

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

**Members Present:** Cllrs: John Barnes (in the Chair), Mary Barnes, Rob Beeney, Colin Boylett, Trevor McGregor and Roma Turner.

**Also present:** District Cllr Eleanor Kirby-Green, 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.*

**2532. Apologies for Absence:**

There were apologies for absence from Cllr Sid Barrow which were accepted.

**2533. Minutes of the previous meetings:**

The Minutes of the Meetings held on 20<sup>th</sup> October, having been previously circulated, were agreed and signed as accurate record of that meeting.

**2534. Declarations of Interest:**

Cllr. J Barnes declared an interest in respect of agenda item 8, Planning, as he is the substitute Conservative member of RDC Planning Committee and Cllr. M. Barnes reminded Council that she is a member of the RDC Planning Committee.

**2535. Etchingam Parish Council – Dispensations:**

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

**2536. Chairman's Announcements:**

The Chairman formally announced that Etchingam Parish Council is now the Sole Managing Trustee of Etchingam Trust for Sport and Recreation as of 10<sup>th</sup> November 2022. This change in trustee does not impact on the day to day running of the Community Halls nor the legal relationship of ETSR with any other party.

**2537. Public Time:**

- a) County Councillor Cllr Eleanor Kirby-Green reported that issues of landowners neglecting proper maintenance of drains, ditches and culverts in the vicinity of Church Lane have been passed to ESCC Enforcement. Permanent signage warning of the likelihood of flooding on Church Lane has been requested and is being considered.  
In order to be properly considered for major remedial work Fysie Lane must first be assessed by the Highways Steward prior to being presented to the Engineering Department for its consideration. The process can be protracted but, unfortunately, there are no short cuts.  
Current information regarding Havens of Warmth to be sent to the Clerk.
- b) District Cllr Barnes updated the meeting on the Town Hall project, saying that some of the authorisation for decisions taken were not transparent and there is considerable doubt as to the future of this project.  
Promised savings do not appear to be being made and deficit financing is being put in place for both this year and for next as reserves are being depleted.
- c) Mr Michael Le Garignon, Chairman of the TESAG Sub-Committee submitted his report under agenda item 7c i.
- d) There were no other members of the public wishing to be heard.
- e) As no members were to be excluded this right was not exercised.

2538. Parish Matters:

a) Village Amenities:

- i) **Village Shop/The Old Stores:** The Energy Performance Certificate has still to be updated. A neighbour has reported that brambles from the rear of the premises are spreading into their garden. To be actioned.
- ii) The Monthly Inspection Reports for the playgrounds were accepted. The possibility/ advisability of concreting the Viper waste bin more securely to be investigated.
- iii) The possibilities of encouraging and supporting Warm Havens to be investigated. There were no other matters to consider.

b) Children and Young People:

- i) Cllr Turner reported that morale at the school is high as everyone is looking forward to Christmas and then to the new Headteacher joining them in the New Year. Barn Owls continues to be very active and well attended but only 3 of the current school roll will go on to Etchingham Primary School – often because older siblings are already attending other local schools.
- ii) Cllr Boylett had submitted his report on ERGT fundraising which was approved and is available on file. Recent publicity generated by Cllr Boylett has resulted in some new people taking part in the scheme.
- iii) Having due regard to the advice received regarding the impossibility of passing total responsibility for the Queen’s Gardens playground to the de Etchingham CIC, **it was Resolved that the proposal from the CIC would have to be declined.** However, once the final calculations regarding the current financial position, next year’s budget and precept request are completed it is anticipated that, without recourse to a loan or increase in precept to cover this cost, the playground project can be begun in the Spring of 2023.
- iv) There were no other matters to consider.

c) Highways, Footpaths and Community Safety:

- i) As minuted under 2537a County Cllr Kirby-Green reported that issues of landowners neglecting proper maintenance of drains, ditches and culverts in the vicinity of Church Lane have been passed to ESCC Enforcement. Permanent signage warning of the likelihood of flooding on Church Lane has been requested and is being considered.  
In order to be properly considered for major remedial work Fysie Lane must first be assessed by the Highways Steward prior to being presented to the Engineering Department for its consideration. The process can be protracted but, unfortunately, there are no short cuts.
- ii) Michael Le Garignon, Chairman of TESAG (The Etchingham Safety Action Group), having progressed the project with ESCC Highways, reported that a further survey needs to be done by Highways on 7 sites to assess the feasibility of continuing to consider the formal request for Engineering Works to improve Road User Safety in Etchingham the cost of £2254+VAT. **It was Resolved to accept this cost and proceed with the additional surveys required.** Cllr Boylett had submitted his Speedwatch report which is on file. A PCSO with her superior officer has attended a session.
- iii) Cllr Boylett had submitted the reports from Rother Police which were accepted and are on file. Thefts of catalytic converters and number plates remain a concern. Cllr McGregor said that in his absence a suspicious caller had been caught on CCTV at this home, this has been reported but has not shown on the latest report from Rother Police to hand.
- iv) As noted on the agenda there had been no PCSO Rother Parishes Forum meeting held.
- v) **It was Resolved to list inappropriate activity on Viper; Market Square and the Church Porch as priorities for the Rother Parishes Priority document for the PCSOs.**
- vi) There were no other matters to consider.

d) Environment and Other issues:

The Northern Rother Group is progressing the issue of inappropriate lighting at the Station. **It was Resolved that EPC would support the work of this group in this regard.**

There were no other matters to consider.

- e) It was confirmed that editorship of the Parish magazine has been successfully transferred to the new editor as the previous team are moving away from the village. **It was Resolved that a vote of thanks be made to Phil and Philippa Hinde for the many years of voluntary service given to the village, including the running of the parish magazine.**

There were no other matters to consider.

**2539. 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

- a) There were no Etchingham applications to consider at the time of circulating the agenda but the following was subsequently received requiring comment before the January meeting.  
RR/2022/2627/P : Beechwood, Sheepstreet Lane : Erection of garage conversion to create annexe to the property. **It was Resolved to Object to this application as the plans indicated the creation of a separate dwelling not an annexe.** Subsequent information received from the applicant resulted in a **Resolution to retract the objection and to offer no objection so long as conditions were in place to ensure it could never become a separate dwelling from the main house.**
- b) Beech Farm, Sedlescombe: There is no update regarding the application but the Group of Parishes objecting to the application has asked EPC to reconsider the amount it is willing to contribute if a 'fighting' fund is required. **It was Resolved that such a request if made, would be considered within the prudent management of the prevailing Council reserves but that no additional funds be promised at this time.**
- c) There were no further items to consider.

**2540. Finance:**

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

<b>Payments for November 2022</b>		<b>TOTAL PAID</b>
P Barton	Salary & Expenses Nov 2022 + back pay of increase from Apr 1st	1,944.44
L Worton	Salary & Expenses Oct 2022 + back pay of increase from Apr 1st	71.88
EDF	23/09/22 – 28/10/22 shop electricity	20.88
RALC	Annual sub – 2022-2023	30.00
Bistro @ the station	Coffee & Cake Club	57.70
Netwise UK	Premium Package Hosting, Support & Maintenance, incl Domain Renewal	420.00
Co-Op Bank	Auto charge fee sweep	30.00
Crane Designs Ltd	NP Mthly charge for hosting site DD 4/11/22	15.00
Crane Designs Ltd	EPC Mthly charge for hosting site DD 04/11/22	15.00
Focus Group	Office Phone DD 2/11/22	31.87
	<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>£2,636.77</b>

**It was Resolved that the payments for November 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.**

- 2541.** *It was Resolved that the Clerk respond on behalf of EPC stating that the ESCC Local Transport Plan for 2023 – 2050 is so urban biased there is little chance for a response appropriate for a rural community.*
- 2542.** The Code of Conduct for Etchingham Parish Council was reviewed and required no amendment at this time. This review date will be noted on the document on the EPC website.
- 2543. To receive Reports from Members and Representatives and pass such resolutions as may be necessary: -**
- a) ESALC – no meetings have been held. The AGM and Conference to be held on 30<sup>th</sup> November will be reported next month.
  - b) RALC – no meeting has been held.
  - c) There were no other meetings on which to report.
- 2544. Correspondence**  
 The Clerk reported the receipt of the first application (unsolicited) for a s137 Grant 2023-2024, from BACT (Battle Area Community Transport). The general call via E Bulletin and other social media will be made at the end of December for consideration at the February meeting. Payments cannot be made until April 1<sup>st</sup> at the earliest.  
 All other correspondence to the clerk having been distributed by e-mail upon receipt there were no further items to discuss.
- 2545. Etchingham Parish Council – Notification to members of Council decisions:**  
 There were no notifications.
- 2546. Agenda items for the next meeting to be held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022 in The Parker Hall at 7.30pm.**  
 There were no exceptional items proposed at this time.

Signed..... By the Chairman

Date..... 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022