

ETCHINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of Etchingham Parish Council
held on Thursday 14th December 2023 at 7.30pm The Parker Hall, Parsonage Croft, Etchingham

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

Also present: P Barton – Clerk to the Council. There were no members of the public.

2736. Apologies for Absence: Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Rob Beeney, County Cllr Eleanor Kirby- Green which were accepted.

2737. Minutes of the previous meetings:

The Minutes of the Meetings held on 19th October, 16th and 30th November 2023 having been previously circulated, were agreed and then signed as a true and accurate records of those meetings.

2738. Declarations of Interest:

There were none.

2739. Etchingham Parish Council – Dispensations:

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

2740. Chairman’s Announcements:

The Chairman had no announcements.

2741. Clerk’s Report:

The Clerk did not present a report as all urgent matters were already on the agenda.

2742. Public Time:

- a) County Cllr Eleanor Kirby-Green being absent had no report to make however we were told that the government has made more money available for the repair of potholes.
- b) Cllr John Barnes reported that the RDC year-end deficit will be £3.8M so the savings program will have to be accelerated. Due to the investment being made into Homes for the Homeless there is a smaller percentage available for accommodation. There was a bad audit report on the Blackfriars Project. There were no questions.
- c) No members of the public being present there were no items raised.
- d) As no members were to be excluded this right was not exercised.

2743. Parish Matters:

a) **Village Amenities:**

i) Village Shop/The Old Stores: Cllr McGregor continues to work with the interested parties to achieve an equitable outcome. Currently a ballpark figure of £25k is likely to be the EPC commitment but much work remains to be done before this can be confirmed.

b) **Children and Young People**

There were no urgent matters to report or requiring resolution.

c) **Highway, Footpaths and Community Safety**

There were no urgent matters to report or requiring resolution.

d) **Environmental and Other issues**

The field opposite the church and behind the shop has again been subject to raw sewage coming from faulty sewers. Cllr McGregor to try and establish an appropriate Environment Agency contact to escalate this beyond 'quick fixes' that do not last.

e) **Communications**

There were no urgent matters to report or requiring resolution.

2744. **Planning:**

a) **To consider and make recommendations on local planning applications as follows:**

There were no applications listed for this meeting.

b) **Any other planning matters:**

There are new Green Field Rules

2745. **Finance:**

a) The Interim Audit was approved and ***it was Resolved that the Asset Register and Risk Register must be brought up to date as a matter of priority.***

b) The Draft Budget for 2024-2025 was presented by the RFO for consideration. After discussion a revised Draft will be prepared for the meeting in January for final consideration.

c) The schedule for Receipts and Payments for November and December were presented and approved.

Paulette Barton	Salary & Expenses for November 2023	2441.82
Olga Bilai	Salary & Expenses for November 2023	527.04
Laurence Worton	Salary & Expenses for October 2023	83.35
HMRC	Q2 PAYE & NI	1990.22
Bistro @ the Station	Coffee & Cake Club x 9 people	24.65
NetWise UK	Hosting, support and maintenance PC website	420.00
Tim Crane	Grass Cutting (Village maintenance)	1090.00
B Online Ltd	Monthly payment due to broadband supplier	36.85
EDF	Electricity for Shop	23.00
Paulette Barton	Salary & Expenses for December 2023	1981.78
Olga Bilai	Salary & Expenses for December 2023	341.04
Laurence Worton	Salary & Expenses for November 2023	66.72
Bistro @ the Station	Coffee & Cake x 18 people	50.90
RALC	Annual membership fee	30.00
B Online Ltd	Monthly payment due to broadband supplier	39.34
EDF	Electricity for Shop	23.00
	Total Payments	9174.718

d) A donation of £250.00 was received from Mr Adrian Hanstock and will be used towards any Grant requested from the Village Fete Committee for the event in 2024. EPC wished to record its sincere thanks for this generous gift. There were no other financial matters to consider.

2746. To receive reports from Members and Representatives passing such resolutions as may be necessary

- a) **ESALC** – no meeting held.
- b) **RALC** - the meeting was postponed
- c) No other meetings or conferences had been attended by either members or the Clerk.

2747. Correspondence

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

2748. Etchingham Parish Council – Notification to members of Council decisions:

There were no notifications.

2749. Agenda items for the next meeting to be held on Thursday 18th January 2024 in The Parker Hall at 7.30pm.

There were none other than those listed throughout the minutes.

Signed By the Chairman original held on file

Date..... 18th January 2024