

ETCHINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Etchingam Parish Council Meeting
held on Thursday 18th August 2022 at 7.30pm The Parker Hall, Parsonage Croft, Etchingam

Members Present: Cllrs: J Barnes (in the Chair), M Barnes, S Barrow, R Beeney, C Boylett, T McGregor & R Turner.
Also present: District Cllr Eleanor Kirby-Green, 4 members of the public and 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.

2490. Apologies for Absence:

There were apologies for absence from Cllr R Beeney and Mr Paul Stott which were accepted.

2491. Minutes of the previous meetings:

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st July, having been previously circulated, were agreed and signed as an accurate record of that meeting.

An error was noted: under 2477, Cllr John Barnes is no longer a Conservative member of RDC Planning Committee, however his Declaration of Interest remains as he reverts to Conservative Substitute member of RDC Planning Committee.

There was an error of omission in 2480b which should read, A 6-week consultation period on the Town Hall Renaissance has been forced through after which the project will go "to RDC the Overview and Scrutiny Committee before going" back to full council for discussion.

There is a change to fact under 2481b as the newly appointed Head Teacher for the primary school will not now be able to commence duties until January 2023.

2492. 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 the substitute Conservative member of RDC Planning Committee. Also agenda item 8a, the late addition of a planning application for Owlars, Sheepstreet Lane, as this property is within sight of his home.

Cllr. M. Barnes reminded Council that she is a member of the RDC Planning Committee.

2493. Etchingam Parish Council – Dispensations:

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

2494. Chairman's Announcements:

There were no announcements.

2495. Public Time:

- a) County Councillor Cllr Eleanor Kirby-Green's stated that there was nothing to report this month.
- b) District Cllr Barnes stated that there was nothing to report this month except in connection with the Beech Farm Planning Application which will be dealt with under agenda item 8b.
- c) Mr Michael Le Garignon, Chairman of the TESAG Sub-Committee submitted his report under agenda item 7c ii.
- d) A member of the public (Co-Chair of Riverside Foundation Governors) informed EPC of its extreme disappointment that the sale of the old school site should have been occasioned by ESCC failing to ask permission to make that sale meaning that the offer for sale would be unlikely before the February 2023 half-term when, due to all the other delays in this process, the '8-year rule' applies anyway (school actually closed at that site) and the offer for sale can be made anyway. County Cllr Kirby-Green informed the meeting that she has written to Huw Merriman MP regarding this matter and is awaiting a response.

Another member of the public (MOP), the applicant for the proposed development of the farmyard at Horsebrooks Farmyard, Willards Hill, informed the meeting that he has reapplied for Planning Consent with a 10-point plan to revise the original proposal in line with the objections previously raised and in consultation with the Planning Officer. The 10-point plan was presented and questions welcomed. Following several questions from councillors the MOP was assured that this application would be reviewed for comment under agenda item 8b.

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

2496. Parish Matters:

a) Village Amenities:

- i) The Clerk confirmed that ESALC is being informed and advice sought regarding the sale of the Old Stores.
- ii) The Monthly Inspection Reports for the playgrounds were accepted. Further quotes for replacing the QG main gate posts are still awaited.
- iii) There were no other matters to consider.

b) Children and Young People:

- i) The Parochial Church Council of Etchingham Church is reviving the Mother & Toddler morning in Parker Hall, Baby Barn Owls being unable to continue due to lack of staff.
- 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. The Clerk reported the possibility of passing the spare junior football goal post to Burwash Playing Field Committee for a donation to the Community Hall funds, to be progressed.
- iii) There were no other matters to consider.

c) Highways, Footpaths and Community Safety:

- i) The Clerk is continuing work in order to obtain a Licence for 3 Black Cat Data Collection units. County Cllr Kirby-Green reported that she continues to bring pressure to bear on ESCC Highways to revise its opinion that Fysie Lane is not a priority road repair but was pleased to note that the Church Lane potholes had been repaired.
- ii) Michael Le Garignon, Chairman of TESAG (The Etchingham Safety Action Group) presented the Report and Recommendations of that sub-committee. Revisiting the original recommendations of the Engineering Survey undertaken pre-Covid and holding a strong bias towards health and safety, 12 recommendations were amalgamated into 8. To bring the recommendations in line with the maximum possible funding available two costly proposals of minimal positive impact were removed altogether. This would not prevent them from being re-evaluated at some future date. Both detailed timetable and anticipated costs were included. If resolved to accept these recommendations Council would need to apply for a PWLB loan of a maximum of £40,000. It would require the consent of residents, demonstrated by a public meeting and village wide survey to apply for a PWLB. **It was Resolved that the clerk organise, assisted by TESAG, both the public meeting and survey required to progress applying for a PWLB of £40k. In addition, the clerk to commission ESCC Highways to undertake a 2 site, 7-day speed/volume count either end of the village centre on A265/High Street.**
- iii) Cllr Boylett had submitted his Speedwatch report, a quiet month as the unit had been in for repair during part of that time. The report is on file.
- iv) Cllr Boylett had submitted the reports from Rother Police which were accepted and on file. It was noted that there have been a number of 'number plate' thefts. While this might seem minor the police would like to be informed as a pattern is being identified of this particular nuisance.
- v) As noted on the agenda there had been no PCSO Rother Parishes Forum meeting held.
- vi) A review is being undertaken of the lighting levels at the railway station with regard to the local Dark Skies policy. There were no other matters to consider.

d) **Environment and Other issues:**
There were no other matters to consider.

e) **Communications:**
There were no matters to consider.

2497. Planning:

Cllr Mary Barnes reminded Council that she is a member of Rother District Council Planning Committee, Cllr John is also a substitute member of the Rother District Council Planning Committee. Both Councillors also reminded Council that Owers Cottage is within sight of their home.

- a) i) Late notification : RR/2022/2024/P : Owers Cottage, Sheepstreet Lane : Erection of single storey rear extension as well as garage with incidental storage space above and swimming pool located within garden. **It was Resolved that EPC would prefer to make a site visit prior to making a decision, date t.b.c.**
- b) i) RR/2022/1923/P : Great Tott Farm, Etchingam Road, Burwash : Conversion of barn to residential annex accommodation. **It was Resolved that EPC would not comment on this application but would support the Burwash PC position if requested.**
- ii) Horsebrooks Farmyard : Having received the presentation from the applicant **it was Resolved that EPC would consider the re-application when it is validated and circulated for consideration by RDC.**
- iii) Beech Farm, Sedlescombe : the updated situation was presented. **It was Resolved to delegate authority to Cllr John Barnes and the Clerk to correspond as necessary and in timely fashion with RDC and the Secretary of State, and any other persons reasonably involved.**
- iv) There had been no further items to consider.
- c) The NALC consultation paper on Short Term Holiday Lets together with the SLCC report to be sent to the Department of Culture, Media and Sport was discussed. **It was Resolved to agree these are matters of concern although, thankfully, not of immediate impact on Etchingam.**

2498. Finance:

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

Payments for August 2022		TOTAL PAID
P Barton	Salary & Expenses August 2022	1,563.22
L Worton	Salary & Expenses June 2022	62.25
L Worton	Salary & Expenses July 2022	59.75
Unipar Services LLP	Repairs & parts Speedwatch Gun	265.80
Bistro @ the station	Coffee & Cake x 13	38.85
AiRS	Training – clerk – sole trustee	24.00
HMRC	Qtr 1 PAYE & NICS	1,549.25
SLCC	Ann Membership fee	186.00
PWLB	Half-yrly payment for PWLB loans	6,724.44
Crane Designs Ltd	NP Mthly charge for hosting site DD 4/08/22	15.00
Crane Designs Ltd	EPC Mthly charge for hosting site DD 04/08/22	15.00
Focus Group	Office Phone DD 24/078/22	33.31
	Total Payments	£10,536.86

It was Resolved that the payments for August 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.

Finance: continued

- b) **It was Resolved that EPC would support the Parochial Church Council of Etchingham Parish Church in its bid to the Lottery Fund to raise grants towards essential fabric repairs to its Grade 1* listed building.**

2499. Etchingham Neighbourhood Plan

No further update. Members of the Hurst Green Group has offered to advise if it can be of help. To be followed up.

2500. Village Community Halls

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

No matters to report.

2501. To receive Reports from Members and Representatives and pass such resolutions as may be necessary: -

- a) ESALC – no meetings have been held
- b) RALC – the main concern remains speeding and dangerous traffic conditions particularly on rural roads and lanes. Support will be given to RALC pressing for a 40mph National speed limit on UC roads.
- c) There were no other meetings on which to report.

2502. Correspondence

A letter from an MOP having been circulated was considered and its contents were noted. Suggestions for possible improvements to Council procedures will be implemented if considered valid. All other correspondence to the clerk having been distributed by e-mail upon receipt there were no further items to discuss.

2503. Etchingham Parish Council – Notification to members of Council decisions:

There were no notifications.

2504. Agenda items for the next meeting to be held on Thursday 15th September 2022 in The Parker Hall at 7.30pm.

Signed..... **By the Chairman**

Date..... **20th October 2022**