

DRAFT MINUTES OF ETCHILHAMPTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 24 MAY 2021 at 7.45pm IN THE VILLAGE HALL

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

Apologies: None.

AGENDA

PART I – Guest Speakers : Wiltshire Police Officer – Policing update

No police attended and no apologies were received.

PART II – Ordinary Agenda:

1 Minutes of the last meeting

The Minutes of the last meeting (2019) were distributed, approved and signed.

2 Matters arising

None.

3 Parish Council Treasurer’s Report and Annual Accounts

Mr Nash presented his report and the annual accounts. He explained the Council’s expenditure items.

In addition to the annual maintenance donation, St Andrew’s Church had been given a donation for £50.00 for green bin emptying of Churchyard material rubbish.

No issues were raised by the meeting.

4 Parish Council Chairman’s Report

Mr Woods reported on the main topics covered by the Council in the last two years:

Mrs Bridewell and Mr Holgate had stood down as long serving Councillors. The Council formally thanked them for all their valuable services over many years. Mrs Clark and Mr Hanson had been appointed as new Councillors.

Mr Woods thanked all Covid Group Leaders and especially Mr Chadwick who had suggested action at the beginning of the pandemic.

A long list of jobs had been requested from the Parish Highway Stewards among which were:

- i Sorting out the flooding, gullies, grips, jetting etc on the central track between the Village Hall and 4 Manor Farm Cottages.
- ii Replacing the finger post at Coate Junction which Wiltshire had refused.
- iii Replacement of street lights at Church Farm, Manor Farm Cottages and Two Trees as well as the railings on Hail Bridge.
- iv The PC were continuing to press Wiltshire to enforce ditch cleaning on the north side of C60 eastwards from Coate Junction.

Mr Robert had diligently conducted inspections of the Playground equipment and taken Covid safety measures. He had reported damage to the child swing which Mr Nash had kindly now replaced.

The Council was in touch with Community Hearbeat re the Defibrillator following abolition of Social Committee. Thanks were expressed to Mrs Hopgood for carrying out regular inspections.

BT Phone Kiosk - The Council had secured Wiltshire's support for the retention of the Kiosk.

Numerous small Planning Applications had been dealt with.

The signage outside 1 Church View had been restored thanks to Mr Turner's voluntary work.

The VE Day celebrations in 2020 had been cancelled due to Covid.

WWII Plaque in the Church – The Council was still endeavouring to find out who had served but no information had been available from external sources during Covid.

Mr Chadwick mentioned that if anything was to be fixed to the Church wall a dispensation would have to be obtained. Mr Woods said he had already been in touch with the Rector about this.

Mr Garland was thanked for kindly agreeing to take on the role of Internal Auditor. Mr Hanson was also thanked for his previous work in this role.

There had been several Wiltshire surveys on:
i - A better deal for bus users
ii - Green Infrastructure and open space study
iii - Open space household survey

Etchilhampton would not be affected by Wiltshire's new housing review

As regards Manor Farm in All Cannings, the proposed silage storage structure and waste lagoon had been rejected by Wiltshire but a continuous track from All Cannings to Shortlands junction with the C60 had been approved by the Planning Committee despite overwhelming objections from the PC and individual residents particularly about traffic hazards on the C60.

The 2021 Local Election had been uncontested.

The Council were in discussions with Wiltshire regarding a possible traffic survey later this year. Rubber strips would be laid outside 4-6 Mixon hopefully during harvesting to better assess traffic volume.

The Council were strongly objecting to the possibility of opening a train station at Lydeaway. It had not been kept informed about this as promised and there was no reference to the traffic rat running via the C60 Coate junction to the A342 at Stert in any documentation seen to date. Devizes Development Partnership was now working with Wiltshire, DfT and GWR on business case but, to date, nothing had been said about environmental matters.

Mr Woods thanked all who had attended the meeting and those not present who had supported the Council over the last two years.

5 Points from the Public not otherwise covered

Mr Chadwick expressed thanks for the work done by the Council.

6 Any Other Business

There being no further business the meeting closed.