

**ETCHINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Etchingham Parish Council Meeting**  
**held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 7.30pm**

**Members Present:** Cllrs: John Barnes (in the Chair), Mary Barnes and Trevor McGregor.

**Also present:** a member 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.*

**2554. Apologies for Absence:**

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

**2555. Minutes of the previous meetings:**

The Minutes of the Meetings held on 17<sup>th</sup> November, having been previously circulated, were agreed and signed as accurate record of that meeting.

**2556. Declarations of Interest:**

There were none.

**2557. Etchingham Parish Council – Dispensations:**

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

**2558. Chairman's Announcements:**

The Chairman had no announcements to make.

**2559. Public Time:**

- a) County Councillor Cllr Eleanor Kirby-Green did not report at this meeting.
- b) District Cllr Barnes reported that the Cabinet had approved a figure of £5M or 1/3 expected annual expenditure, whichever is the smaller, to be an acceptable Reserve going forward. RALC has asked for a meeting with the Chief Executive. Savings of £2M will be necessary both this year and next.
- c) Mr Michael Le Garignon, Chairman of the TESAG Sub-Committee submitted a short report (7c ii).
- d) The member of the public (MOP) asked for an update on the shop (7a i) the budget for 2023-24 (9a). The Chairman did respond generally by reprising the budget including the 'safety net' for ETSR during the Covid lockdown which was not needed and how this would be earmarked for future projects of village benefit. Some additional savings were incurred during lockdown as expenditure was curtailed.
- e) As no members were to be excluded this right was not exercised.

**2560. Parish Matters:**

**a) Village Amenities:**

- i) **Village Shop/The Old Stores:** The Energy Performance Certificate has been updated. Appropriate Agents will be appointed in January and if a relatively quick sale is not achieved then the property may be offered at auction. The MOP reminded Council that when the de Etchingham CIC had the tenancy of the premises it had invested £70K in the original refurbishment.
- 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) *It was Resolved that the Emma Beeney Award for Outstanding Service to Etchingam 2023 be awarded to all the Etchingam Residents, including the volunteers at the Social Club, for exceptional community spirit during the severe weather on 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> December endeavouring to keep traffic moving safely, give shelter where necessary and empty every grit bin in the village to help others. To be awarded at the Annual Parish Meeting, date to be confirmed mid to late May 2023.*

iv) There were no other matters to consider.

**b) Children and Young People:**

i) Cllr Turner being absent there was no report.

ii) Cllr Boylett had submitted his report on ERGT fundraising which was approved and is available on file.

iii) There were no other matters to consider.

**c) Highways, Footpaths and Community Safety:**

i) Cllr McGregor reported that Network Rail will be making a site visit to the area around the Station/Church Lane by the local section manager and routes drainage manager to assess works that could be undertaken by themselves to alleviate the flooding issues at the station and in Church Lane. The outcome is awaited with interest.

ii) Mr Michael Le Garignon, Chairman of the TESAG Sub-Committee had confirmed that the additional road traffic surveys having been completed the results are now awaited. On receipt these will be shared and discussed with EPC.

iii) Cllr Boylett had submitted his Speedwatch report which is on file.

iv) Cllr Boylett had submitted the reports from Rother Police which were accepted and are on file.

v) As noted on the agenda there had been no PCSO Rother Parishes Forum meeting held.

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.

There were no other matters to consider.

**e) Communications:**

There were no other matters to consider.

**2561. Planning:**

**Cllr Mary Barnes reminded Council that she is a member of Rother District Council Planning Committee, Cllr John Barnes is also a substitute member of the Rother District Council Planning Committee.**

a) There were no Etchingam applications to consider.

b) Beech Farm, Sedlescombe: while this application is on hold as it has not been 'taken down' by RDC the Northern Rother Group is still considering whether to submit further correspondence or not.

c) It was noted that the revised application by Horsebrooks Farm had been refused, although Etchingam Parish Council supported it.

d) There were no further items to consider.



**2562. Finance:**

- a) A final resolution regarding the Budget and Precept for 2023-2024 will be taken at the next meeting.
- b) Authorisation of payments – the Clerk presented the accounts for payment to the Council.

<b>Payments for December 2022</b>		<b>TOTAL PAID</b>
P Barton	Salary & Expenses Dec 2022	1,519.48
L Worton	Salary & Expenses NOV 2022	163.98
O Bilai	Salary & Expenses Dec 2022	305.52
EDF	Shop electricity	15.06
Tim Crane	Grass cutting	1,000.00
J H Payne & Sons	Gate works (QG)	2016.00
ESALC	Planning training (Cllr McGregor)	48.00
Greenfish Consulting	EPC for Etchingham Old Stores	270.00
Crane Designs Ltd	NP Mthly charge for hosting site DD 4/12/22	15.00
Crane Designs Ltd	EPC Mthly charge for hosting site DD 04/12/22	15.00
Focus Group	Office Phone DD 23/12/22	41.15
	<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>£5,409.19</b>

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

- c) It was ***Resolved that the Council handyman be instructed to undertake the work to restructure the office for 2 persons.***
- d) It was ***Resolved that English Heritage Gardens be instructed to purchase a disease resistant Elm, prepare site for planting, assist with official planting, install pipe for watering in the event of drought, supply and install post and rail fencing to protect tree – 6ft diameter. Budget £1000.00 (Follow up visits if required to be costed separately.)***

**2563.** The Council will continue to raise the issues of flooding discussed at the EGM approaching all third parties to try and alleviate the current, unacceptable situation.

**2564. To receive Reports from Members and Representatives and pass such resolutions as may be necessary: -**

- a) ESALC – the AGM and Conference attended by the Cllr John Barnes and the Clerk addressed issues including changes to arrangements for the forthcoming elections and the need for an updated and fit for purpose Resilience Policy being maintained by Councils.
- b) RALC – the November meeting emphasis moved from speeding, for the time being, to planning, housing and the Levelling Up Bill.
- c) There were no other meetings on which to report.

**2565. Correspondence**

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

**2566. Etchingham Parish Council – Notification to members of Council decisions:**

There were no notifications.

**2567. Agenda items for the next meeting to be held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023 in The Parker Hall at 7.30pm.**

There were no exceptional items proposed at this time.

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

**Date..... 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023**