

ETCHINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of the Etchingham Parish Council
held on Thursday 21st February 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, Mrs A Childs and Mr G Lucas.

Also present: Ms P Barton – Clerk to the Council, District Cllr Robert Elliston and Mr Paul Stott, Vice Chairman of ETSR 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.*

1865. Apologies for Absence:

There were no apologies for absence.

1866. Minutes of the previous meetings:

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th January 2019, having been previously circulated, were agreed and signed as a correct record of that meeting.

1867. 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.

Cllr. G. Lucas declared a personal interest in respect of agenda item 13, Etchingham School and Community Development as a School Governor and as Churchwarden.

1868. Etchingham Parish Council – Dispensations

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

1869. Chairman's Announcements:

The Chairman reminded the meeting that Etchingham village will be part of the new Ward of Burwash and The Weald and that the Local Elections on 2nd May 2019 will reflect this change.

1870. Public Time:

- a) ESCC County Cllr John Barnes reported that ESCC will be raising local tax by the maximum permitted without recourse to a referendum, and that following a one-off payment from Central Government cuts to services have been less severe for this year than was feared.
- b) It was reported that RDC will be raising the rate by £5. A new waste management supplier has been appointed to begin operating from late June. Civil Parking Enforcement will be introduced once details are fully finalised but it is likely urban areas will benefit before the roll-out to the rural areas.
- c) It was reported that the first half year figures for ETSR show a slow but steady improvement on last year and it is hoped to reach 'break-even' by year end. Regular users remain loyal and enthusiastic. Nick Smith will be giving a talk on 6th April called "Slow Boat around the UK" on his travels around the coast of the UK. This talk will cover his travels from Falmouth to Oban.

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- d) There is concern about the safety of the tall trees on the south side of Haremere Hill opposite Tollgate Cottage. Clerk to progress getting this checked.
Pot holes continue to give concern: near the Wire Works in Church Lane; the A265 southern lane on the Hurst Green side of the level crossing and near the 30mph sign southern lane beginning of Straight Mile. Residents can report direct on the ESCC website and these points will be raised at next SLR with ESCC Highways. Growing concern regarding destruction of highways edges caused by two way traffic in narrow lanes, the impatience of drivers caught in single-lane working due to parking in the High Street and on-street parking using the unmade up verges as well as the highway. This on-street parking is also detrimental to drainage ditches running alongside the carriageways. Drainage ditches are of particular concern in Church Lane and Borders Lane.
The replacement of the damaged safety barriers on Church Lane/Church Hill was noted and appreciated.
- e) No members of council will be excluded from the meeting so no further reports or comments.

1871. Parish Matters:

- a) **Village Amenities:**
- i) Consideration of the new lease due to start in June will be discussed without press or public in attendance at the end of the meeting in private due to commercial sensitivity.
- ii) Cllr Boylett reported that progress remains slow but steady. Full report is on file.
- iii) a) The Clerk reported that the equipment supplier of one of the units still fit for purpose on the VIPER site had visited and prepared preliminary estimates for replacement equipment on both Queen's Gardens and the VIPER site, should further repairs on either playground remain inappropriate.
b) The Clerk presented the estimate from Tim Crane for maintenance of Queen's Garden, the VIPER site and the Council land in Church Lane for 2019. ***It was Resolved that the small uplift in cost was justified and to reappoint Tim Crane for this work in 2019. It was also Resolved to decline the estimate to undertake additional hedging and tree work on the VIPER site as so few units were still in use.*** To be reviewed as units come back into use.
- iv) Under 'other matters', a request to assist with the monthly charge from Mail Chimp of £10 to distribute E Bulletin (the number of recipients making it too large to do through Google mail or similar 'private' email address) was considered as such a service is run by many parish councils directly and not by a volunteer. ***It was Resolved to fund E Bulletin at this rate in acknowledgement of the valuable service it performs for the Community.*** Thanks are minuted to Nicky Menzies for her continuing work running E Bulletin and to Steve Millea for his technical support.
- b) **Footpaths:**
- i) There was nothing to report on footpaths this month
- ii) Having received information regarding 'The Great British Spring Clean 2019' ***it was Resolved that the EPC spring clean on Saturday 13th April would apply to join the national day being run by Keep Britain Tidy and to inform RDC for its support.*** There were no other matters to consider.
- c) **Highways and Community Safety:**
- i) a) ESCC Highways were informed of a 'scam' being perpetrated in the village by a man claiming to be from the team working on the A21 in Hurst Green (not the remit of ESCC Highways) offering to tarmac drives with 'left over tarmac', but to do so when the Etchingam pavements were being repaired this month (this is ESCC and it confirmed there were no scheduled repairs to pavements in Etchingam). The advice is to refuse the offer, do not accept an estimate or quote as this may be taken as agreement to the work, inform Trading Standards UK.
b) The objective and scope of an engineering survey required by Etchingam to proceed with a request to ESCC for work to upgrade road safety in the village, either with full or match funding, proposed by Mr Phillip Hinde was accepted and ***it was Resolved that the Clerk proceed to seek quotes for this work from qualified companies.***
- ii) Cllr Boylett presented the monthly report from Speedwatch. The full report is on file. There is currently a nationwide search for more volunteers which will hopefully bring forward some more help for the Etchingam team.

iii) There has been a report that the village sign on the corner of Oxenbridge Lane and the A265 is now in poor condition. Images were displayed and **it was Resolved that the Clerk proceeds to seek quotes for repair or replacement as necessary from qualified companies.** There were no other matters to consider.

d) **Environment and Other issues:**

i) It was reported that raw sewage is again blighting the field behind the houses and old village stores, opposite the Church/Queen's Gardens. South East Water aware but seem not to be resolving the matter fully, **it was Resolved that the Clerk should contact the Environment Agency to seek advice.**

There were no other issues to consider.

1872. **Planning:**

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

a) There were two applications to consider.

RR/2019/172/P: Little Orchard, Burgh Hill, single and two storey extensions and alterations. **It was Resolved by a majority to make no objection – Cllr Lucas supported.**

RR/2019/221/P: Brambles & Atherstone – land between, Burgh Hill, the erection of 1 detached house and the demolition of the existing timber one and half storey double garage and replacement with single storey garage. **It was Resolved to make no objection.**

b) Notification arrived too late to show on the current schedule that RR/2018/2680/P: King Johns Nursery, Sheepstreet Lane has been granted permission to change the use of part of the site to allow hosting of Wedding Ceremonies, on condition that it be restored to its former condition on or before 28 February 2022 in order that RDC might check any detriment to local amenity.

There were no other planning matters to consider.

1873. **Finance:**

a) **3rd Quarter Accounts 2018/19.**

In completing the 3rd Quarter Accounts a clerical error was found in the 2nd Quarter Accounts which has been rectified, however this has further delayed the presentation of the 3rd Quarter Accounts which is now deferred to the next meeting.

b) The continuation of grant to the Tuesday Lunch Club having been previously resolved, further discussion decided that assistance would be offered if requested to support enrolment of new participants. No further action at this time.

c) **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 February 2019

Receipts			
De Etchingam CIC	1 month rent due 01/01/19 Cali & Co		416.50
		Total Receipts	£416.50
Payments February			
		VAT	PAID
P Barton	Salary & expenses - February 2019	13.25	1,038.50
Tim Crane	Bi-annual coppice of boundary of QG		250.00
WEL Medical Limited	Replacement battery for defibrillator	32.99	197.94
ETSR	Half Yearly contribution to office costs		500.00
CPRE	Annual Subscription		40.00
PWLB	Half Yearly repayment of loans		6724.44
Crane Designs Ltd	Monthly charge for hosting website	2.50	15.00
Focus Group	DD 25/02/2019 Office Phone to 30/01/2019	3.76	22.57
		Total Payments	£8,788.45

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1874. Etchingam Proposed Cricket Field Development:

The results of the village survey were read out by the Clerk.

"Should the Parish Council proceed at this time to apply for a PWLB loan of £100,000 to proceed with taking up the Option to Lease the field known locally as 'the Cricket Field' including the work required to fulfil planning requirements."

Total number of votes received	238		
Less ineligible votes i.e. not on the Full Electoral Register	19		
Total number of eligible votes	219	Yes proceed	No not at this time
		94	125

The ineligible votes are when respondent's addresses were not on the Full Electoral Register for Etchingam. They are genuinely thanked for their interest and should know that the split of the ineligible votes between yes and no was very similar to those that were eligible, so even if the ineligible votes had been included this would not have changed the outcome on this occasion.

It was Resolved that as there are still 16 years remaining on the Option to Lease all future Parish Councils during that time would revisit this subject once during the life of each of those Councils also that a Working Party be set up to investigate alternative less costly ways to achieve the facility.

It was reported that payment to the professional fund raiser, who facilitated the match funded grant of £20,000 from RDC, that would normally be made on receipt of the grant but, due to the delay in proceeding, this could not be claimed and thus paid. EPC was asked to consider paying this sum in advance of the grant being claimed. **It was Resolved that payment be made to the professional fund raiser on presentation of an invoice.**

1875. Etchingam Neighbourhood Plan

The amended Draft Policies having been returned by the Consultant, are receiving final correction and sign-off prior to incorporating with other necessary documents so they can be presented to RDC.

1876. Public Realm Working Party

There were no comments on the Consultation on the Public Realm Strategic Framework offered by RDC.

1877. Etchingam 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. G Lucas declared a personal interest as a Churchwarden and School Governor.

Cllr. A Childs declared a personal interest as Chairman of School Governors.

Cllr John Barnes confirmed that the final successful resolution of the Lease is expected shortly.

1878. Local Government Ethical Standards

The Review by the Committee on Standards in Public Life as pertaining to Parish and Town Councils having been previously circulated and read **it was Resolved that EPC would continue to follow NALC guidelines and utilise the template to be provided if its Code of Conduct or other policy documents required revision.**

1879. 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 reported on the RALC meeting of 9th January which included a visit by the new Police Inspector for the Rother District who outlined future plans. ESCC Highways also reported on plans to support local parishes in improvement schemes. RDC reported its news and the conduct of the forthcoming local elections. Rother Voluntary Action presented a talk on grants and help available to parish councils. Full report and the minutes are on file.
- c) Cllr. Childs reported on school activities including the Meet the Head and Chair of Governors Afternoon. It was also confirmed that the search for a new Executive Headteacher continues. Full report on file.
- d) The Clerk reported that a Local Elections Briefing for Clerks organised by SSALC had been a very useful and worthwhile session. There were no other meetings or conferences attended.

1880. Correspondence

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

1881. Etchingam Parish Council – Notification to members of Council decisions:

There were no notifications.

1882. Agenda items for the next meeting

As noted through the above minutes.

Closed Session after departure of press and the public due to commercial sensitivity of subject matter

Will be minuted separately for restricted circulation.

Signed.....*John Barnes*.....

Date.....*21 March 2019*.....

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