

**DRAFT MINUTES FOR ETCHILHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY,
11 NOVEMBER 2024 AT 6.30pm IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

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

In Attendance: Mrs. J. Garland, Mr. S. Rodwell

1 Declarations of Interests and Dispensations

2 Apologies for Absence. There were no apologies for absence.

3 The Minutes of the last meeting on 22 May, 2024 were approved.

4 Matters Arising

a Mixon Bus Shelter. Mr. Hanson reported that Mrs. S. Cowdray a regular bus user had reported the bus shelter opposite the Mixon was very overgrown and she was unable to see if a bus was approaching. Mr. Hanson reported that he had cut back the bushes which had blocked the view from the bus shelter and would do so again in the near future to keep it clear.

b Gateway Station. Mr. Hanson reported that Mrs. Clark had circulated the Gazette & Herald article on the overhaul of Wiltshire rail service. The Wiltshire Network Rail survey recommended stations at Corsham and Devizes. However, in the last meeting with Wiltshire Rail it was made clear if Lydeaway Station became a reality it would be an unmanned station and would be a shuttle service to Westbury. Councillors doubted it would be cost effective but it was decided to keep an eye on events as they unfolded.

c Wiltshire EV Charging Infrastructure. Mr. Hanson reported that a survey for the Electronic Vehicle infrastructure had been received. Most houses had their own drives with the exception of Church View. However, there was no space for off street charging by Church View and currently Councillors could not see much need for it.

d C60 Roadworks. The potholes had been filled and the ditches and grips had been cleared out. Sadly, a few days later the maize trailers had driven over them and thus reduced their efficiency. However, the drains had not been addressed. Gulley tankers could not access the middle path. Mr. Hanson to report again to Wiltshire Council. It was reported that the ditch by Coate Junction was smelling very badly. Mr. Hanson showed Councillors a photograph of soapy water. It was considered that this water was from Whiterig although it was acknowledged that the owners of Whiterig had installed a new septic tank. Mr. Harris felt this was a health hazard. He suggested a letter to our MP. Mr. Hanson to write to our MP Brian Mathew.

e Playing field boundary B104 Notice. Land Registry had sent a letter regarding the boundaries to the playing field. Mr Hanson reported that this had been triggered by a new survey which had taken place since the boundary fence had been installed. Land Registry has the land owned by Etchilhampton Parish Council and Dorothy Robertson. The playing field is owned by Wiltshire Council and has been leased since 1994 on a 100 year lease to Etchilhampton Parish Council. Councillors had no objections and Mr. Hanson will contact Land Registry to clarify the situation and to remove Dorothy Robertson from the documentation.

f Repair to playing field fence and gate by village hall. Councillors discussed the fence line and gate which is being propped up by a picnic table. Mr. Nash had been in contact with Mr. Goddard who cuts the playing field. However, he had been unable to fix the problem so far. It was decided this was definitely a Parish Council obligation rather than the Village Hall Committee. Mr. Harris to raise at the Village Hall AGM. Mrs. Clark to call her contact and report back.

- 5 Questions/Points from the Public. Mr. Rodwell stated that he had been running the rota for the upkeep of the churchyard for the past 25 years which involved strimming the banks and mowing between the graves about once a month. However, his mobility has been impaired and he would like to withdraw from running the rota and would like someone else to take this on. He is concerned that none of the younger people in the Parish are coming forward to help. It was reported that the Parish Council pays £350 per annum to Bishops Cannings church for upkeep of Etchilhampton church grounds. Mrs. Garland suggested contacting Mr. Russ the Church Warden at Bishops Cannings to find out what this payment covers. Mr. Nash reported that he gets an email from Caroline Cutting confirming receipt of payment. It was decided that Mr. Hanson would ask Mr. Chadwick about this payment.

- 6 Treasurer's Report. Mr. Nash reported that the closing balance was £2,509.77 and presented the following list of payments since the last meeting which were ratified:

29 May	Wiltshire Council Church Bin	70.00
29 May	Community First Insurance	485.28
29 May	Bishops Cannings PCC Churchyard	350.00
7 June	ICO Data Protecton D/D	35.00
12 June	1 & 1 Internet	10.80
15 July	1 & 1 Internet	10.80
17 July	WALC Annual Subscription	58.00
29 July	Community Heartbeat Electrodes	124.68
29 July	M Goddard Landscaping	441.00
14 August	1 & 1 Internet	10.80
13 September	1 & 1 Internet	12.00
15 October	1 & 1 Internet	12.00
TOTAL		1620.36

Mr. Nash reported that Lloyds Bank are now charging £4.25 per month to administer the EPC bank account. Councillors agreed.

7. Correspondence and consultations. Mr. Hanson reported he had received correspondence regarding a traffic speed survey across all parishes in the county. Mr. Hanson to see what is involved. Councillors discussed the speed at which some vehicles travelled down the C60 and agreed there should be a 40 MPH speed limit through the village. Mr. Nash enquired about erecting village gates at the entrance to the village – the Parish Council could purchase the gates but the Council would instal. Mr. Hanson to investigate.
- 8 Planning Applications. None
- 9 Reports of Meetings. Mr. Hanson reported that the Police Neighbourhood Country Forum had been cancelled and would be rescheduled in due course. He also reported that he would be attending the Devizes Area Board.

10 Any Other Business

- a Mrs. Garland reported that the footpath running from the village (beside Mr. Smith's house) is being used by children on bikes which is dangerous. She also reported that horses were using the footpath up Mr. Edwards field instead of the bridle path and down the steps. Mrs. Clark to contact Rights of Way and report back.
- b Parish Steward. This should have been covered under point 4. Mr. Hanson reported he is getting on with his jobs of patching and clearing ditches within the village but not on the main road. He has also cleaned the middle path.

There was no further business and the meeting ended at 7.30

C Wimble, Clerk