the urgent/necessary repairs, decoration and let to a suitable tenant of a 'repairing lease'.

It was unanimously **Resolved that if the current status continues and there was no financial penalty incurred except that which would be comfortably covered by the sale value received if the property should be sold.** This resolution will be reviewed once all the financial information is confirmed and available.

- ii) The Monthly Inspection Reports for the playgrounds were accepted.  
The repairs to the zip wire and its ramp have been successfully completed.  
The tree work on Fysie Lane/Burgh Hill woodland area is completed.
  - iii) Coffee & Cake Club – continues successfully and numbers remain stable. Ideas for further publicity were discussed - items on E Bulletin and inclusion in the Village Welcome Pack being refreshed at the moment via the PCC.
  - iv) There were no other matters to consider.
- b) Children and Young People:**
- i) In Cllr Turner's absence there was no report given.
  - ii) Cllr Boylett had submitted his report on ERGT fundraising which continues to rise steadily 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) Work scheduled on Oxenbridge/Ludpit Lanes has not been done, County Cllr Eleanor Kirby-Green to take up with Department. The dirty state of safety bollards and street signage also requires attention so that their efficacy is maintained.
  - ii) The first sub-committee meeting of TESAG (The Etchingham Safety Action Group) will take place on 26<sup>th</sup> April. Either a report from the Chairman or approved minutes from a meeting will be provided monthly to EPC going forward.
  - iii) Cllr Boylett had submitted his Speedwatch report – 30 sessions - which was accepted and is on file.
  - iv) Cllr Boylett had submitted the reports from Rother Police which were accepted and are on file. Criminal activity increases in the warmer months so public awareness is to be emphasised.
  - v) There was no written report but the Clerk told the meeting that the formation of TESAG had been welcomed by the PCSOs and Steve O'Connell of SSRP. They offered their fullest support to the group for the future.
  - vi) The Clerk to respond to the NALC request for information from smaller parish councils saying that the burden of costs on small parishes with limited precept is disproportionately biased against them trying to provide a proper service to the residents alongside all the demands of legal and financial regulations which are substantially the same for all councils no matter the size. Retaining and attracting clerks to the profession who have to work more hours than contracted to complete the work, when additional hours cannot be contracted due to precept constraints is an ever-increasing issue. In addition to the constant issue of paying clerks in line with the professional status that they actually hold. It is often not a lack of respect but a simple lack of sufficient funds.
  - vii) There were no other matters to consider.
- d) Environment and Other issues:**
- In answer to a question Cllr Barrow undertook investigating which sprays would be used on the vineyard land. There were no other matters to consider.

e) **Communications:**

The Parish magazine deadline being 13<sup>th</sup> May, Cllr Mary Barnes will write the next parish councillor page for this issue. There were no other matters to consider.

2441. **Planning:**

Cllrs Mary & John Barnes reminded Council that they are members of Rother District Council Planning Committee.

- a) RR/2021/2615/P: **Church Hill – land Lying to East of, church Ln:** Change of use from agricultural to dog walking field (alteration or addition information) increase in size of hardstanding. **It was Resolved that EPC will maintain its strong objection to the application due to its sensitive location and traffic issues.**

RR/2022/570/P: **6 Rother View, Church Ln:** Removal of existing conservatory and replace with brickwork ground floor extension. **It was Resolved that EPC would support this application.**

RR/2022/571/P: **11 Borders Ln, Red Rose Cottage:** Proposed single storey rear extension with enlarged first floor balcony. **It was Resolved that EPC has no objection to this application.**

- b) There had been no further items.

2442. **Finance:**

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

<b>Payments for April 2022</b>		<b>TOTAL PAID</b>
P Barton	Salary & Expenses April 2022	1,254.22
L Worton	Salary & Expenses March 2022	35.97
HMRC	Qtr PAYE & NICS upto 31/3/22	719.42
EDF	Electricity to Old Stores	42.30
ESALC	Ann sub/fee ESACL & NALC	251.88
ESCC	Extra 4 cuts per year	270.00
Bistro @ the station	Apr Coffee & Cake x 14	29.45
Crane Designs Ltd	NP Mthly charge for hosting site DD 04/04/22	15.00
Crane Designs Ltd	EPC Mthly charge for hosting site DD 04/04/22	15.00
Focus Group	Office Phone DD 28/04/22	46.34
	<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>£2,709.58</b>

**It was Resolved that the payments for April 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) The application for a grant of £1000 to be made to the CIC to support the Jubilee Party at The Bistro for the village on a Commonwealth theme, 3<sup>rd</sup> June, by making this payment as match funding to pay for the special marquee required to cover the entire outside area was considered. **It was Resolved that this grant be made.**

2443. **Etchingham Neighbourhood Plan**

No further update.

**2444. Village Community Halls**

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

Recovery remains slow.

**2445. To receive Reports from Members and Representatives and pass such resolutions as may be necessary: -**

- a) ESALC – Cllr John Barnes reported a successful Board meeting and that the Police forums are going very well.
- b) RALC – discussions on the Black Cat Data collecting device and road safety generally still dominated these meetings.
- c) There were no other meetings on which to report.

**2446. Correspondence**

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

**2447. Etchingham Parish Council – Notification to members of Council decisions:**

There were no notifications.

**2448. Agenda items for the next meeting to be held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022 (subsequently changed to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2022) in The Parker Hall at 7.30pm.**

ESCC Highways trees on wide verge between the level crossing and the Burgh Hill junction A265

Signed.....

**By the Chairman**

Date.....

**16<sup>th</sup> June 2022**