

**DRAFT MINUTES OF ETCHILHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY
7 DECEMBER 2022 IN ETCHILHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL, AT 19.30 HRS.**

Present: Mr. Hanson (Chairman), Mrs. Clark (Vice-Chairman), Mr. Nash (RFO), Mr. Smith and Mrs. Wimble (Deputy Clerk).

Apologies: Mr. Woods

In attendance: Mrs. S. Cowdry, Mr. C. Moore

AGENDA

1. Declarations of Interests and Dispensations

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and the Councillors agreed the declarations of interest and dispensation notices for Councillors Mr. Nash and Mrs. Clark regarding item 4 (f) on the agenda.

2. Apologies for absence

The Council noted the apologies for the absence of Mr. Woods on medical grounds and agreed Mr. Woods' dispensation request.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Last Meeting – 10 October 2022

The Council approved the Minutes of the last meeting held on 10 October 2022 which were signed and dated by the Chairman. There were no comments from Councillors arising from the Minutes.

4. Matters Arising:

- a Stewards' Jobs: Mr. Hanson reported that he had seen the Parish Steward earlier that week and discussed the list of jobs.

The Parish Steward had dug a grip to pick up the water coming out of the BT chamber at the C60/C50 junction and had found a possible storm drain which he would investigate later. He had cleared the pipe outfall at the Coate junction but there was still evidence of foul water. Mr. Hanson would write a letter to the occupants of Whiterig regarding emptying the septic tank and the repair of the tank if necessary.

The road drain was clear at the Mixon end of Etchilhampton Hill and a grip would be dug here to deal with huge amount of water coming down the Hill and blocking the drain with leaves. The grips would be dug when the Parish Steward had a JCB at his disposal.

Mr. Smith reported that the verge opposite his entrance had encroached by approx. 18 inches. This would need to be cleared by the JCB.

Mrs. Clark had noted the road sign indicating the bad bend in the road by Heath Knapp Cottage had been over grown by the hedge and asked if the Parish Steward could deal with this.

Mr. Hanson reported that the Steward always contacted him before he arrived to discuss necessary jobs.

- b Defibrillator: Mrs. Clark reported that following Mr Woods note of 1 November 2022 this was nothing to do with PC and that this was now entirely with Community Heartbeat and Mr Fagan. It was noted that the Social Committee had originally organised for the defibrillator to be installed and when that Committee had been disbanded no one had contacted the Charity. The PC agreed that any requests for future running costs would be discussed at the time.
- c Rubbish Cart: Mr. Hanson reported that on-street parking was still a problem and the situation should be monitored. The road is a public highway and residents have a right to park. Residents should not park on the village green. It was agreed that if any further concerns were received from residents he would write to Wiltshire.
- d Coate Sign: Mr. Hanson had written to Wiltshire Engineer, Mr Matt Perrott, suggesting that Etchilhampton Parish Council could make a financial contribution but had not yet received a reply. Mr. C. Moore asked if residents could make it themselves. Mr. Hanson replied this was the preserve of Highways.
- e Dog Waste Bin: Mr. Hanson reported these were only supplied in “high user areas” and the bottom end of the village was not deemed to be a high user area and therefore not cost effective. There were two bins at the top end of the village which would remain. There was nothing further he could do.
- f Replacement of stile: Mr. Hanson reported that Mr. Garland had been acting as an unofficial liaison with Wiltshire regarding Rights of Way. Whatever he reported usually got done and as this system produced results Mr. Hanson felt it was not necessary to change or get anyone else involved. Mrs. Clark asked if Wiltshire contributed to the cost of stiles or if it was the landowner’s responsibility. Mr Hanson reported that Wiltshire may possibly fund it and that we should wait to find out.
- g Minutes of Village Hall Committee: it was noted that these had been received. Mr. Hanson commented on the question of land registry and the Council discussed the land opposite Mr and Mrs Rodwell which was owned by the village.

5. Questions from the Public.

A parishioner asked whether the Council could ask Wiltshire to make the bus stop at the east end of Etchilhampton a permanent stop as this was used frequently by residents. Currently residents were obliged to call and request collection however he also reported that getting through to book the pick up was very difficult. Mr. Hanson would investigate.

The same parishioner also reported the lack of a footpath sign signalling the footpath which went past Mr. Smith’s property to the bottom of the field on Etchilhampton Hill.

Another parishioner asked if the Parish Steward could look into smoothing over the hard concrete edges over Etchilhampton Water between All Cannings and Etchilhampton. The potholes are bad and the sharp concrete had caused a puncture.

6. Flooding

The recent heavy rains had cleared quite well although the standing water by Shortlands Lane had been bad. Mrs. Clark reported that this was due to drains that had been damaged by illegal alterations to Shortlands Lane access and was under discussion with Wiltshire Enforcement.

7. Lydeaway

Mr. Hanson reported a positive and productive meeting with Mr Philip Whitehead, District Councillor. Mr. Whitehead had most of the information to hand and had confirmed there would be no housing at the proposed station at Lydeaway. The access would not be by the mobile home park but further south off the main road with a bridge over to the other side of the track. There was some discussion regarding electrifying the track and it was felt that as Corsham station was further down the submission route Lydeaway may well not happen. Mr. Hanson remarked that the Lydeaway Station would only be a shuttle that terminated at Newbury.

8. Treasurers Report – Budget and Precept 2023/24

Mr. Nash confirmed that so far this year £3,408.46 had been spent (including approximately £1,000 one off costs relating to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations). There was one bill to ratify - £420 to Mr Mark Goddard for grass cutting. The current bank balance was £2,862.00.

The new Safety Report had not yet been received from Mr. Roberts regarding playground equipment and other potential hazards. If there was a significant hazard Mr Roberts would continue to tape off the affected area.

External Auditors - The Accountants PKF Littlejohn had been awarded the contract for the next five years. Due to income less than £25,000 per annum the PC is exempt from the requirement to have an external audit. Mr. Nash would complete the accounts, verification by the internal auditor Mr John Garland.

It was agreed that the Precept should be the same as last year - £3,000 - difficult to justify more. The Precept form was signed by the Chairman and Mr. Nash would send it off to Wiltshire before 18 January 2023.

9. Wiltshire and National Boundary Review

The position as reported by Mr Whitehead was noted by the Council.

10. Correspondence and consultations

All correspondence from Wiltshire Council and other bodies was noted.

Mr. Hanson reported that the recent correspondence from the Crime Commissioner had highlighted improved efficiency for speeding tickets but not for resolving crime.

11. Planning Applications

None had been received since the last meeting.

12. Reports of Meetings

None.

13. Any Other Business:

Mr. Hanson reported that the Highways Patching Team had sorted out all the bad potholes but he noted that there was only one team in the county and that Ringway had lost the contract to Redstone.

Mr. Nash asked about the water drainage opposite the Church. Vehicles driving over it had worn the tarmac away. Mr. Hanson would notify the Parish Steward.

Mr. Hanson gave Mrs. Wimble an updated list of Councillors and their contact details to put on the three notice boards in the village but not at the bus stop opposite the Mixon. It was agreed that the address of the Council's Website should also appear on this list.

Mrs S Cowdry reported that she had just delivered the last edition of the Parish Church Magazine. From now onwards all parish church information would be moving online.

Mrs. Clark proposed the recognition of all the work that Mrs. Cowdry had put in over the years in preparing the magazine. The Council formally thanked Mrs. Cowdry.

There was no further business and the meeting ended at 20.45.