

**ETCHINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of the Etchingam Parish Council**  
**held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021**  
**at 7.30pm via Zoom**

**Members Present:** Cllrs: J Barnes (in the Chair), Mrs M Barnes, Mr S Barrow, Mr C Boylett, Mr D Lambert and Ms Roma Turner.

**Also present:** District Cllr Eleanor Kirby-Green and Ms P Barton – Clerk to the Council, there were no 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.*

**2204. Apologies for Absence:**

There were apologies for absence from Cllr Beeney, which were accepted.

**2205. Minutes of the previous meetings:**

The Minutes of the Meetings, including Appendix 1, held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021 having been previously circulated, were agreed and signed as an accurate record of that meeting.

**2206. Declarations of Interest:**

Cllr. J Barnes declared a personal interest in respect of agenda item 14, Village Community Halls as a Trustee of ETSR and that he is now appointed as substitute should a Conservative member of RDC Planning Committee be absent.

Cllr. M. Barnes declared a personal interest in respect of agenda item 14, Village Community Halls as a member of the Parochial Church Council and reminded Council that she is a member of the RDC Planning Committee.

**2207. Etchingam Parish Council – Dispensations**

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

**2208. Chairman's Announcements:**

The Chairman welcomed District Cllr Kirby-Green to the meeting. There were no other announcements.

**2209. Public Time:**

- a) The ESCC budget has been agreed at an increase of 3 ½ %. The Health and Social Care pilot scheme, being successful, is to be rolled out by Central Government and more support for the adult social care area has been promised.
- b) Cllr Kirby-Green reported that (a) the Strand Meadow development in Burwash, that would have impacted on Etchingam as well as Burwash, had been refused. (b) Due to increasing demand at a time of staff shortages, the Planning Department has reluctantly suspended the Pre-Application service and only the most urgent and important of Enforcement complaints will be actioned. (c) There will be no ring-fence around the Community Grants fund, instead an outsourced facilitated Lottery will be run to support schemes. (d) £70k will be allocated to facilitated hybrid meetings after Covid restrictions are lifted. (e) Expenditure on the new Bexhill Town Hall was explained including the considerable sums required for professional fees. (f) Some District Cllrs fear that the current reserves of £17m will very quickly become exhausted.
- c) A member of the public had lodged a query with the Clerk as he was unable to attend:  
Although the future of the old school site is outwith the Parish Council remit, it was wondered whether its good offices, along with the ESCC Councillor, could apply any pressure to see this matter satisfactorily concluded and the land released. County Cllr Barnes has raised this item with ESCC before but will continue to do all he can to pursue it.  
Cllr Mary Barnes, on behalf of the church, reminded Council that the funeral of Phil Blake, the postmaster, was forthcoming and that candles to be lit in church for the service were still available. **It was resolved that a donation would be made in his memory via the funeral directors.** A sum of £25 was later agreed.  
Cllr S Barrow undertook to check the state of the ditch behind the rear gardens of the High Street bordering the field as some residents were blaming excess ground water on their properties on this source.
- d) As no members were to be excluded this right was not exercised.

**2210. Parish Matters:**

- a) **Village Amenities:**
  - i) It was **Resolved that as a National Lockdown has been re-imposed the rent holiday remain for the shop premises.** To be reviewed at the end of the current Lockdown. The Clerk informed Council that an estimate had been obtained to repair the slate roof and because of the sum involved it would be necessary to go out to tender to establish a contractor. Clerk to arrange and present to Council.
  - ii) The Monthly Inspection Reports for the playgrounds were accepted. **It was Resolved that the damaged bench on Burgh Hill be repaired, also that the rotted posts once forming the agility trail be removed and the surface made good.** Cllr Barrow undertook to remove the damaged picnic bench from Viper to prevent further damage.
  - iii) Discussion of the creation of wildflower verges and increasing the number of protected verges was deferred. In the meantime Councillors will note verges warranting protection. There were no other matters to consider.



- b) **Children and Young People:**
- i) Cllr Turner reported that the school plans to re-open in line with Government wishes on 8<sup>th</sup> March.
  - ii) Cllr Boylett had previously circulated the report on ERGT fundraising for the playground which is on file. There being no questions the report was approved and accepted.
  - iii) There were no other matters to consider.
- c) **Highways, Footpaths and Community Safety:**
- i) The agenda for the next SLR meeting will include pressure to bring in a 30mph buffer zone
  - ii) Cllr Boylett's Speedwatch reports were presented to the meeting, having been previously circulated they are on file. As there were no questions the reports were approved and accepted.
  - iii) Cllr Boylett having previously circulated the monthly reports from Rother Police and from the PCSOs did not receive any questions on them so they were accepted and will remain on file.
  - iv) The Clerk reported that the monthly meeting for PCSOs, clerks and interested councillors had yet to take place this month so would be reported at the next EPC meeting.
  - v) Cllr Lambert reported that there were no apparent issues with footpaths
  - vi) There were no other matters to consider.
- d) **Environment and Other issues:**  
There were no other matters to consider.
- e) **Communications:**  
The format of the Council page in the Parish magazine will feature a short piece from the Clerk highlighting progress on Council projects in the village away from the rigid format of meeting Minutes. Then each issue a different Cllr will write an article detailing the work of one of their responsible areas held in their portfolio. The first article will be by Cllr J Barnes on the thought behind the budget for 2021-2022 and the difficult decisions that had to be taken.

Submission to the Editor will be via the Clerk to establish an 'identity' there will, however, be no editing at this stage. If any is required it will only be done by the editor of the magazine. The Clerk will hold a rota so each councillor has their say. Cllr Turner asked if she might take the Christmas edition, other requests for a particular issue will be accommodated if at all possible. It is up to individual councillors to decide which areas of their portfolio they would like to write about.

**2211. Planning:**

Cllr Mary Barnes reminded Council that she is a member of Rother District Council Planning Committee and Cllr John Barnes reminded Council that he is now listed as a substitute Conservative member of Rother District Council Planning Committee should there be an absentee

- a) RR/2021/16/P - Burghfield, Sheepstreet Lane. *It was Resolved that there were no objections to the application. However it is to be noted that while acceptable in principle the design was not in keeping with the AONB.*  
RR/2020/2450/P - 1 Church Cottage, High Street. *It was Resolved that there were no objections to the application.*
- b) *It was Resolved that EPC would formally ask the RDC Enforcement Officer to investigate the container and railway sleepers recently placed by the roadside in an agricultural land abutting Church Lane.*

**2212. Finance**

- a) Financial reports will be available at the next meeting.
- b) Authorisation of payments – the Clerk presented the accounts for payment to the Council.

<i>Payments February</i>		<i>Total Paid</i>
P Barton	Salary & Expenses Feb 2021	1293.12
L Worton	Salary & Expenses January 2021	22.10
SSALC Limited	Transparency Training (Clerk)	36.00
NetwiseUK	NetWise V2 Upgrade Premium	199.00
A&B Construction	Old Stores - replace rotten back door & check roof	1,497.60
Crane Designs Ltd	NP Mthly charge for hosting site DD 07/02/2021	15.00
Crane Designs Ltd	EPC Mthly charge for hosting site DD 07/02/2021	15.00
Focus Group	DD 26/02/2021 Office Phone to 05/01/2021	26.17
	<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>£3,103.99</b>

*It was Resolved that the payments for February 2021 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.*



2213. **RDC Consultation of New Corporate Plan**  
*It was Resolved that final completion of the consultation paper be delegated to the Chairman and Clerk.*
2214. **EPC Policies**  
*It was Resolved to approve (i) the Code of Conduct Policy (ii) the Media & Communications Policy (iii) Data Protection Policy and (iv) Document Retention Policy as previously circulated and presented at the meeting. As public documents they will be available on request as hard copies and on the Council website to read and download as required.*
2215. **Etchingham Neighbourhood Plan**  
 The Clerk, as Acting Secretary to the NP Steering Committee, reported that it was anticipated the final draft, prior to formal submission for Reg 14 of the Neighbourhood Plan would be available shortly. Also that with the kind offer of help from Cllr Boylett that the website would be substantially updated and upgraded in preparation for the submission.
2216. **The Emma Beeney Award for Outstanding Service to the Parish of Etchingham**  
 There is no update to report and final discussion and decision on the method of presenting the award will be taken at the April meeting.
2217. **Village Community Halls**  
**Cllrs J & M Barnes reminded the meeting of their personal interest in ETSR.**  
 There is nothing further to report to this meeting.
2218. **To receive Reports from Members and Representatives and pass such resolutions as may be necessary:-**
- a) SSALC – Cllr J Barnes reported that it seemed likely that ESALC would continue as an entity with part time employees but continuing the work of offering advice and training utilising outsourcing as required to maintain the service.
  - b) RALC – continues its work on socially unacceptable speeding and also stressing the increasing importance of Biodiversity supported down to grass roots level.
  - c) There were no other meetings or Conferences attended by the Members or the Clerk.
2219. **Correspondence**  
 All correspondence having been distributed by e-mail upon receipt there were no further items to discuss.
2220. **Etchingham Parish Council – Notification to members of Council decisions:**  
 There were no notifications.
2221. **Agenda items for the next meeting to be held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom**  
 As noted through the above minutes.

Signed.....

Date.....18.03.2021