

MINUTES OF ETCHILHAMPTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2023 HELD ON TUESDAY 30 MAY 2023 AT 7.45PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Mrs Chadwick, Mrs Clark, Mrs Cowdry, Mr Hanson (Chairman), Mr C Moore, Mr Nash, Mrs Smith, Mr Smith, Mrs Spindler, Mrs Wakeford and Mrs. Wimble

AGENDA

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

Mrs Wakeford gave a very informative talk on the current status of Wiltshire Policing. Mrs Wakeford has been working for Wiltshire Police for 6 years and is currently assisting the Chief Constable, Catherine Roper, who covers Etchilhampton and the surrounding area. The following email has been set up to report concerns:

devizesareactp@wiltshire.police.uk This is not to be used to report crime or criminal damage and parishioners should still call 101 or 999. There will be a higher visibility of police officers in rural areas – extra patrols. Devizes was good at community engagement with two meetings planned for residents to come and meet the police and discuss any problems – 10 June, 10.00-12.00 at the Rowdy Cow and 15 June, 09.30 – 12.30 in the Marketplace.

She reported no major issues of antisocial behaviour in the Etchilhampton area. However, in May there had been reports of a group of young boys on bikes being troublesome. It was not clear if they were responsible for minor damages and theft locally.

It was felt the Neighbourhood watch scheme signs in the village were looking old and faded, and Mrs Wakeford's husband (also in the police force) had offered to put up some new signs. The parishioners agreed this should be done and he should be reimbursed.

Mrs Wakeford also mentioned the Community Messaging platform used by police where communities can access certain groups. She will investigate so that Etchilhampton can join. The messages will be sent to individual email addresses.

Mr Woods property was discussed as this was considered the perfect place for bored children to investigate. Once a property is known to be empty it attracts people however if an injury occurs the owner is liable. Mrs Wakefield suggested sensor lights or a sensor of a dog barking would probably deter people from properties in the village and to make sure personal items of any value are locked away.

The new Chief Constable, Catherine Roper, has come from the Met and is keen to sort out Wiltshire's problems. There is a lot going on in various areas like Swindon but she wants her officers to be more visible.

There were no questions from the parishioners and Mr. Hanson thanked Mrs Wakeford for her talk. Mrs Wakeford then left the meeting.

PART II – Ordinary Agenda

1 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last Annual Parish meeting held on 24th May 2022 were approved and signed subject to one minor amendment on point 3. A donation of £50 had been given to the church for green bin emptying which should have read £60.

2 Matters arising

None

3 Parish Council Treasurer's Report and Annual Accounts

Mr Nash presented his report and the annual accounts to parishioners and he explained the Council's expenditure items. There were Jubilee expenditures and the plaque for Mervyn which had amounted to an extra £600. Generally, our expenses are low. Mr J Garland is the independent auditor who checks and signs off the accounts. No issues were raised by the meeting.

4 King Charles III Coronation Celebrations

Mr Hanson reported a fantastic BBQ was held on the playing field and over 100 residents joined in. The next day a beautiful flower display was unveiled in the church and tea was served in the village hall. Over £600 was raised for the Devizes Food Bank for this event.

5 Parish Council Chairman's Report

Mr Hanson read out the Chairman's Report 2022/23 which has been posted to the website. There were no questions.

6 Parish Council Clerk

It was reported that Cindy Wimble had been appointed as the new Clerk and had been co-opted as a new Councillor.

7 Points from the Public not otherwise covered

It was agreed that Mrs Wakeford's report on Wiltshire Policing was very informative. Mrs. Spindler reported that the street light on her drive had gone out.

8 Any Other Business

Mr Hanson paid tribute to Mervyn Woods who had sadly died in March. Mervyn had contributed enormously to the welfare of the village for over 30 years as Chairman of the Council and will be much missed. A plaque to commemorate him had been placed in the village hall.

Mr Hanson thanked those attending the meeting.