

MINUTES OF ETCHILHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 9 OCTOBER 2020 AT 7.30PM

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

Apologies:

In attendance: Mr Rodwell

AGENDA

1 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations Requests

Mr Woods declared his interests in Item 14 as a neighbouring landowner. It was resolved to continue Mr Woods' existing dispensation to talk and vote and for him to take any further steps he thought needed to pursue the Council's objections.

2 To receive apologies for absence

None.

3 Minutes of the last meeting

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

4 Matters Arising

a Playground – Safety Report. Mr Woods reported that the child swing was still unrepaired as Mr Roberts had been unable to find a replacement. It was agreed that Mr Woods would research swing safety seats.

It was resolved to ask Mr Roberts to continue safety checks and repairs and to submit his annual report for year ending July 2020.

b WWII – Mr Woods reported that there had been no response from the authorities so far. The Imperial War Museum was still on lockdown.

5 Questions/Points from the Public

None.

6 Governance

Financial Regulations and Standing Orders – These were approved subject to a small amendment in the Financial Regulations in Paragraph 3(e)(iv) which should read "13g". The final versions would be sent to Councillors and posted on to the web.

7 RFO's Report

The RFO had circulated papers prior to the meeting. The latest Lloyds Bank statement showed a balance of £5,178.96.

He had also circulated the list of items needing payment/ratification, including the latest invoice for the grass cutting of the playing field, as below.

It was resolved to approve the RFO's Report and payments made or to be made by BACS or otherwise:

- D L Stevens 2nd invoice £375.00 - ratified
- Church Bin payment £50.00 – ratified
- D L Stevens 3rd invoice £375.00 - agreed to be paid.

8 AGAR

Mr Woods reported that the external auditors had acknowledged receipt of this year's Certificate of Exemption. No adverse comments had been made.

M Woods.

Mr Nash was thanked for his work over the last year.

Internal Auditor - It was resolved that Mr Nash would ask Mr Garland if he would continue as internal auditor.

9 Covid-19 - Caring groups

Mr Woods reported what an excellent job the caring groups were doing during this uncertain period.

It was resolved to thank all the Covid helpers for their continued assistance.

10 Playing field

Mr Woods reported that the hedge had not been cut as yet. It was hoped that this would be done shortly when Mrs Wimble's hedge was cut.

It was resolved to ask the grass cutters to cut the grass on the bank outside the playing field next time they came provided there were no cars parked obstructing the way.

11 Highways and Stewards

Mr Woods reported on:

- a Broken wooden post - This had been taken away and would not be replaced. It was resolved to leave things as they were.
- b Salt bins replacements - The salt bin at the Coate Road junction would be replaced.
- c Flooding – The jet washer was awaited to clear out any obstruction. Mr Hanson reported that some gullies had been cleaned but not all because traffic management was required.
- d Stewards' jobs – It was resolved to ask for a sitrep and to copy Mrs Wayman.

Mrs Clark asked about the finger post at the Coate junction. Mr Woods reported that this was NOT considered a priority by Wiltshire Council.

12 Correspondence and Consultations

- a BT Kiosk – Mr Woods reported that BT were consulting again regarding the removal of the kiosk. He had been in touch with Wiltshire and had reiterated the Council's previous objections which Wiltshire had taken on board.
- b NALC & Government Planning – No comments had been received.
- c Latest Government Proposals for Reform of the Planning System – Councillors said they hoped the AONB areas would be maintained. No further comments had been received.
- d Items in Annex. No further action was required.

13 Reports of meetings

None.

14 Planning Applications

- The Orchard – 20/08384/TCA. To reduce Portuguese laurel, to remove magnolia tree and 2 metre crown lift to lower branches of maple tree
- Sandiacres – 20/08445/TCA – To remove overhanging branch from ash tree
- 3 The Green – 20/08452/TCA – To remove birch and hawthorn trees

It was resolved that there were no objections to these applications.

- Manor Farm, All Cannings – 19/10845. Mr Woods had declared his interest as per Item 1. A dispensation had been granted to him.

M Woods.

Councillors expressed concern about why Wiltshire were taking so long on this application and why were they advising the agent on what to say on the revised application. The longer they took to decide the more time the applicant had to consolidate the tracks on the ground. The whole attitude of Wiltshire was against the principles of transparency and honesty set by themselves.

Mr Woods mentioned that the reason for the refusal of the 18s applications had now completely disappeared in the revised application. This raised questions as to what information the Highways Officer had been given which led to her opinion in Dec 2019. The 18s applications had been refused on the basis that *"they have not met the requirements for farm vehicles"*.

Councillors raised the issue of safety regarding tractors being driven recklessly by young lads through the village with no number plates on tractors and trailers and causing damage to verges when encountering other cars, buses or tractors and worrying other road users about their safety. Who was ultimately responsible?

It was agreed to put together a list of tractor problems and pass these to Mr Smith to consult his son who was a highways lawyer.

Mr Rodwell was thanked for his initiative in going round the village and asking parishioners to send in their objections. This had resulted in a good number being submitted even if not all had been posted on to Wiltshire's web. Wiltshire's criteria for posting on the web was very arbitrary and confusing.

Mrs Clark, Mr Rodwell and Mr Woods were thanked for their team work on all this.

It was resolved that Mr Woods would take any necessary action to continue the Council's objections, including agreement of representative speakers at any virtual Planning Committee meeting – to date Mrs Clark, Mr Rodwell and himself.

This application was not on the agenda for the Eastern Area Planning Committee meeting on 15 October. The next meeting was scheduled for 5 November. Mr Woods' notes to be read at any hearing could not be prepared until the Officer had produced his report refusing/approving the application.

15 Any Other Business

None.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.25pm

ANNEX

- 1 – Wiltshire Council's updates on COVID
- 2 – Police warnings
- 3 – Wiltshire Council report re financial position
- 4 – Note re suspicious people in village
- 6 – Ridgeway events for Autumn 2020

M Woods.