

DRAFT MINUTES OF ETCHILHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL (VIRTUAL) MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 22 APRIL 2021 AT 7.30pm

Present: Mrs Clark, Mr Hanson, Mr Nash, Mr Smith and Mr Woods (Chairman)

Apologies:

In attendance:

AGENDA

1 Declarations of Interests and Dispensations

Mr Woods had declared his interest in Items 11c as owner and 11f as adjacent owner. His requests for dispensations were granted.

2 Apologies for absence

None.

3 Approval of the Minutes of the last meeting

The Minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman.

4 The Village Portrait Book

The Chairman reported that he had been advised by the ICO not to publish any part of the book as it contained private information of the inhabitants of the village and once published it was in the public domain and impossible to control how any information would be used.

The Council agreed that Mr Woods would contact the author of the book and interested parties accordingly.

5 Matters Arising

- a Parish Stewards' Jobs and Flooding – Mr Woods reported on his discussion with the OpenReach engineer as he was on site regarding the manholes' leaks at the corner of the C60/Coate Road junction and the clearing of the adjacent ditches. Mr Hanson reminded the meeting about the other manhole outside the entrance near Whiterig.

The O.R. engineer would speak to the Wiltshire HIGHWAYS ENGINEER

Mr Woods would also follow up on the need for urgent action on the potholes along the C60 road especially the dangers at the C60/Shortlands junction as they were making the C60 an ever more dangerous road.

Apparently some tarmac had been laid down but it had been broken up by a tractor almost immediately.

- b Covid Groups – It was noted that all the Covid groups were to continue during the Covid restrictions.
 - a WWII – Commemorative Plaque. Nothing to report as the relevant organisations were under Covid restrictions, and no-one had provided any relevant information.
 - b Playing Field Hedge. A note of thanks had been sent to Mrs Wimble

6 Questions/Points from the Public

A parishioner had suggested locking the main gate to the playing field in order to prevent unauthorised parking. It was agreed to source a chain and combination padlock to be kept for use when necessary but not to keep the chain permanently locked.

7 Elections 2021

No Parish Council seats would be contested in the village. All 5 Councillors would continue. All the admin relating to this would be dealt with at the next meeting.

8 Defibrillator

All the mass of relevant correspondence relating to this had been dug out circulated by Mr Woods. After some discussion it was agreed to speak to Mrs Hopgood regarding the upkeep of the defibrillator and Mr Hopgood as registered keeper. If she was not happy to continue by herself, Mr Woods would speak to Mr Roberts with a view to setting up a rota.

9 Treasurer's Report

Mr Nash had circulated the list of invoices for payment/ratification:

- a 02/02/21 Community Heartbeat Trust - £87.60
- b 22/03/21 CPRE subscription D/D - £50.00
- c 01/04/21 Community First subscription Standing Order - £40.00

He also asked for agreement to pay:

- d WALC subscription dated 01/04/21 - £62.10
- e Payment for the Churchyard upkeep - £300.00

He reported on:

- f VAT reclaim from 01/04/19 to the 31/03/21 - £101.72.
- g Bank balance - £3910.96
- h Receipt of the Precept for 2022/2022 - £2,750

Mr Nash was thanked for his excellent work over the past year in difficult circumstances.

Regarding the Annual Audit he would contact Mr Garland for the internal audit report before presenting the accounts to the Council for AGAR purposes.

10 Correspondence and Consultations

The Council had been approach by Wiltshire regarding conducting a Traffic Survey. This would take the format of strips across the road. It might not make a difference on the allowed speed on the C60 but it would highlight the volume of traffic – see Item 12, below.

It was agreed to go ahead with this later in the year preferably when tractor movements were high.

11 Planning Applications

- a 2021/03665 - Playing Field Oak Tree. No objections had been raised.
- b 2021/03092 – Etchilhampton House – To remove several lower branches of lime and beech trees. No objections had been raised.
- c 21/01264 – Opposite 8&9. Mr Woods had declared his interest as owner. Removal of Atlantic Cedar to allow adjoining (much smaller) tree to flourish properly. Approved by Wiltshire

- d 20/09168 – Jasmine Cottage, revised plans to extension. Approved by Wiltshire
- e 20/11091 - The Laurels. Approved by Wiltshire
- f 20/11408 - Plum Tree Cottage. Approved by Wiltshire
- g 19/10845 – Manor Farm, All Cannings. Mr Woods had declared his interest as adjacent landowner. Mrs Clark was in correspondence with Wiltshire on all this.

12 Reports of Meetings

- a Lydney Station. A confusing meeting had taken place just before the Council meeting with the Devizes Development Partnership (DDP). What Tamara Reay and Catharine Symington of DDP were now saying and the paperwork they had now sent to the Council was not only internally inconsistent but failed to take account of Etchilhampton's previous strong objections and DDP's promise to keep Mr Woods informed of each and every discussion with others.

Even though Etchilhampton was the village which would be most affected by an increased volume of rat-run traffic going to the station there had been no direct consultation or communication from either the DDP or Wiltshire Council who apparently were now working in concert, with Wiltshire leading. It seemed that it all depended on whether the transport authorities would want another station or not but details of the first stage "business case" had not been shown to the Parish Council nor had any of the briefing data used for the Swindon cost/benefit assessment or the survey of public opinion sent out to chosen recipients (not the PC). The DDP would be sending some further information following the discussion with the PC.

After assessment of the business case a second round of negotiations would take place.

The car park spaces had been reduced from 400 as the case no longer depended on private housing development but nothing was denied about possible public housing.

Overall the position remained totally unsatisfactory as regards the use of the C60 through Etchilhampton as a rat run and nowhere were the Government and Wiltshire Core Strategy principles on the primary importance of the environment taken into account. This remains of paramount importance to Etchilhampton as a Conservation Area in the NWDAONB.

As things stood there were numerous points of inconsistency, lack of clarity and fundamental disagreement in what had been or should have been said or shown to the PC.

DDP agreed to write to Mr Woods with its responses to some of the PC's outstanding issues not least being the absence of the promised direct consultation by Wiltshire, the DDP and all other interested parties with Etchilhampton.

It seemed that our MP, Danny Kruger, did not, therefore, have the full picture put to him before obtaining his support for the project to date.

Next steps to await DDP responses.

13 Other Business

- a APCM and APM Meetings. Mr Woods reminded the Council that this being an election year all Councillors would have to sign up to the Code of Conduct and, for those appointed as officers, their declaration of acceptance of Office Forms. The meetings would have to take place before the end of May. It was agreed to invite the relevant PCSO to the Parish Meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm.

ANNEX

- 1 – Hospital Liaison and Support Team
- 2 – Police Devizes Area Remote Engagement Services
- 3 – Mental Health Forum
- 4 – Devizes Area Board re Electric Cars Charging
- 5 – Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR)“Have your say” – Police notice
- 6 – Dorset & Wiltshire Fire & Rescue – Draft Community Safety Plan
- 7 – Wiltshire Police re Domestic Abuse
- 8 – Car theft Warning
- 9 – Traffic Survey – Latest updates