

Easterton Parish Council Meeting

Monday 26th September 2022 at 7.30 p.m.

Minutes

Present: Cllr C Saunders, Cllr B Myerscough, Cllr J Boyt, Cllr S Rance, Cllr R Brooks, Cllr A Snook, Cllr A Colley, Cllr D Muns, Clerk S-J Bullock

- 1 **Declaration of interests:** Cllr B Myerscough – planning PL/2022/07152
- 2 **Apologies:** None
- 3 **Minutes of the previous meeting to be adopted and signed by the presiding chairman:** Approved and signed.
- 4 **Adjournment. Welcome to the public.** (Max 3 minutes per question, 20 minutes in total): Two residents present. The residents expressed their concern about the potential positioning (at the top of the steps) of a street lamp in Strawberry Fields, intended to light a flight of steps but is likely to shine directly into the bedroom windows of nearby houses and be ineffective at lighting the steps. Residents would prefer that the developer use bulkhead lighting instead, as they believe it would be less intrusive and more effective. Cllr C Saunders said he would look at the original plans for the development and advise.
- 5 **Planning Applications:**
 - PL/2022/06525 – Highlands House – Tree works. Councillors expressed concern that the application form is brief and imprecise. RESOLVED to object subject to further clarification.
 - PL/2022/06347 – Wickham Green Barn – retrospective change of use. Councillors RESOLVED no objection.
 - PL/2022/07152 – 6b Oaklands, tree works. Councillors RESOLVED no objection.
- 6 **Past Planning Issues:** Strawberry Fields; outstanding issues. Cllr C Saunders informed councillors that the extra grit bin would be placed outside the last house being built as soon the scaffolding is removed and area can be accessed. The access road into Strawberry Fields is steep so easily accessible grit may be essential during winter to enable traffic to drive up.
- 7 **Update from Wiltshire Councillor Dominic Muns:** - Cllr D Muns informed councillors that although there no further updates as to when work will commence on Blackdog junction, there has been a request for a 40mph

speed limit to be imposed on the road from the Cheverell junction up to the black dog junction and the Market Lavington 30mph. Cllr D Muns also said that the proposal to install auto speed watch monitors on poles to photograph speeding vehicles has stalled, as although the frontline police approved the suggestion there are insufficient administration staff to manage the additional data the monitors would produce. So, although the equipment is available, parish councils and frontline police are in favour, administration requires additional funding and staff necessary to progress the project.

8 **Governance Issues**

8.1 Assign lead roles to councillors – Recently appointed Cllr S Rance will shadow other councillors to experience what their responsibilities involve before taking on lead roles. Cllr A Colley has been appointed as responsible for finance monitoring and governance. Social liaison responsibility to be considered in the future.

9 **Correspondence and Communication**

9.1 boomCast update – Cllr A Snook, Cllr S Rance has successfully encouraged more Strawberry Fields residents to sign up for boomCast

9.2 Echoes update – Cllr J Boyt, new edition to be despatched very soon.

9.3 Council received a complaint which was investigated and resolved.

10 **Finance Update**

10.1 Bank Reconciliation & budget – Cllr C Saunders, Cllr B Myerscough & Clerk. Copies of the cash book and Scribe summary reports have been disseminated. Chairman signed the bank reconciliation form to comply with financial regulations.

10.2 Consider purchasing a council laptop for use by the clerk. After investigating various laptops and business suppliers, the Asus Zenbook appears to offer best value and be suitable at £515.83 (ex vat) and copy of Microsoft Office for £119.99. Councillors RESOLVED to approve the purchase of the laptop and software.

10.3 Request for a grant from West Lavington Youth Club. Councillors agreed in principle as long as the amount is proportional to the number of Easterton residents attending but would like further clarification of accounts. Wiltshire Councillor D Muns said that the other parish councils have also asked for more detail and confirmed that the Devizes Area board has recently awarded a grant to the Youth Club.

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Payments approved:

11.1 Mark Goddard instalment to be paid in October £460.00 (inc. VAT).

11.2 Administration expenses (HWA, ink & mileage) £85.82

11.3 Clerks wage.

12 **Projects and Activities Updates**

12.1 Easterton Community Fibre Partnership Update: Cllr A Colley – More promotion required via boomCast and Echoes to encourage residents to take up the voucher scheme to enable open reach to install faster broadband access. The local MP suggests that the onus is on the local population to support the community fibre project and take up voucher scheme, Open Reach require fifty vouchers in order to start work. Cllr A Colley said that good broadband access is essential, rural areas should not be excluded from high-speed access and the community should take advantage of the offered funding.

12.2 Jubilee Tree Project – Cllr B Myerscough. Ongoing and awaiting the village hall committees view on planting a tree to replace a dead one. Species to be decided and dependant on available space.

12.3 Allotments at Cemetery Land - Cllr J Boyt has discussed allotments with other allotments managers, who suggested starting with initial plot or two to get started. One confirmed keen resident would like an allotment plot. Cllr J Boyt and Cllr R Brooks to investigate the costs of setting up the necessary infrastructure, such as improving the footpath access for wheelbarrows, a new gate and fence, a tap and possibly a communal shed before any work can proceed.

12.4 Energy: Cllr J Boyt, Councillors acknowledged that EV's are expensive to install and use. The lack of private driveways and public car parks presents additional difficulties for installation of EV's in rural areas.

12.5 Defibrillator lease renewal – Cllr B Myerscough. The lease renewal has been signed and the second defibrillator awaits permission for installation at the church, if not granted the second unit to be installed at the village hall.

12.6 Terracycle bins – Cllr S Rance to discuss the possibility of the school installing Terracycle bins, which accept items for recycling that cannot currently be recycled with household rubbish, as an environmentally friendly fund-raising opportunity.

12.7 Quotes for tree work at the cemetery – Cllr A Snook, one received from Mark Goddard & Sons, two more quotes expected shortly from Will Cork and Conservation Contractors Ltd. Conifers are overwhelming graves and require crown lifting without exposing the electrical sub-station and removal of the waste. Councillors RESOLVED to accept a quote of up to £600.00 plus vat.

12.8 Replacement storage behind the bus shelter – Cllr C Saunders, the new steel shed has arrived. Cllr A Snook kindly offered to assist in removing the existing storage and items stored and to erected the new storage facility.

12.9 Christmas tree location and source – Cllr B Myerscough to ask a resident if he would be happy to host a tree close to his house, due to the negative feedback about the positioning of the Christmas tree at the pub last year. Cllr C Saunders will investigate the possibility of an electrical supply from a lamp post.

12.10 St Barnabas School update – Cllr S Rance, the school is in need of volunteers to assist with maintenance and would be delighted to accept offers of help from residents.

13 **Highways and Byways Issues**

13.1 Kings Road surface condition - Cllr C Saunders, awaiting a copy of best practises from highways.

13.2 Rights of Way updates – Cllr R Brooks – East 17, may not be necessary to divert this footpath as the slurry pit has now been cleared and the area levelled. Still awaiting new styles from Wiltshire Council.

13.3 Parish Gardener update: Cllr A Snook – Has a quote for a further six months of ground maintenance from Mark Goddard & sons at £1,020.00. Councillors RESOLVED to accept the quote.

13.4 Parish Steward update- Cllr A Snook informed councillors that he is very impressed with the new parish steward, Adam Batt, who is doing excellent work around the parish.

13.5 East 21 requires repair to a step – Cllr A Snook to request that Wiltshire Council complete the repairs.

14 **Environmental Issues**

14.1 Easterton Flood Catchment Assessment: weed clearance is necessary in the stream, this requires a contractor with a specialised licence.

Meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Next meeting: 17th October 2022

Signed:

Dated: