

MINUTES OF THE ETCHILHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 30 JULY 2015 at 8.15pm in the VILLAGE HALL

Present: Mrs Bridewell, Mr Holgate, Mr Nash, Mr Smith and Mr Woods (Chairman)

Apologies:

In attendance: Mrs D Robertson

AGENDA

1. Declarations of Interests and Dispensations

None.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed.

3. Matters arising

- Flooding: Wiltshire expected the Vactor machine to come in August or early October. Mr Holgate reported that following the last remedial work water was now flowing satisfactorily between The Green and 4 Manor Farm Cottages. Mr Woods had reminded Highways about the outstanding pipe work between The Village Hall and The Green. It was agreed that he would contact Ms Sarah Hanks again to suggest that the whole of the willow tree opposite The Old Mission Hall be felled and uprooted to prevent roots regrowing into the cleared pipework. The tree felling team should contact Mr Nash about entry into the field.
- Central Path and Grass: Mr Woods had re-requested the clearing of the path and verges between The Village Hall and Appletree Cottage and asked that a further clear-up be done if the Vactor team left any mess. Mr Woods would speak to Mr & Mrs Wimble about overhanging growth and Mrs Bridewell would contact Mr Nash after the meeting about his side of the path. Mr Woods would also ask Ms Sarah Hanks to provide the Council with a formal report of tasks completed by the Highways contractors so that the Council could check that the jobs had actually been completed satisfactorily. Wiltshire had now cut the verges at the Lion Monument A342 junction.
- Play Equipment: Mr Woods had obtained a detailed quote from a supplier which Mrs Bridewell read out. The actual play item which the Village Hall Social Committee had identified would cost about £3,100 but with the safety surfacing and ancillary work the cost rose to £9,700. The Committee would need to think further about this because even with the half share of the Fete proceeds (£1,142) this would leave a large sum to be raised unless Bishop's Cannings' request for joint S106 expenditure on equipment at both Bishop's Cannings and Etchilhampton was approved by Wiltshire.

4. Points from the public

Mrs Robertson reported that she had heard that Mr James Cowdry would be unable to cut the playing field hedge as he had done since its planting. Mr Woods would seek to confirm this and, if correct, Mr Nash would ask Mr David Stevens, the field grass cutter, for a quote. The Village Hall would need to consider the hedge alongside the tarmac playground also previously cut by Mr Cowdry.

Mrs Robertson mentioned that Devizes Community Area Transport Group had been discussing 30mph speed restrictions. Mr Woods had told Mrs Kate Freeman, of the DCATG, that the Council had long requested a 30mph limit on the Etchilhampton Hill to All Cannings Road. He would contact Wiltshire about this again. It would be desirable to have a limit on the Coate Hill entrance to the village and for the restriction to extend to Heath Knapp.

Mrs Robertson asked about potholes and was informed that Wiltshire had already been made aware of the problems by the Council.

5. Treasurer's Report

Mr Nash gave his report:

- Balances – Lloyds: £ 858.49
Nationwide £2,086.33
- Mr David Stevens, playing field grass cutting – payment of £265.00 approved
- St Andrew's Churchyard maintenance - £40.00 to Wiltshire for a green wheelie bin, agreed

Nothing had yet been heard from the external auditors, Grant Thornton, about the audit material submitted.

Merger of bank accounts. Mr Nash suggested that as interest rates were so low it might be appropriate to transfer the Nationwide account into the Lloyds Bank account. He would find out more about this and report back.

6. Correspondence (see Annex) – to agree action

The Council decided to take no further action on the items in the Agenda except the Transparency Website (see Item 9, below).

7. Planning Applications

None.

8. Reports of meetings

- Annual Parish Meeting: Mr Woods reported on the Annual Parish Meeting on 28 May. The police had not attended but Mr Philip Whitehead, Wiltshire Councillor, had outlined current activity at Wiltshire level. There was a suggestion to close the Wiltshire owned public conveniences in Devizes. The Council had told him that it did not agree. He also reported that the street light energy saving scheme, which the Council had applied to join some time previously, was being resurrected but not at this stage for villages. Overall, central government funding cuts meant that Wiltshire would be examining all its activities with a view to cost savings. Discussion of broadband revealed the huge gap between theory and reality at ground level.
- Wiltshire Public Transport Meeting on 16 July: Mr Woods had attended this workshop also attended by Mrs Kate Freeman of DCATG. The meeting had not been very satisfactory as the system of dividing attendees into workshop groups led to overlapping and conflicting suggestions. The intention was to launch a trial of the new Connect 2 services on 17 August but no timetables were yet available. Papers from the meeting would be circulated.
- Devizes Area Board on 18 May: Mr Woods had attended. The minutes would be circulated. Good news was that the bus service to the Royal United

Hospital in Bath would be continued but now financed by the RUH and Community Health authorities.

9. Transparency Website

Draft website material had been circulated but no changes had been received from Councillors. Given the lack of proper broadband in the village it all seemed rather pointless. There was no news yet about possible funding by central government/WALC. Start up and initial annual costs to date had been borne by Mr Woods personally. It was agreed that when everything was ready future funding should come from the Council itself. Meanwhile Mr Woods would continue to take matters forward.

10. Any Other Business

- REMAP. A leaflet from Remap Wessex about its free services for disabled people was circulated for information.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm

ANNEX

- 1 – Transparency draft website publication (previously circulated)
- 2 – WC Parish Emergency Assistance Scheme 2015/16 (previously circulated)
- 3 – WC Broadband Information