

ETCHINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Etchingham Parish Council Meeting
held on Thursday 21st July 2022 at 7.30pm The Parker Hall, Parsonage Croft, Etchingham

Members Present: Cllrs: Mr J Barnes (in the Chair), Mrs M. Barnes, Mr R Beeney, Mr C. Boylett and Mr T McGregor.
Also present: 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.

2475. Apologies for Absence:

There were apologies for absence from District Cllr Eleanor Kirby-Green, Cllr S Barrow and Cllr R. Turner, which were accepted.

2476. Minutes of the previous meetings:

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 16th June 2022 and the EGM held on Wednesday 29th June, having been previously circulated, were agreed and signed as an accurate record of those meetings. A spelling error on page 485 in Parish Matters, item 2464a iii was corrected (Parish not Pqrish).

2477. Declarations of Interest:

Cllr. J Barnes declared a personal interest in respect of agenda item 13, 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 reminded Council that she is a member of the RDC Planning Committee.

2478. Etchingham Parish Council – Dispensations:

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

2479. Chairman's Announcements:

There were no announcements.

2480. Public Time:

- a) In County Councillor Cllr Eleanor Kirby-Green's absence her report having been circulated was accepted with one late amendment, the date of an auction for the old school will not be until mid-autumn at the earliest. The full report is on file.
- b) District Cllr Barnes reported that RDC is failing to achieve most of its Corporate Plan, partially but not entirely due to the impact of Covid. Plans for affordable housing are still mainly on track and there are identifiable improvements within the Planning Department although much remains to be done. A 6-week consultation period on the Town Hall Renaissance has been forced through after which the project will go back to full council for discussion. The elections in May of next year will be preceded by a Budget.
- c) One member of the public (MOP) was present and following her question on the status of the Old Stores the Chairman suggested that discussion on the future of the premises should be more widely encouraged. The next issue of the Parish Magazine to be utilised. He also suggested, and it was agreed, that further clarity and transparency on EPC reserves would also be useful. RFO to progress.

The continuing support of CIC in fund raising towards to renewal of Queen's Garden playground was confirmed and EPC, as Sole Trustee of ERGT, thanked CIC for its help and generosity.

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

2481. Parish Matters:

a) Village Amenities:

- i) The Clerk confirmed progress is slow but is still going forward towards the proposed sale of the property.
- ii) The Monthly Inspection Reports for the playgrounds were accepted. The cable of the zip wire unit still awaits inspection by the installation company. The exceptionally dry and hot weather may well be a contributory factor to the issue. Tates and Paines, in the first instance, to be asked to quote for a new main gate to QG. They will also be asked to quote for a permanent boundary fence between QG and the 'corner site' but in the meantime and following leaf-fall, the existing boundary posts will be additionally marked to be visible for a professional drone operator to record their position should there be an issue at a future time.
- iii) There were no other matters to consider.

b) Children and Young People:

- i) It was noted that a new Head Teacher has been appointed for the Primary School/Riverside Federation who will take up this post in September 2022.
- 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) County Cllr Eleanor Kirby-Green continues to work with ESCC Highways on a number of local issues including the VAS by the school, the continuing and worsening state of Fysie Lane and hedge/verge maintenance in general.
- ii) TESAG (The Etchingham Safety Action Group) reports that is working steadily towards tabling its preliminary findings and recommendations to EPC. Its minutes were also presented to EPC. Having been previously circulated these were approved and are on file. The Village Fete Committee has accepted a request from TESAG to take a stall at the event on 10th September. The Chair and members of TESAG were thanked for their work.
- iii) Cllr Boylett had submitted his Speedwatch report and EPC **Resolved to accept the costs of the necessary repairs to the Speedwatch equipment.** The report is on file. The Clerk confirmed that the ESCC Highways Licence to install Black Cat Radar at three sites in the village is being progressed.
- iv) Cllr Boylett had submitted the reports from Rother Police which were accepted and are on file.
- v) There was report as the Clerk had been unable to attend.
- vi) There were no other matters to consider.

d) Environment and Other issues:

There were no other matters to consider.

e) Communications:

A new Editor has been found for the Parish magazine.

2482. Planning:

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

- a) i) RR/2022/1490/P: Shortridge House, Sheepstreet Lane: Revised scheme of approved planning. Remove garage wing. Remove office wing. Remove side gables. Reduce parking area. Add parterre to the front. Add fifth bedroom downstairs. **It was Resolved that EPC has no objection to the application.**

ii) RR/2022/1562/P: March Farm, 9 Borders Lane: Conversion of roof spaces to form new bedrooms and ensuite bathrooms including new staircase and dormers. Internal and external alterations to ground floor kitchen/living room including removal of chimney breast and chimney. Installation of additional rooflight of proposed staircase to rear elevation. **It was Resolved that EPC has no objection to the application.**

b) There had been no further items to consider.

2483. Finance:

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

Payments for July 2022		TOTAL PAID
P Barton	Salary & Expenses July 2022	1,335.66
L Worton	Salary & Expenses June 2022 - timesheet outstanding	To be paid in August
EDF	Electricity supply for The Old Stores	30.89
Bistro @ the station	Jubilee Cream Tea x 20	100.00
Mulberry & Co	Fee for Internal Audit 2021-22 inc exps etc	306.00
Etchingham PCC	Contribution to churchyard maintenance/Grant agreed minuted at 2397 b	600.00
Tim Crane	1st half-year payment grounds maintenance inc fuel surcharge of £45	1,000.00
ESALC	Councillor Training - Trevor McGregor	48.00
AiRS	VH Advisory Service Annual Subscription	144.00
Co-Operative Bank	Auto Chg Fee Sweep D/D 05/07/2022	30.00
Crane Designs Ltd	NP Mthly charge for hosting site DD 06/07/22	15.00
Crane Designs Ltd	EPC Mthly charge for hosting site DD 06/07/22	15.00
Focus Group	Office Phone DD 25/07/22	30.96
	Total Payments	£3,655.51

It was Resolved that the payments for July 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.

2484. Etchingham Neighbourhood Plan

No further update.

2485. Village Community Halls

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

No matters to report.

2486. To receive Reports from Members and Representatives and pass such resolutions as may be necessary: -

- a) ESALC – Cllr John Barnes reported a successful AGM and, although subscriptions will have to rise this will be a relatively small amount, the training programme is going particularly well.
- b) RALC – a new Chairman, David Young, has been appointed.
- c) There were no other meetings on which to report.

2487. Correspondence

The Clerk reported that the External Auditor has confirmed receipt of the Annual Governance Audit Report for 2021-2022.

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

2488. Etchingam Parish Council – Notification to members of Council decisions:

There were no notifications.

2489. Agenda items for the next meeting to be held on Thursday 17th August 2022 in The Parker Hall at 7.30pm.

Signed..... By the Chairman

Date..... 17th August 2022