

**MINUTES OF ETCHILHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY
20 FEBRUARY 2023 IN ETCHILHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL, AT 19.30 HRS.**

Present: Mr. P. Hanson (Chairman), Mrs. L. Clark (Vice-Chairman), Mr. J. Nash (RFO) and Mrs. C. Wimble (Deputy Clerk)

Apologies: Mr. R. Smith, Mr M. Woods

In attendance: Mr. A. Clark

1. Declarations of Interests and Dispensations

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no declarations of interest to be signed.

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 – 7 December 2022

The Council approved the Minutes of the last meeting held on 7 December 2022, subject to a minor amendment on Item 4b. These 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 the Stewards jobs during the first month of year had been filling in potholes. The Stewart was on paternity leave and Mr Hanson would find out when he was due to return to work.
- b) Defibrillator: any further action would be dealt with as it arose and this item would be taken off the agenda.
- c) Footpaths: Mr. Hanson reported he was awaiting information from a parishioner.
- d) Parking on Village Green: A bolt had now been fitted onto the gate with a padlock. A skip had been placed on the green next to the Village Hall entrance for well over a month. Councillors discussed whether permission had been granted by whoever ordered the skip. It could have caused extensive damage to the grass.
- e) Dog issues: There was nothing further to be done and this item would be removed from the agenda.
- f) Permanent bus stop: Mr. Hanson had spoken to Wiltshire Council Passenger Transport section and ascertained that it was a request coming from Devizes but not going to Devizes. He had the contact details of the manager for those wishing to discuss further, but felt it was unlikely to become a permanent stop due to the small number of people using this facility.
- g) Remedial action on stiles: once it was established what was needed the repair of the stiles would be organised.

h) Highways: Mr. Hanson reported that he had spoken to Mr. Matt Perrott, Highways Engineer. The maintenance contract had been awarded to a different contractor. He would get the quote for a new sign to Coate once the new contractor was in place and give the EPC a price.

5. Questions from the Public

A parishioner requested that villagers adhered to the footpath running straight across the field between the two stiles at Church View and the east end of the village, and not use the entire field as a circuit walk. It was reported that this field was used for silage and hay and it should not be trodden down or contaminated with dog poo.

6. Lydeaway – Latest Developments

Nothing had been heard of regarding the latest developments and Mr. Hanson anticipated that the report regarding the proposed station would be received in the Spring.

7. Treasurer’s Report – Budget and Precept 2023/24

Mr. Nash stated that there had been no invoices to pay since the last meeting – although he was awaiting an invoice for grass cutting. It was agreed that Mr. Nash would remind him that the bill needed to be received in the current financial year.

The only major expenses would be for work on the playground equipment and a report was expected from Mr. Roberts in the next few days.

Mr. Nash reported that the Etchilhampton Precept had been accepted by Wiltshire Council on 18 January 2023. He also reported that the current bank balance as at 18 February was £2,862.00.

All five Councillors would need to have their forms resubmitted to County Hall even though uncontested which would equate to £1.70 per elector. Mrs. Clark asked if our Parish limit was five members and Mr Hanson replied that each parish had its allocation.

8. Wiltshire and National Boundary Review

This item has been noted and would be taken off the agenda as there was no further action.

9. Correspondence and consultations

All correspondence from Wiltshire Council and other bodies were noted. The EPC remarked on the large number of notices from Wiltshire Council since the last meeting.

10. Planning Applications

- a Trees at Manor Orchard. There had been no objections received by the EPC.
- B Trees at Tichbourne Farm. Mr Nash reported this had been approved but he was still waiting for the work to be done.

11. Coronation Update

Mr. Hanson reported a very productive meeting on 17 February with 11 attendees. It had been agreed to follow along the lines of last year’s Jubilee celebrations. There would be a BBQ lunch on Sunday, 7 May as part of the Big Lunch programme. This would be followed on Monday,

8 May by a Flower Festival in the church and tea in the village hall. There was a surplus of £390 from the food in the jubilee account and this would be put towards the BBQ lunch. No further donations were needed for food. Those who had brought their BBQs for the Jubilee lunch would be asked to bring them on 7 May. Councillors discussed mugs and Mrs. Clark suggested that together with Mrs. Wimble she would help to organise the mugs for this occasion. Mr. Hanson suggested, and it was agreed, that £250 would be donated towards the Coronation mugs.

12. Reports of Meetings

None not on the Agenda.

13. Any Other Business

Mrs. Clark asked an attendee to report on the meeting organised by the Catchment Sensitive Farming and the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust for Upper Hampshire Avon Farmers. It had been a good and informative meeting. Actions were being encouraged to improve the Avon and its source which includes Etchilhampton. It was also reported that Sir David Attenborough had visited Wiltshire to look at chalk streams including the River Avon.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 20.15.