

MINUTES OF ETCHILHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2023 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 18.30 HOURS

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

In attendance: Mrs. J. Rathbone and Mr. C. Moore

1. Declarations of Interests and Dispensations: None.
2. Apologies for absence: None.
3. Approval of the Minutes of the last meeting on 30 May 2023: The minutes from the last meeting were approved. Mr. Hanson asked Mrs. Wimble to check the Etchilhampton email was on the notice boards.
4. Matters Arising
 - a) Parish Steward's jobs: Mr. Hanson was disappointed with the current situation. So far, the middle lane had been strimmed but not many other jobs had not been achieved. No feedback from Steward. The Council considered whether half a day was not enough to complete the list of jobs required and whether it would be better to have a day every other week. Mr. Hanson confirmed to parishioners attending that the Steward was contracted and paid for by Wiltshire Council.
 - b) Emergency Contacts: Mr. Hanson confirmed that both he and Mrs. Clark are the points of contact in response to an emergency. The Parish Council was so small that in his opinion there was no point in doing a plan. It would be sufficient to contact all residents by phone.
 - c) Footpaths, stiles: Mr. Hanson had reported the stiles but had not heard anything from Mr. Garland. He would report again. Mr. Hanson reported to parishioners that several members of the village kept village pathways cleared. Mr. Hanson confirmed the EPC also contributed £350 annually towards the upkeep of the Churchyard.
 - d) Parking on village green: there was an agreement that the village green could be used if there was an event in the church or in the village hall. The grass cutting contractor had hit the gate post and had offered to repair it. However, it was noted that the post was rotten. The Council agreed that a new gate post would be purchased and the contractor would be asked to reinstate it. It was noted that the new bench on the green looked very smart.
 - e) Overgrown bridleway to Hail Bridge: it was noted that this had not been kept up and it would be reported to Wiltshire Council once more.
 - f) Highways: Mrs. Clark reported she had written on 6 April, 2022 regarding the problems at Shortlands, flooding, the middle path and white lines at the Coate junction. She noted that when the white lines team arrived, they did the junction by Etchilhampton House but not the Coate junction. She had written again but not had a reply so far and noted that it might be time to contact Philip Whitehead for assistance in this matter. Mr. Hanson had contacted Matt Perrott regarding the flooding outside the Mixon. He reported the drain jet team had spent the morning at Coate junction but had not gone to the drains in the middle path. It was noted that a recent Council communication had announced an extra £10 million grant for potholes and drains. Mrs. Clark to write to Wiltshire Council. A parishioner pointed out that if Wiltshire Council were not made aware of potholes, they could not rectify the problem. Mr. Hanson reported that there was now a My Wilts App to notify Wiltshire of any problems. A photograph should be submitted together with a map reference. He suggested

that the link be put on the village notice boards. Wiltshire.gov.uk/report.htm or Tel: 0300 456 0105. Mr. Hanson also reported that once a problem had been notified on the My Wilts App the problem was recorded by Wiltshire who would give feedback.

5. Questions from the public: the Parish Council was asked what was happening to the drain on the middle path. The parishioner reported he had cleared the path and access to drain and that he had picked up approximately 30 dog poo bags from the path. Mrs. Clark confirmed she had mentioned the problem to Wiltshire Council.

The Council were asked about the possibility of 30 MPH signs at the entrance to the village. It was reported that this had already been discussed with Wiltshire but no action was taken. A parishioner enquired about the future of the old telephone box. Mr. Hanson replied that this would stay in the village despite no working telephone. In due course ideas for another use i.e. library would be considered.

6. Treasurers Report: Jon Nash reported that the bank balance was £2,874.18 on 17 August. He had made the following payments:

6 June	Jati Ltd (Bench)	727.49
7 June	ICO	35.00
June/July/Aug	1&1 Internet	32.00
19 June	BC & E PCC	350.00
3 August	Mark Goddard (grass cutting)	420.00
17 August	Digital Technology (bench base)	<u>375.00</u>
	TOTAL	1,939.49

It was noted that the agreement to increase the amount for the annual contribution to the BCC & E PCC for Churchyard maintenance had been increased by £50 to £350 had been made by email correspondence. This was formally agreed by all Councillors.

7. Correspondence and consultations: Mr. Hanson reported that Wiltshire and Swindon wanted a tree warden in each parish, which was a good idea but Etchilhampton Parish was too small - although it was worth noting what actions were taken.
8. Planning Applications: the councillors discussed the refusal of solar panels on buildings at Etchilhampton House. They would not be visible by neighbours and it was felt this decision was contrary to the general green energy view taken countrywide.

Separately a parishioner reported a huge fir tree opposite her house. This was not a specimen tree and was growing very close to the wall. It was causing damp issues and lorries going down the road were regularly breaking branches off the tree.

9. Wiltshire Council Link for notice boards – See 4 f) above.
10. Reports of meetings: Mr. Hanson reported that he had been notified of three AGMs - Neighbourhood Watch (7 October), Community First (11 October) and Wiltshire ALC (25 October). The Area Board gives out grants - mostly to big parishes. He would see if Etchilhampton was eligible for a grant which would need to be for the whole village e.g. a replacement marquee as the village doesn't have a youth club. The Councillors discussed

the lack of village events and that it would be fantastic if a parishioner, or a group of parishioners, would take on the organisation of the quiz night, fish and chip evenings, the Christmas Party all of which had been popular in past years.

11 Any Other Business

a) Mr. Hanson reported that very sadly Dorothy Robertson had died. Dorothy was, at nearly 100 years old, the oldest resident, and one of the longest residents of the village. She had been Chairman of the Parish Council and had taken part in every village event over the years. She had also written an interesting book on the history of Etchilhampton Village.

b) Mr. Hanson would ask Alanna Wakeford about the new Neighbourhood Watch stickers.

c) It was reported that the fence round The Laurels had been cut and the owners had been notified. It was also noted that every possible action had been taken to make people aware that it was a dangerous area and to keep out, with fencing and notices around the entire property.

There was no further business and the meeting ended at 19.30.