

ETCHINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Etchingham Parish Council Meeting
held on Thursday 16th March 2023 at 7.30pm The Parker Hall, Parsonage Croft, Etchingham

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

Also present: One member of the public, County Cllr Eleanor Kirby-Green and 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.

2602. Apologies for Absence:

There were apologies for absence from Cllr Roma Turner which were accepted.

2603. Minutes of the previous meetings:

The Minutes of the Meetings held on 16th February and 3rd March 2023, having been previously circulated, were agreed and signed as true and accurate records of those meetings.

2604. 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.

2605. Etchingham Parish Council – Dispensations:

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

2606. Chairman's Announcements:

The Chairman had no announcements to make.

2607. Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report having been previously circulated was accepted and is on file.

2608. Public Time:

- a) County Cllr Eleanor Kirby-Green reported that rural bus services are being subjected to scrutiny nationwide, including East Sussex, to establish whether they are fit for purpose and viable. She is in conversation with Highways regarding the gritting of the part of Church Lane between Barnfield and the railways bridge, also the issue of grit bins not being replenished as requested (now done). Extra money has been made available to tackle the pot hole problem.
- b) District Cllr John Barnes reported that the RDC Budget has been accepted, although acknowledging that the ~~slippage on Capital spend is massive~~ ^{£2 million drop due to reserves meant that} there must be more efficiency savings to compensate. ^{if the reserves were not to fall below £5 million the slippage in capital spend was helpful, but temporary.}
- c) The member of the public (MOP), a resident of Church Farm Close and affected by the applications to amend the s106, had nothing to add to the previous meeting comments. Cllr John Barnes confirmed that the application has been 'called in' and legal experts consulted.

An absent MOP had requested that the issue of parking tickets being issued to churchgoers attending a Sunday morning service was raised. The extension of the time allowed (to 2-hours) and, potentially a small extension to the available parking spaces and/or change double yellow lines to single outside the church will be brought up at the next RDC consultation. The aim at the time these restrictions were introduced being to prevent commuters taking up spaces that might be needed for a weekday church service, such as a funeral, were in fact proving too restrictive in use. County Cllr Kirby-Green offered to speak to the Principle Parking Officer to explore possibilities.