

**DRAFT MINUTES FOR ETCHILHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY,
26 FEBRUARY 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. S. Cowdray

- 1 A presentation was given by Mr. D. Roberts regarding the health and safety inspection of the play equipment on the village green. An annual risk assessment is undertaken based on a review of the potential for harm and the likelihood of harm occurring and the resulting risk rating. The control measures consist of monthly inspection of play equipment, and floor areas, and ensuring any repairs are done in accordance with British Safety Standards EN1176. This is also necessary for insurance purposes in case of an accident. Mr. Roberts put in a sign 5 years ago to warn drivers of play area. He mentioned dog fouling was an issue. The Councillors thanked Mr. Roberts for his presentation.
- 2 Declarations of Interests and Dispensations. None
- 3 Apologies for Absence. None
- 4 Approval of the Minutes of the last meeting – 11 December 2023. The Minutes from the last meeting were approved.
 - a Mr. Hanson confirmed that Wiltshire Council had received no nominations and did not therefore require an election to replace Mr. R. Smith who had sadly died. Mr. Hanson proposed that Mr. M. Harris be co-opted as Councillor which was seconded by Mrs. L. Clark. Mr Harris signed Declaration of Acceptance of Office and Code of Conduct and agreed to send Register of Interests to County Hall.
- 5 Matters Arising
 - a Parish Stewards' Jobs. Mr. Hanson stated that Etchilhampton was allocated half a day which was not enough to complete the list of tasks that needed doing. If the Parish Steward is called out for any reason this time is lost and not reinstated. He reported the Parish Steward had been on 4 January, 6 February and was next due on 6 March. The usual tasks for this time of year are to ensure the middle path is cleared as well as gully gratings. Mr. Harris enquired about the potholes. Mr. Hanson stated that for potholes in the road, or painting of white lines the traffic management gang would be required.
 - b Highways Site Meeting. Mr. Hanson reported that he and Mrs. Clark had met Andy Cadwallader on 21 January. Sadly, there were still several issues outstanding. The white lines on the Coate junction still needed painting but this requires the traffic management gang. Mrs. Clark reported the problems at Shortlands Corner were still outstanding. Mr. Cadwallader could see how dangerous this was but was reluctant to action work until the enforcement team had contacted Mr. Butler about his illegal works which had caused the drainage issues. However, he did mention he had an obligation to make the highway safe which clearly it was not at Shortlands Corner. Mrs. Clark suggested using a bollard where the dip is the deepest so that no cars are damaged. Mr. Hanson reports all highway problems via the Wiltshire app. It is therefore possible for motorists to claim compensation. He was not optimistic about waiting for the traffic management gangs as it could be a year before they were able to attend. Mr. Hanson to remind Andy Cadwallader of the problem and to involve Mr. Whitehead if nothing was done.

The EPC discussed other areas of flooding in the village. The Coate junction which was also mixed with foul water was an issue, as was the flooding in the middle path and at

the bottom end of the village. Mrs. Clark to give Mr. Hanson contact details of Meggarod. Mr. Hanson to ask Mr. Cadwallader if he had contacted the environment agency. He also stated that the discretionary gully service goes round the parishes so we need to identify what needed doing. Mrs. Clark also enquired about the quote for the finger post at Coate junction. Mr. Hanson to investigate. Mr. Harris asked about the street light at top end of village by the Rodwell's House. It had been very dim and was now not working.

c. Repair to Playing Field fence and gate. Mr. Nash reported that he had received a quote from Mr. Goddard to replace the gate post and rehang the gate for £300. The EPC agreed this should be done. Mr. Nash also asked whether his contract to cut the grass should be renewed for another year and the EPC agreed.

d Memorial Plaque. It was reported that the memorial plaque for Mr. R. Smith had been hung in the entrance to the village hall. The EPC agreed it looked very smart.

e Village activities for D Day 80 Memorial on 6 June 2024. Mr. Hanson and the EPC felt the village should do something to mark the occasion. The beacon would be lit at 21.15 on Thursday, 6 June and he would contact Mr. Edwards regarding the beacon and perhaps a joint event with Stert Parish. Mr. Hanson will discuss possible other village activities with Mr. Chadwick.

6 Questions/Points from the Public

a A parishioner enquired about the drainage and was interested to see what was happening. Mr. Harris reported a foul smell at Coate junction. Mr. Hanson reported that Mr. Cadwallader had said it was an environmental issue. Mr. Hanson had asked MP Danny Kruger to write a letter which had been done but no action has yet been taken by Wiltshire. Mr. Nash suggested a letter or phone call to the owners of the property. Mr. Hanson confirmed he had spoken to them and they had contacted experts to check the septic tank. A new one had been installed which was working correctly. It was suggested it needed emptying more frequently. Mrs. Clark asked about the tent on the Coate road and whether it could be removed. Mr. Hanson reported that there had been several sightings of hare coursers in recent weeks.

7 Treasurer's Report

Mr. Nash reported the following payments to be ratified since the last meeting:

	£
I&I Internet (13 Dec, 12 Jan, 14 Feb)	32.40
Mr. Goddard – Grass Cutting, 1 Feb	840.00
Mrs. Clark – Plaque, 14 Feb	142.00
Balance at 21 February	1,357.27

8. Correspondence and consultations. Mr. Hanson reported a document regarding the possibility of claiming payments up to £8000. After some discussion it was decided this was probably for the larger parishes. There was also correspondence regarding an emergency contact hub although it was felt this was not really appropriate for Etchilhampton. If there was a major emergency the village hall would be the place to gather.

9. Planning Applications. Mr. Hanson mentioned the planning application for Etchilhampton House to put solar panels on the garage roof had been rejected and had gone to appeal.

10. Reports of Meetings. Mr. Hanson reported that most of the meetings were not relevant for Etchilhampton however there was one virtual Police meeting on 17 April at 19.00 where the police sum up what has been going on and what they are doing to

- keep everyone safe. He asked if anyone would like to attend in his place.
11. Any Other Business. The defibrillator was mentioned and Councillors debated if anything had been done to re-register the machine. It was decided that if nothing had been done and it was probably out of date it should be dismantled and taken away.

There was no further business and the meeting finished at 20.00.

C Wimble, Clerk