

**DRAFT MINUTES FOR ETCHILHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY,
11 DECEMBER 2023 AT 6.30pm IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

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

In Attendance: Mr. C. Moore and Mr. A. Clark

- 1 Declarations of Interests and Dispensations. None
- 2 Apologies for Absence. Apologies were received from Mr. R. Smith
- 3 Approval of the Minutes of the last meeting – 18 September 2023. The Minutes from the last meeting were approved.
- 4 Matters Arising
 - a Parish Stewards' Jobs. Mr. Hanson reported the Parish Steward had been on 23 November. The list of jobs to be done was discussed but unfortunately due to an accident on the flooded road the Parish Steward (PS), Kevin, had to drive to Chippenham to get appropriate warning signs to put on the road. This time was taken off the Etchilhampton allocation of half a day. Mr. Hanson reported the sign for the footpath behind the church has now been reinstated. Some pot holes have also been filled. A few of the jobs which need doing are outside the PS remit. Mrs. Clark asked if we could increase the PS time but this is not currently possible. Mr. Hanson has written to Malcolm Bevan to get the details of the new Highways Engineer. The outgoing Highways Engineer, Matt Perrott, was going to get a price for the finger post sign at Coate junction. The Council discussed the flooding in and around the village and noted that various drainage problems need to be addressed.
 - b Emergency contacts. This has been sorted and there is no further action.
 - c Footpaths, Styles etc. A parishioner asked about maintenance of ETCH 5. This footpath was often used by dog walkers, it is very narrow and had become very muddy. The parishioner suggested organising a village working party. Mr. Hanson felt this was too much for the Parish Steward and proposed the EPC purchase two bags of scalping's and he would contact the parishioner to organise a working party to carry out maintenance work on the footpath. The Council agreed. Mr. Hanson had not received any further comments about the styles in the village and as they were in reasonable condition nothing would be done at present.
 - d Parking on village green/gatepost. The gatepost had been fixed and the issue of parking had been resolved. There is no further action.
 - e Overgrown bridleway – ETC H2 update. Mr. Hanson confirmed this bridleway had now been cleared.
 - f Highways. Mrs. Clark noted the flooding in Etchilhampton was very bad. It was now two years since the initial meeting and there had been no enforcement. It was decided an email should be sent to the new Highways Engineer, Andy Cadwallader, with a copy to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Philip Whitehead and arrange a site meeting. Mr. Hanson suggested that enforcement had to happen before the drains can be done.
- 5 Questions/Points from the Public
 - a A parishioner enquired about "dirty lane" which had become very muddy. Mr. Hanson explained this was a bridle path and it had to become overgrown rather than muddy for the Council to become involved.
 - b A parishioner enquired whether it was possible to contact Meggarod to clear the drainage problems within the village. Mr. Hanson felt that it was now a matter for Health and Safety as the flooded pathway could easily turn to sheet ice in the winter

months. It was agreed that if the Wiltshire Council would not do the job quickly Mr. Hanson would ask if Meggarod could do the job with EPC funding.

The lack of white lines at Coate junction was also raised. Mr. Hanson reported that he had contacted the Council regarding this matter.

6 Treasurer's Report

The Budget and Precept 2024/25 forms had not yet been received from Wiltshire Council. It was agreed the EPC should ask for the same as the previous year - £3,000. There were no major expenses foreseen for 2024 other than grass cutting, hedge cutting and IT - except for the purchase of scalping's and possibly Meggarod. Mr. Nash reported there were three payments to be ratified since the last meeting:

	£
Community First	422.11
Williams – Hedge Cutting	48.00
IT	32.40

7 Correspondence and consultations. None.

8. Planning Applications. There were no objections to the application to fell a beech tree at Etchilhampton House.

9 Reports of Meetings. None

10 Any Other Business.

A parishioner asked who was responsible for the grit bins. There were four in Etchilhampton that needed maintaining. One at Coate junction had completely collapsed. Mr. Hanson had contacted Wiltshire to get this matter sorted.

There was no further business and the meeting finished at 19.15.

C Wimble, Clerk