

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ETCHILHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 12 JANUARY 2017 (DRAFT)

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

Apologies:

In attendance:

AGENDA

1 Declarations of Interests and Dispensations

Mr Woods declared his interests as an adjacent landowner in Item 3, Matters Arising, in planning applications 16/02344 and 16/02349 and was granted dispensations for any further action.

2 Minutes of the Last Meeting

The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed.

3 Matters Arising

- Planning Applications 16/02344 and 16/02349. Mr Woods having declared his interest as an adjacent landlord and continuing his dispensation reported that following the agent's surprise withdrawal of both applications, which he had circulated by email to the Council and other interested villagers on 23 November 2016, that this was not necessarily the end of the story as the applicant could re-apply. The Council congratulated Mr Woods on his handling of this matter. As regards Freedom of Information, Wiltshire had declined to answer the FOIA requests from the Council. Mr Woods was authorised to follow up with Wiltshire.
- Playing Field Benches. Mr Nash had sorted out the finances with Mr Colin Read, Village Hall Treasurer. Mr Sanders had confirmed his refusal of payment for erecting the new benches.
- Highways:
 - Closure of road C60 – Wiltshire had completed minor works near Shortland's Lane
 - Wiltshire had now repaired the unclassified village road opposite Moss Cottage but had not done any work outside Aytanyn despite the warning notice and description received from them about closing the road for works to be done. Mr Woods was awaiting an explanation from Wiltshire. Wiltshire had still not done anything about the concrete cover and drain outside Manor Orchard.
- Wiltshire had confirmed that they would erect a "Slow – Children" sign on the bank by the playing field entrance opposite Badgers and that they required a contribution of £75 from the Council. The Council agreed this payment noting that nothing would be done before the next financial year.

4 Points from the Public

Mr Smith tabled an email from Mr Charles at Badger's Cottage suggesting concreting/tarmacking the entrance slope to the field opposite Badgers and laying Perfo matting in and just beyond the gateway. Mr Smith thought that only the entrance ramps should be considered not intrusion into the field. The Treasurer advised that there were no funds available to pay for even this so that it would need to be considered in another year. This was agreed.

5 Treasurer's Report

Balances (as at 1 January 2017):

Lloyds Bank - £104.36

Nationwide - £ 0.00 [money having been transferred into Lloyds]

Payments ratified:

- Mr D L Stevens - £147.77 and £147.23 (grass cutting)
- Kernon Countryside Consultants - £156.00 (farming advice)
- Etchilhampton Amenity Fund - £847.21 (balance from purchase of benches)

- Mr Dave Roberts had sent an email about his £200 contract for safety inspections and risk assessments of the equipment in the playing field as per previous discussions and agreement by the Council. Mr Woods was authorised to ask Mr Roberts whether his email constituted an invoice or just contractual terms. If the latter he was authorised to notify Mr Roberts that the Council agreed the terms and would expect an invoice in a year's time.

- Budget and Precept. Mr Nash tabled a very helpful aide memoire on the Budget and Precept which he had prepared. The Council then considered anticipated items of expenditure but agreed not to precept to cover the potential costs of a contested by-election. The Precept for 2017/18 was agreed at £3,000 and Mr Nash would send the relevant papers to Wiltshire.

- VAT. Mr Nash would file a VAT reclaim for the VAT element of the costs of the playing field benches.

6 Flooding – Contact with the Environment Agency

After his distribution by email and hard copy of the notes from the Environment Agency about flooding Mr Woods would chase up responses from villagers and then take the matter forward with the Agency.

7 Broadband - To consider action

Mr Holgate suggested that now the planning battles over 16/02344 and 16/02349 had subsided it would be a good time to follow up the Council's previous contact with Wiltshire and BT about getting hi-speed broadband into the village. He agreed to prepare a survey form with a simple uniform speed measuring link to obtain information on current speeds around the village. It was agreed that this was an excellent idea and Mr Woods would send the survey by email to those on the list of residents who had agreed to be contacted by email on the planning issues.

8 Correspondence (see annex)

NFA except as specifically minuted.

- BT Phone Kiosk. Mr Woods had responded to a new Wiltshire and BT suggestion that the kiosk be closed by resending the Council's standing objections with the material used previously as there had been no improvements in mobile phone coverage since the previous attempted closure. The Council endorsed this and agreed to continue to oppose closure.

- Wiltshire Playing Pitch Strategy. Mr Woods had contacted Wiltshire for explanatory material but the officers concerned had not yet been able to provide it.

9 Planning Applications

No comments made on the applications listed in the Annex. [For withdrawal of the Manor Farm All Cannings slurry lagoon and silage structure see Item 3 above.]

10 Reports of Meetings

- Devizes Community Area Transport Group (CATG) on 26 October 2016. Mr Woods reported that it was at this meeting that Wiltshire had agreed to erect the "Slow Children" sign subject to the £75 contribution from the Council.

11 Any Other Business

None.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10pm.

ANNEX

- 1 Environmental Agency letter re Groundwater Flood Warning Service (email)
- 2 BT Phone Kiosk consultation (email)
- 3 Draft Wiltshire Playing Pitch Strategy and Open Space Study – Devizes Community Area (email)
- 4 Notice of closure of UC Etchilhampton village road (part) on 9 January 2017 (email)
- 5 Wiltshire withdrawal of Planning Applications 16/02344 and 16/02349 (email)
- 6 Planning Applications (email):
 - 16/10514/TCA – to remove low branches of ash tree over cables and pollard poplar to reduce risk of failure – Sandiacres
 - 16/10510/TCA – To fell one London plane tree and reduce group of three Norway maple trees by 30% - Periwinkle
 - 16/108/32/TCA – To pollard multi-stemmed poplar tree – Sandiacres
 - 16/11466/TCA – To fell cherry tree – Merchant House
- 7 Mr D Roberts' quotation/invoice for play equipment safety inspections (email)