

ETCHINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Etchingham Parish Council Meeting
held on Thursday 9th December 2021 at 7.30pm The Parker Hall, Parsonage Croft, Etchingham

Members Present: Cllrs: Mr J Barnes (in the Chair), Mrs M Barnes, Mr S Barrow, Mr R Beeney, Mr C Boylett, and Ms R Turner

Also present: 3 members of the public and Ms 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.

2374. Apologies for Absence:

There were apologies for absence from District Cllr Eleanor Kirby-Green and Mr Paul Stott of ETSR, which were accepted.

2375. Minutes of the previous meeting:

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 18th November 2021 having been previously circulated, were agreed once the sum paid to Netwise (£378.00) is added to the Schedule of payments and were then signed as an accurate record of that meeting.

2376. Declarations of Interest:

Cllr. J Barnes declared a personal interest in respect of agenda item 11, Village Community Halls as a Trustee of ETSR and also 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 11, Village Community Halls as a member of the Parochial Church Council and reminded Council that she is a member of the RDC Planning Committee.

2377. Etchingham Parish Council – Dispensations:

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

2378. Chairman's Announcements:

The Chairman had one urgent item to add to the agenda at regarding face to face/electronic/hybrid meetings going forward, there were no announcements to make that would not be covered under the agenda points.

2379. Public Time:

- a) County Councillor Cllr Eleanor Kirby-Green being absent had supplied a written report outlining progress on the drainage issues in Church Lane and other ESCC projects, the full report is attached at Appendix 1.
- b) District Cllr Barnes reported that RDC had received a satisfactory audit but if the current savings cannot be maintained there will be serious difficulties by 2024/25. Worst scenario is a £4M deficit this financial year. The forward investment programme in housing continues. The Planning Department efficiency is improving but still work to be done. Michael Gove, for Central Government, is considering more 'design clout' for Parish Councils making such comments on Planning Applications.
- c) Mr Jon Carter addressed Council in order to explain his evidence and rationale behind the retrospective planning applications for New House Farm as this was not available when neighbours opposed to the applications and made representations at a previous meeting. He felt, and produced log sheets of activity during lettings, copies of correspondence with neighbours and other paperwork (this is all on file) that the Council would find he had in fact not been in contravention of the previous conditions. Then followed a Q&A session with the Councillors including agreeing to erecting a larger name board on Sheepstreet Lane to avoid confusion for his guests arriving for their first visit.



Mr Carter, and his manager, were thanked for their time and openness particularly during the Q&A session. It was resolved that Council would revisit their previous decision during Agenda point 8, Planning Applications when further discussion between them would be had.

Another member of the public, who had raised these points at a previous meeting, said that there had been a marked improvement in communications and she trusted that would continue. Regarding the budget for 2022-2023 it was agreed that more timely transparency would accompany the presentation, resolution and, in turn, the Precept figure was Etchingham that would be the basis for the rate charged on its behalf by RDC.

The reason for the unprecedented rise in 2021-2022 being the support that might have been required by ETSR due to Covid Lockdown, discussion then followed on ways it might go forward publicising the Halls building on the exposure they received from visitors attending the Vaccination Centre, including a fresh look at the website.

The Old Etchingham Stores was also discussed as the current tenancy being terminated makes this an ideal time to reassess its value to the village and how, going forward, it might best serve the village interests.

- d) As no members were to be excluded this right was not exercised.

80. Parish Matters:

a) Village Amenities:

- i) In order to assess the right course of action going forward for the Old Etchingham Stores it was **Resolved that the Clerk be authorised to proceed with appointing a professional and complete survey of the property.**
- ii) The Monthly Inspection Reports for the playgrounds were accepted. It was **Resolved that the cost of replacing and installing a new cable to the zip wire in VIPER be brought to the next meeting.**
- iii) Coffee & Cake Club – remains well supported.
- iv) There were no other matters to consider.

b) Children and Young People:

- i) Cllr Turner had nothing to report but the Clerk had been able to attend the Nativity play in the school which was enthusiastically received by the maximum audience allowed and the FES Christmas Fair was well supported and a fundraising success.
- ii) Cllr Boylett's report on ERGT fundraising having been previously circulated was approved and is available on file. The clerk will look into moving the Bank Account to avoid the bank charges recently introduced by HSBC.
- iii) There were no other matters to consider.

c) Highways, Footpaths and Community Safety:

- i) County Cllr Kirby-Green is chasing a positive answer to address the drainage issues in Church Lane.
- ii) Cllr Boylett presented the monthly Speedwatch report which was accepted and is on file. The Clerk continues to seek clarification on the next stages of purchasing and utilising a Black Cat device.
- iii) Cllr Boylett presented the reports from Rother Police and our PCSOs farm break-ins.
- iv) There were no other matters to consider.

d) Environment and Other issues:

There were no matters to consider.



- e) **Communications:**
There were no matters to consider.

2381. 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/2021/2615/P: Church Hill - Land Lying to East of, Church Lane: Change of use from agricultural to dog exercise /dog walking field, with agility course, seating area with shelter and solar panel lights attached to the fence. Part-retrospective.

It was Resolved to object to the re-application on grounds of central position in AONB, flooding and the detrimental carbon footprint created by car journeys to the site; minor amendments and explanations not being sufficient to warrant otherwise.

RR/2021/2722/P: Church House Farm, Church Lane: Replacement of existing PVC windows, alterations to the openings on the ground floor south elevation and removal of rear porch and fitting of 'eaves' roof light.

It was Resolved to Support this application.

- b) The applicant for the two New House Farm applications previously discussed and comments resolved had presented his case during Public Time (2379c). Council discussed this information at some length but **Resolved that it would make no further comments at this time on the RDC website but did not preclude making comment at a future date.**

2382. Finance:

- a) The revised version of the Draft Budget for 2022-2023 was presented to Council. Subject to minor adjustment as final figures are available, this Budget will be presented to Council at the January meeting and the Precept set.
- b) Authorisation of payments – the Clerk presented the accounts for payment to the Council.

Payment December		TOTAL PAID
P Barton	Salary & Expenses December 2021	1,231.05
L Worton	Salary & Expenses November 2021	101.04
Tim Crane	2 nd half year payment grass cutting public spaces	905.00
Crane Designs Ltd	Amendments to old village website	90.00
Crane Designs Ltd	NP Mthly charge for hosting site DD 06/12/21	15.00
Crane Designs Ltd	EPC Mthly charge for hosting site DD 06/12/21	15.00
Focus Group	Office Phone DD 27/12/21	24.87
	Total Payments	£2,381.96

It was Resolved that the payments for December 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.



- b) Kirby McKay, tree surgeon, will begin the work to QG as scheduled on 4th January 2022. Recommendations for work to be scheduled following the recommendations of the Tree Survey and subsequent first quote from KPS to the woodland at Fysie Lane to be progressed as quickly as possible.

2383. Etchingam Neighbourhood Plan

Delays continue but RDC being kept fully informed. Steering Committee attended at the Town Hall, Bexhill with Planning Officers to discuss and recommend on options regarding housing sites for Etchingam to form part of the revised Local Plan currently in preparation.

2384. Village Community Halls

Cllrs J & M Barnes reminded the meeting of their personal interest in ETSR.

There is currently nothing new to report.

2385. To receive Reports from Members and Representatives and pass such resolutions as may be necessary:-

- a) ESALC – the AGM, via Zoom, was well attended and successfully completed its business.
- b) RALC – no meeting on which to report.
- c) The Clerk attended a virtual presentation introducing Highways News, while Cllr Boylett had been unable to attend he has successfully accessed this site and signed in for updates going forward.

2386. Correspondence

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

2387. Etchingam Parish Council – Notification to members of Council decisions:

There were no notifications.

2388. Agenda items for the next meeting to be held on Thursday 20th ^{stat} January 2022 in The Parker Hall at 7.30pm.

As noted through the above minutes.

Signed..... *A Barnes*

Date..... 20 Jan 2022