

# Easterton Parish Council Meeting

## Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022 7.30 p.m.

### Minutes

**Present:** Cllr Chris Saunders (CS) (Chair), Cllr Ben Myerscough (BM) (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Anthony Snook (AS) Cllr Judy Boyt (JB), Cllr Richard Brooks (RB) & Cllr Andy Colley (AC). After co-option Cllr Johnny Cayford (JC). In attendance: Cllr Wiltshire Councillor Dominic Muns, Gill Tatum Parish Clerk & 5 Parishioners. The meeting started at 7.30pm.

The Chair thanked Gillian Tatum the Clerk to the Parish Council (as this was her last working day) for all her hard work over the 2.5 years in post.

- 1 **Absence apologies and Declaration of interests** Members are bound by the provisions of the Code of Conduct and are required to declare either personal or prejudicial interests; Apologies: None. No declarations of interest.
- 2 **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022.** The minutes were agreed by all Councillors present and signed on behalf of the Council by the Chair as a true record.
- 3 **Adjournment for Open Meeting;**

A Parishioner had raised a question (through boomCast) asking if Agendas/Minutes could include all the contact details for Councillors. It was discussed that the Clerk's contact details are on all Agendas & Minutes, with a list of all Cllrs in attendance (& those who have given apologies) on the Minutes, so any Parishioner wanting to contact a Cllr could access via the Clerk. It was also discussed that a full list of Cllrs for Easterton Parish Council are on the Notice Board and on the website <https://eastertonpc.org.uk/council-members/> in addition to the formal Register of Interests for Wiltshire Council <https://services.wiltshire.gov.uk/TownAndParish/ROI/Council/692> and it was agreed unnecessary to repeat on every Agenda or Minutes for the Parish Council.
- 4 **Past Planning Issues**

**Strawberry Fields; outstanding issues;** Cllr CS continues to chase GreenSquare Group (GSG) regarding completing the outfall works to the stream and he will continue to do so until this is completed by their contractors. Cllr CS confirmed he had ordered the new Grit Bin and is awaiting GSG to prepare the hardstanding for this. **Action; Cllr CS will continue to chase GSG** Cllr CS
- 5 **Update from Wiltshire Councillor Dominic Muns**

Wiltshire Cllr DM requested an Easterton PC representative to attend the Area Board 6.30pm 7<sup>th</sup> March Nursted Centre, first actual in person meeting since COVID-19; Cllr JB will attend. He explained about the new arrangements for CATG (Community Action Transport Group) will now be called LHFIG (Local Highways and Footpath Improvement Group). The change is to now accommodate rights of way through this group with an increased budget (£500,000), an emphasis to spend the money and 3 extra staff to help the implementation work.
- 6 **Governance Issues**

**6.1 Parish Councillor Vacancy; co-option of candidate Dr Johnny Cayford**

Dr Johnny Cayford (JC) was nominated by Cllr RB and seconded by Cllr AC and voted unanimously to be Co-opted onto Easterton Parish Council. He signed the Declaration of Office, witnessed by the Clerk and was duly welcomed onto the Parish Council.

**Action: Cllr JC To Complete the Register of Interest (Clerk to add his name & provide log in details), to provide details to the Clerk for the website and to be added to the Notice Board.**

Cllr JC Clerk

### **6.2 Appointment of the new Clerk.**

Cllrs Cs, JB & RB had carried out interviews for the post and Cllr JB, seconded by Cllr RB proposed the appointment of Sarah Jane Bullock (currently Clerk to All Cannings Parish Council, unanimously agreed. Sarah-Jane (SJ) will start on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022, her contact details will remain the same email address [clerk.easterton.pc@gmail.com](mailto:clerk.easterton.pc@gmail.com) Tel 079437 857501.

6.3 Wiltshire Consultation by StreetScene on changes to grass cutting arrangements; it was agreed that Cllr AS will attend on 10<sup>th</sup> March (to review potential arrangements for beneficial changes to cutting regime especially for Eastcott Common nettles problem. **Action; clerk to book Cllr AS for the meeting.**

Clerk

## **7 Correspondence and Communication**

### **7.1 Letter request for donation towards war memorial in Saint Barnabas Churchyard.**

A Parishioner from the PCC was in attendance to explain the current position regarding the memorial, full details including a picture of the proposed stone memorial and costs had been submitted prior to the meeting. Following a discussion Cllr CS proposed a donation of £600, seconded by Cllr RB, unanimous approval. **Action: Clerk to issue Cheque.**

Clerk

**7.2 Letter received from Wiltshire Bobby Van Service;** They carry out support to elderly and vulnerable in Wiltshire (HQ Calne) who have experienced a burglary and domestic violence and advice about cybercrimes and are available to support our Parishioners. After discussion Cllr AC suggested a donation of £50, seconded by Cllr RB, unanimous support.

Clerk

**Action: Clerk to issue Cheque.**

**7.4 boomCast Update;** Cllr AS has added a few additional parishioners (especially new parishioners from Strawberry Fields). It was decided that there was sufficient "credit" left in the pot to use for emails to Parishioners until the contract end on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022. It was noted that emails cost £0.05 per email and texts £0.5 per text. It was discussed that the company Boomerang are offering the same terms for the next year £660 +VAT including a substantial message bundle for texts and emails. Cllr AS proposed to carry on using the system which had worked really well for the PC not only during COVID-19 but subsequently, Cllr BM seconded, unanimous support. **Action: Clerk to renew contract (expires 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022.**

Clerk

**7.5 Echoes Update;** the February addition has just been circulated via boomCast (and on the website). Editor Cllr JB thanked all for contributions and gave the usual request for more news gratefully received via [judy@judyboyt.com](mailto:judy@judyboyt.com). She also was pleased that she had good feedback about the content of the Echoes.

## **8 Finance Update**

**8.1 Bank Reconciliation January 2022 & Budget Update;** Clerk ran through the current figures for February, closing balance f £27,589.51 including uncashed cheques.

It was decided to stay with the current auditor for this year accounts and review the system of accounting by the new clerk at the next meeting.

**8.2 All Cheques ratified;** Ch. No. 1812 Clerk expenses £15.12, Ch. No. 1813 £469.74 Parish

Gardener, Ch. No. 1814 £650 transfer to NS&I account for playground, Ch. No. 1815 £108 Parish Gardener (additional work), Ch. No. 1816 £50 donation Carers Support Wiltshire, Ch No 1818 £600 donation to PCC for memorial, Ch 1819 £50 donation to Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust; All accepted.

## 9 Projects and Activities Updates

**9.1 Easterton Community Fibre Partnership Update;** Cllr AC is still looking to progress the 23 Parishioner householders who have expressed an interest in this. He was hoping that the system could be changed to move from the current “opt in” to “opt out” which would help guarantee the number of Parishioner householders for the next stage of establishing a CIC (Community Interest Company). **Action; Cllr AS work ongoing. Anyone interested please see the website for more information <https://eastertonpc.org.uk/ultrafast-broadband-to-our-community-we-need-your-pledge-to-help/> and please contact Cllr AS for more information [andygcolley@gmail.com/](mailto:andygcolley@gmail.com/)**

Cllr AC

**9.2 Container behind Bus Shelter update;** Cllr CS is following up information with a new supplier (based in Melksham) and will circulate details prior to the next meeting. **Action; Cllr CS**

Cllr CS

**9.3 Allotments adjacent to Drove Lane Burial Ground;** Cllrs JB has put some details in the February Echoes asking Parishioners for any expression of interest for an Allotment. She along with Cllr RB have been reviewing the “principles” for allotments whether to go via the NAS (National Allotment Society) and/or if enough interest is generated for a Parishioner allotment self-governance. It is understood planning permission will be required for the area at Drove Lane (if we are putting sheds/polytunnels, compost toilet etc. on the land). Cllr JB also researching grants available; Wessex Water, Tesco, Gregs, B&Q, Co-op etc. in addition to Area Board. Cllr RB also commented on potential governance arrangements, there is a potential for 12 full size plots and even more if we provide half size plots for Parishioners.

**Action; Cllr JB & RB to continue scoping and assess once feedback from Parishioners. Reminder anyone interested in an allotment please email [Judy@judyboyt.com](mailto:Judy@judyboyt.com) or [rebrooks@btinternet.com](mailto:rebrooks@btinternet.com)**

Cllrs RB & JB

**9.4 Energy;** Cllr JB has attended a conference covering Caron Calculator impacts and has calculated for Easterton Parish (Exeter University) unfortunately the results at present are not that good! She has had to postpone the planned Environment Day in March but will look to re-arrange this soon (she already has a potential list of “display holders” Chitterne Bio-digester, BAT reps, Beekeepers, APT Electrical Chargers. She hoped that new Cllr JC will also help with this initiative.

Cllr JB had met with the Village Hall Trustees to get more information to scope the costs/ability involvement of getting an electrical charging point for Easterton at the Village Hall. From the initial meeting, APT Devizes 2 connector 7kwatts can be run at the Village Hall, but cars will need to charge overnight (as 12hrs to re-charge fully). Cost for the initial infrastructure around £3000 plus VAT, running costs will be covered by the users of the facility (pay via App or Card). This facility will improve the Parishes carbon footprint. The main issues are is there a demand? Will Parishioners (maybe from the High Street where there are parking constraints) or Strawberry Fields (Close by) use it? And be prepared to leave

Cllr CS

their cars in the Village Hall car park overnight to charge? **Action; Cllr JB will undertake a survey via boomCast for feedback from the Parish and/or please contact her directly Judy@judyboyt.com**

Cllr JB

**9.5 Queen's Platinum Jubilee;** Cllr CS has liaised with the Village Hall and the Fete committee, Cllr JB to liaise with the school. To date the Village Hall have booked a band for afternoon of Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2022. After some discussion it was proposed to work on an event around the band on the recreation field on the 4<sup>th</sup> June; parishioners to bring their own picnic afternoon tea?? Find out if the school are planning any activities that could be on that afternoon. **Action Cllr AS will send out boomCast asking what Parishioners want, looking for volunteers to follow up .**

Cllr AS

## 10 Highways and Byways Issues

**10.1 Kings Road;** Cllr CS has been following this up with Wiltshire Highways (continually for some time now) and the latest advice is that the hole is not large enough to warrant urgent re-surfacing! Resurfacing repairs to the worse are to be achieved by the end of March or early April.

**10.2 Rights of Way including Eastcott Rights of Way diversion;** Cllr RB still progressing with Paul Millard to get the stile kits for the diversion. Cllr RB also commented on the recent change taking away the deadline of 2026 to progress rights of way currently not on the definitive map, there is a huge number of routes submitted by Ramblers etc. he thought that routes that add value to our rights of way network will be pursued first by Wiltshire Council.

Cllr RB

**Action: Cllr RB to progress regarding Eastcott proposed diversion**

**10.3 Parish Gardener Update;** Cllr AS reported that M Goddard will be submitting a quote for next year which will be reviewed at the next meeting. Cllr JC commented on Trees on Vicarage Lane close to his boundary, he had reported to Wiltshire Council but was now getting a private contractor in to remove the tree. A discussion was had about landowner responsibility and where this starts and where it is the responsibility of Wiltshire Council. WC are responsible for the RofW surface and landowners for any trees/vegetation overgrowing or fallen from their property. It was noted that the recent storms had brought this issue to a head.

**10.5 Parish Steward (PS);** Cllr AS requested any jobs for Kevan this Wednesday; white

## 11 Environmental Issues

**11.1 Easterton Flood Catchment Assessment;** Cllr AS has had replies from all consulted, but all confirmed unfortunately it was too early in the ELMS process to assess how this could help with the Flood Management Plan for Easterton. Ron Crook has been consulted and is agreeable to wait until ELMS information greater and meanwhile will identify if any other forms of funding to progress the Scheme.

### Next Meetings

**Next Parish Council Meeting 21<sup>st</sup> March 7.30pm at Garden Room, Village Hall  
Environmental Open Day, postponed, date TBC.**