

ETCHINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of Etchingham Parish Council
held on Thursday 18th April 2024 at 7.30pm The Parker Hall, Parsonage Croft, Etchingham

Members Present: Cllrs: John Barnes (in the Chair), Mary Barnes, Sid Barrow, Rob Beene, Colin Boylett, and Trevor McGregor.

Also present: County Cllr Eleanor Kirby- Green, P Barton – Clerk to the Council. There was one member of the public.

2796. Apologies for Absence: Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs and, which were accepted.

2797. Minutes of the previous meeting:

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th July 2023, having been previously circulated, were agreed and then signed as a true and accurate records of those meeting.

2798. Declarations of Interest:

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

Cllr. J Barnes declared that he is the substitute Conservative member of RDC Planning Committee.

2799. Etchingham Parish Council – Dispensations:

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

2800. Chairman’s Announcements:

The Chairman took the opportunity to formally thank outgoing Councillor, Roma Turner for her years of service to the Council and to the community, wishing her well with her move to Buckinghamshire.

2801. Clerk’s Report:

The Clerk updated council on the approach to Rother Rural Trust on behalf of a resident in need of an electric buggy. Waiting further response. County Cllr Kirby-Green has received confirmation that the highway adoption of the lower section of Parsonage Croft is now going ahead. The application for a Lawful Development Certificate for the eco-loo in Queen’s Gardens has been lodged. The 5-year insurance term ends 31st May so a new quote is awaited from Zurich which will be compared with alternatives upon receipt.

2802. Public Time:

- a) County Cllr Eleanor Kirby-Green reported that Government grant funding will be used towards specified projects only such as regeneration in Sidley, improvements to the link road from Bexhill to the A21, completing necessary works to the De La Warr pavilion and the Leisure Centre. A dedicated committee will be set up to manage all this. Her detailed report is on file.
- b) Cllr John Barnes reported a quiet time. The **Government** grant monies coming to Bexhill will be focused on the town but, without consultation, it was decided that the rural areas will have a mobile primary care hub to be organised by RVA.
- c) Cllr Barrow, on behalf of a number of MOPs unable to be present, raised the issue of the tractor tyres delivered unannounced to the Station area which are not suitable to use as planters (too large) and how to dispose of them. While not strictly council business or responsibility this is obviously of concern.
- d) As no members were to be excluded this right was not exercised.

2803. Parish Matters:

a) **Village Amenities:**

- i) **Village Shop/The Old Stores:** The Method Statement secured by Cllr McGregor and resolved as acceptable has been forwarded to the Environment Agency. The two parties to the repair/replacement project will be invoiced separately to avoid the need for the Council to use Contracts Finder which would only add to an already critical timeframe. Solicitors to be instructed.

James Barrow (groundsman) to be asked to destroy brambles behind shop encroaching on the neighbouring garden.

- ii) The Monthly Inspection Reports for the playgrounds were accepted and are on file. The blacksmith has been instructed to repair the gate through into the churchyard to prevent it damaging the new QG path. Following the tree inspection in the Church Lane area remedial ***it was Resolved that remedial action be taken as necessary and that Gray Nicolls be alerted to trees on their land requiring action particularly with respect to the safety of the public footpath.***
- iii) Inconsiderate dog owners are again either leaving use 'pooh bags' lying around or not bothering to clear up at all. Another reminder to be made via E Bulletin. There were no other matters to consider.

b) Children and Young People

- i) Mrs Marshall, the headteacher, has been asked for a report for the Annual Report which is happy to supply as in previous years.
- ii) Cllr Boylett had submitted his report on ERGT fundraising which was approved and is available on file. He reported that the old GAYL page has expired but that a new one has been set up with a target of £1000 per annum. A reasonable amount to secure funds going forward for repair and eventual replacement.
- iii) There were no other matters to consider.

c) Highway, Footpaths and Community Safety

- i) As contained within the County Cllr report scheduling of major work to Fysie Lane remains on the list. Preparatory investigations will be made shortly with the actual work to follow later.
- ii) Cllr Boylett had submitted his Speedwatch report which is on file, sadly speeding seems to be increasing again. The police have supplied a body worn camera for use if abusive or aggressive behaviour is anticipated. Cllr Boylett continues to chase the supplied of the Black Cat (Traffic Radar) unit to progress this project.
- iii) Cllr Boylett reported a quiet time with no official reporting from the PCSO or Rother police.
- iv) There were no other matters to consider.

d) Environmental and Other issues

Complaints made by two MOPs to Cllr John Barnes regarding Borders Farm regarding tree work and slurry spreading have been investigated by Cllr Barrow. The tree work is long overdue so looks more invasive than appears and the slurry spreading was contained so that there was no threat to the River Dudwell. A useful contact established.

However, raw sewage in the fields behind the shop and other residential buildings continues to give concern. Two manhole covers have been replaced and a 'clear up' undertaken. The concern remains that this will be insufficient going forward.

There were no further issues to report.

e) Communications

There were no matters to consider.

2804. 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) RR/2024/586/P : Barden, Sheepstreet Lane : Proposed increased footprint to lean-to structure to previously granted under planning permission RR/2023/2150/P. ***It was Resolved that there was no objection to this application.***

b) Any other planning matters:

The 7 new houses for Burgh Hill, Hurst Green are being recommended for approval in spite of objections from residents, HG PC and EPC. Update after Planning meeting.

Currently there is no feedback on the application for the land behind Braemar, High Street, Etchingham. Highways will be approached again regarding its comments and efforts to inform officers as to the realities of this application will be renewed.

The MOP present kindly offered to work out the What3Words location so it can be used to locate the 'illegal' encampment in Burgh Woods in Hurst Green adjacent to the boundary with Etchingham to pass onto Enforcement.

2805. Finance:

a) The schedule for Receipts and Payments for April was presented and approved.

Paulette Barton	Salary & Expenses for April 2024	2485.14
Olga Bilai	Salary & Expenses for April 2024	568.40
Laurence Worton	Salary & Expenses for March 2024	56.05
Bistro @ the Station	Coffee & cake Club for 9 people	18.00
PCC	Contribution to grass cutting the churchyard	600.00
PCC	Sponsorship towards village fete 2024	500.00
Barn Owls Pre-School	Contribution to replacing mud kitchen & equipment	700.00
BACT	Donation	120.00
Rother Rural TGrust	Donation	60.00
Air Ambulance KSS	Donation	150.00
ESALC & NALC	Annual fees 2024-2025	253.15
Rural Services Partnership	Membership 2024-2025	60.00
Paul Martin	Planning services & Drawing Eco-loo fee	500.00
ESCC	2024-2025 Cutting – 4 extra custs	350.40
K McKay Tree Surgery	Tree cutting – QG and Church Lane	660.00
The Co-Operative Bank	Auto chg fee sweep	30.00
PWLB	Half-yearly payment to PWLB	6724.44
B Online Ltd	Monthly payment due to broadband supplier (April)	39.12
EDF	Electricity for Shop	45.00
	Total Payments	13,919.70

b) There were no other financial matters to consider.

2806. Review of Etchingham Parish Council Policies and Latest Consultations

a) Employee Handbook: as it was Resolved that, each councillor be responsible for checking the following to complete adoption prior to Internal Audit. Member/Officer Protocol=JB: Recruitment Policy=JB: Grievance Policy=JB: Disciplinary Policy=JB: Pay Policy=TM: Redundancy Policy=TM: Employee Expenses Policy=RB: Statement on Employee Management=RB: Performance Management Scheme=CB: Training and Development Policy=CB: Sickness and Absence Policy=MB: Bullying and Harassment (Dignity at Work) Policy=MB: Adverse Weather Policy=SB: Confidential Reporting (Whistleblowing) Policy=SB.

b) **Job Description and Contract of Employment for the Clerk/RFO:** to be progressed against the industry norm template.

2807. To receive reports from Members and Representatives passing such resolutions as may be necessary

- a) **ESALC** – A Board meeting has been held but nothing noteworthy for Etchingham.
- b) **RALC** - it was resolved that there would no longer be a facility via RALC for mapping as circumstances have changed. There were reports on both traffic and traffic management. Hastoe Housing Association also made a presentation. CLT's were also discussed with particular reference to Icklesham.
- c) No other meetings or conferences had been attended by either members or the Clerk.

2808. Correspondence

All correspondence received had previously been circulated.

2809. Etchingham Parish Council – Notification to members of Council decisions:

There were no notifications.

2810. Agenda items for the next meeting (Annual Statutory Meeting) to be held on Thursday 16th May in The Parker Hall at 7.00pm not mentioned in the minutes above.

There were none other than those listed throughout the minutes.

2811. In Closed Session the nominations for the Emma Beeney Award for Outstanding Service to Etchingham were discussed and the recipient for 2024, which was decided unanimously, will be announced at the Annual Parish Assembly on 16th May when the presentation will be made.

Signed By the Chairman – original held on file

Date..... 16th May 2024