

ETCHINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of the Etchingham Parish Council
held on Thursday 18th April 2019
at 7.30pm at the Parker Hall, Parsonage Croft, Etchingham

Members Present: Cllrs Mr John Barnes, Mrs M Barnes, Mr S Barrow, Mr C Boylett, Mr F Brophy and Mrs A Childs.

Also present: Ms P Barton – Clerk to the Council, also members of the public. *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.*

1900. Apologies for Absence:

There were apologies for absence from District Cllr Robert Elliston, Cllr Geoffry Lucas and Mr Paul Stott, Vice Chairman of ETSR, which were accepted.

1901. Minutes of the previous meetings:

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st March 2019, having been previously circulated, were agreed and signed as a correct record of that meeting.

1902. Declarations of Interest:

Cllr. J Barnes declared a personal interest in respect of agenda item 13, Etchingham School and Community Development as the Chairman of ETSR.

Cllr. M. Barnes declared a personal interest in respect of agenda item 13, Etchingham School and Community Development as Churchwarden and reminded Council that she is a member of the RDC Planning Committee.

Cllr. Mrs A Childs declared a personal interest in respect of agenda item 13, Etchingham School and Community Development as the Chairman of School Governors.

1903. Etchingham Parish Council – Dispensations

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

1904. Chairman's Announcements:

The Chairman reminded everyone that at the forthcoming Local Elections that there would be two votes available to each voter on the District Council ballot paper.

1905. Public Time:

a) ESCC County Cllr John Barnes reported that there was nothing to add to the previous month's report. Cllr Boylett asked to be allowed to express thanks to the County Councillor for the invitation to the ESCC Chairman's Afternoon Tea at Horam as it was both an interesting and enjoyable event.

b) It was reported that as the month falls into the purdah period prior to the Local Elections there was nothing to report.

The Chairman took the opportunity to thank the two outgoing District Councillors for their hard work, wishing District Cllr Elliston a well-deserved and happy retirement; and best wishes for the future to District Cllr Mary Barnes as she will be standing for a neighbouring Ward not including Etchingham at the elections in May.

c) It was reported that the talk given by local resident, Nick Smith, on 6th April was well attended and thoroughly enjoyable. ETSR look forward to presenting another evening with Nick once the final leg of his round Britain voyage has been completed.

d) A resident reported blocked drains in the village and the increase in rubbish being thrown into drainage ditches and river banks along the south side of the A265.

A resident expressed surprise that Planning Permission had been granted for the old Bracon site on the corner of Church Lane, previously used by them as a car park, as suitable for residential in view of the flooding issues.



- e) No members of council will be excluded from the meeting so no further reports or comments.

1906. Parish Matters:

a) Village Amenities:

- i) The Draft Lease/s for the Old Etchingam Stores having been received from our Solicitor after a final review it will be sent to the tenants for their comments.
- ii) Cllr Boylett reported that progress continues in a steady way. Unfortunately the application to Tesco Bags of Help has proved unsuccessful but the outcome of Police Property Act Fund is still awaited. The full report is on file.
- iii) The Clerk reported that a further improvement scheme for Queen's Garden and quote is awaited.
- iv) There were no other matters to consider.

b) Footpaths:

- i) There was nothing to report on footpaths this month but a status report from the owners of Burgh Woods would be sought.
- ii) Congratulations were given to Cllr Brophy for the excellent results both in terms of volunteer numbers and rubbish collected and disposed of on the Village Spring Clean & Tidy Day. Special thanks to the volunteers, adult and children, and to Paul and his staff at the Bistro for serving everyone so well at the end of the event and to Cllr Barrow for disposing of all the bags of rubbish and assorted bulky items collected.
Concern was expressed that discarded evidence of possible drug taking activity had been found at the rear of the storage containers in Queen's Garden and around the shelter in Viper. The Police will be informed and additional inspections of these areas instigated to maintain public safety.
- iii) There were no other matters to consider.

c) Highways and Community Safety:

- i) a) The faulty VAS at the School has been reported to ESCC Highways for action.
The issues reported during Public Time will be reported to ESCC Highways.
b) The third quote for the Engineering Survey is still awaited. An alternative company will be approached if it is not forthcoming.
- ii) Cllr Boylett reported that training for the new volunteer is going well. There are still difficulties in providing evening sessions due to volunteer availability. The full report is on file.
- iii) There were no other matters to consider.

d) Environment and Other issues:

- i) Concern was expressed at the level of lighting maintained at the railway Station until well after the ETA of the last train.
- ii) Local farms have co-operated in a scheme to eradicate Giant Hogweed on the whole river bank and Japanese Knotweed by electrocution to avoid compromising their organic status. Successful to date, a return date is set to return to complete work and hold a demonstration of the process.
There were no other issues to consider.

1907. Planning:

Cllr Mary Barnes reminded Council that she is a member of Rother District Council Planning Committee.

- a) There were two application to consider.
RR/2019/595/P: Applegarth, High Street – Single storey rear extension and new side window. ***It had been Resolved to support this application however when appraised of objections raised by neighbours the comment was revised to no objection from EPC but a request to RDC to take the neighbours objections into account.***
RR/2019/913/T: T1 and T2 (OAK) – Crown reduction and crown thinning. Circa up to 4 metre reduction. ***It was Resolved to query repeating a similar application in 2017 and the necessity of re-doing work unless necessary for public safety and it should be conditional upon sympathetic regard to the natural symmetry and growth pattern of such trees.***
- b) There were no other planning matters to consider.

1908. Finance:

- a) **Authorisation of payments** – the Clerk presented to Council accounts for payment. It was **Resolved that the following payments be approved and that the cheques together with copies of the relevant invoice be signed by two councillors to comply with Financial Regulations and best practice.**

Statement of Receipts & Payments for April 2019

Receipts			
De Etchingham CIC	1 month rent due 01/03/19 Cali & Co		416.50
		Total Receipts	£416.50
Payments March			
		VAT	PAID
P Barton	Salary & expenses - April 2019	39.80	1,336.42
Appleby Petfield Ltd	Fee for reapplication to RDC - renewal of consent for works to Cricket Field	70.00	420.00
PCC	s137 Grants 2019/2020		500.00
Etchingham Improvements Committee	s137 Grants 2019/2020		500.00
Friendship Club (previously Darby & Joan)	s137 Grants 2019/2020		100.00
Rother Valley Ladies	s137 Grants 2019/2020		100.00
Brownies	s137 Grants 2019/2020		100.00
Hurst Green 1 st Responders	s137 Grants 2019/2020		100.00
BACT	s137 Grants 2019/2020		100.00
Rother Rural Trust	s137 Grants 2019/2020		50.00
The Co-op Bank	Auto Chg Fee Sweep DD 05/04/19		30.00
Crane Designs Ltd	NP Mthly charge for hosting site DD 4/4/19	2.50	15.00
Crane Designs Ltd	EPC Mthly charge for hosting site DD 10/4/19	2.50	15.00
Focus Group	DD 24/04/19 Office Phone to 29/03/2019	4.32	25.92
		Total Payments	£3,392.34

1909. Etchingham Proposed Cricket Field Development:

Appleby Petfield has confirmed that it is progressing the re-application for Planning Permission with Rother District Council to carry out the work to the Cricket Field for a further 3-year term.

1910. Etchingham Neighbourhood Plan

- a) **It was Resolved that the parcels of land owned by the Parish Council should all be nominated as Local Green Spaces (LGSs) in the Etchingham Neighbourhood Plan.**
- b) The Consultant, working closely with the Steering Committee, is progressing the draft plan documents ready for the pre-submission stage to send to RDC for comment before mid-May.

1911. Public Realm Working Party

Confirmation has been received that RDC has paid ESCC for additional grass cutting this financial year to continue the previous schedule.

1912. Etchingham School and Community Development

Cllr. J Barnes declared a personal interest as Chairman of ETSR; Cllr. M Barnes declared a personal interest as a Churchwarden; Cllr. A Childs declared a personal interest as Chairman of School Governors.
Cllr John Barnes had nothing further to report on the progress of the Lease.



1913. To receive Reports from Members and Representatives and pass such resolutions as may be necessary:-

- a) There had been no meetings of SALC so there was no report.
- b) Cllr. Childs has been unable to attend the RALC meeting and had yet to receive the minutes.
- c) Cllr. Childs reported that the September intake list is already full with a waiting list. FES will be organising this year's Duck Race. Full report on file. Contact will be made with Burwash Primary School to investigate their 'Lollypop Lady' scheme which is using a volunteer rota and not an employee of ESCC.
- d) There were no other meetings or conferences attended.

1914. Correspondence

As preliminary applications for the available 3 co-opted seats on the Parish Council following the uncontested election had already exceeded that number to ensure proper time for discussion ***it was Resolved to begin the AGM including regular agenda items at 6.30pm to be followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30pm.***

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

1915. Etchingham Parish Council – Notification to members of Council decisions:

There were no notifications.

1916. Agenda items for the next meeting

As noted through the above minutes.

Closed Session after departure of press and the public due to the personal nature of subject matter

Will be minuted separately for restricted circulation.

Signed.....

Date.....18.10.2019