

**ETCHINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Etchingham Parish Council Extraordinary Meeting Meeting**  
**held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 7.30pm The Parker Hall, Parsonage Croft, Etchingham**

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

**2547. Apologies for Absence:**

There were apologies for absence from Cllrs Sid Barrow, Rob Beeney, and County Cllr Eleanor Kirby-Green which were accepted.

**2548. Declarations of Interest:**

There were none.

**2549. Etchingham Parish Council – Dispensations:**

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

**2550. Chairman's Announcements:**

The Chairman had no announcements to make.

**2551. Public Time:  
Flooding:**

This meeting having been called in order to properly hear public concern and discuss possible remedies regarding the increasing severity and incidence of flooding particularly in Church Lane the Chairman asked the members of the public if they wished to speak.

Two residents from Church Lane itemised not only the incidence and severity of flooding in recent months but also listed the correspondence and content between themselves and the Constituency MP, Mr Huw Merriman. His assistant, Craig Andrew had responded and confirmed that a letter had been sent to ESCC Highways and a promise of action received. Following the next incidence of flooding a couple of months later and similar action occurred. The residents have also sent additional information to the MP's office regarding the layout of the drainage ditches, culverts etc and also the ownership of same to the best of their knowledge. As a genuinely local family of long-standing this information goes back a number of generations.

A business owner from the Barnfield Industrial Estate, also on Church Lane, being unable to attend had sent a very detailed letter outlining the history of flooding at Barnfield and the various remedies it had made – everything requested – but flooding remains an issue as surrounding landowners have not followed suit.

This letter had been circulated prior to the meeting and its contents appreciated for its clarity and detail.

Discussion followed including Q&A between council and the members of the public.

**Action points:**

County Cllr Eleanor Kirby- Green is investigating the changes at County level to its responsibility for flood defence.

With the support of the MP, ideally. Press for the remainder of the works begun in 2000 and completed in Robertsbridge but not then continued upstream to be revisited and scheduled.

Approach, encourage and attempt to persuade the Environment Agency to make the River Rother an exception to the no-dredging rule as insufficient depth to allow proper egress of flood water can completely negate all the drain and culvert work (that also needs to be as a matter of urgency).

Maintain pressure on ESCC Highways to enforce proper maintenance standards on landowners with regard to their responsibilities for water management.

To discuss the possibility of reinstating the pond on the opposite side of Church Lane to Rotherview and Quinces on land owned by the Ahrens family.

Cllr McGregor to consult with a personal contact regarding the issue of the Network Rail infrastructure at and around the station, and its upkeep and regular maintenance.

Going forward if a working party be deemed useful the Parish Council would facilitate and support such a group.

**2552. Etchingam Parish Council – Notification to members of Council decisions:**

There were no notifications.

**2553.** There being no further items to discuss the meeting closed.

**Signed**.....

**Date**.....