

Easterton Parish Council Meeting

Monday 21st November 2022 at 7.30 p.m.

Minutes

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

- 1 **Declaration of interests:** None
- 2 **Apologies:** Cllr R Brooks, Cllr D Muns
- 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): Seven residents present.
- 5 **Planning Applications:**
 - PL/2022/08351 – The Beeches, (adjacent to 2 Kings Road) – New three bed house. Councillors noted that several previous planning applications have been made for this plot and previous objections still apply. The lack of space in the plot for a septic tank, failure to state how the sewage drainage will be addressed in the application and the distance from mains sewage meaning that connection to main drains is not feasible. Councillors RESOLVED to object.
 - PL/2022/08428 – Kings Road stable conversion into two-bedroom house, with the same footprint and height. - Councillors considered the application and RESOLVED no objection.
 - PL/2022/08833 – Highland House, 60 High Street – tree works. Councillors suggested that the condition of the trees leading to the High Street needed to be addressed. Councillors concluded that they have the same objection to this tree works notification as the previous one, that the plans are too vague and imprecise. Councillors RESOLVED to object.
- 6 **Past Planning Issues:** Strawberry Fields; outstanding issues. Cllr C Saunders – There is an on-going problem with lighting of steps at Strawberry fields, one streetlamp has been installed which is unlikely to light all the steps adequately and the planned additional streetlamp is likely to shine into bedroom windows of nearby houses. Resident would like bulkhead lighting to be installed to ensure steps are safely lit without unnecessary light pollution. Residents mentioned the difficulty they have trying to communicate with Green Square who do not respond to emails.

7 **Update from Wiltshire Councillor Dominic Muns: - Not present**

8 **Governance Issues**

8.1 Consider setting up dedicated email addresses for councillors. Councillors discussed the benefits of dedicated addresses for data protection and privacy aspects and RESOLVED to approve.

9 **Correspondence and Communication**

9.1 boomCast update – Cllr A Snook – nothing to report.

9.2 Echoes update – Cllr J Boyt – writing the new edition this week.

9.3 Email from a resident asking for a grit bin to be relocated. The resident was in attendance and explained that the grit bin was obstructing her gate way and causing issues for large vehicles and trailers needing to gain access. Cllr B Myerscough to ask another resident if they would be willing to host the grit bin on their land.

9.4 A letter to Danny Kruger MP requesting the removal of the five-year housing plan, as it is being used by developers to force through planning applications that would otherwise have been dismissed as unsuitable for the area and contrary to neighbourhood plans. Councillors RESOLVED to approve the chairman signing the letter on Easterton Parish Council behalf to be sent to the MP.

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. Cllr A Colley signed the bank reconciliation form to comply with financial regulations.

10.2 Approve NALC pay award for Clerk, additional £1.00 per hour plus back-pay. APPROVED

10.3 Discuss grant application from Market Lavington Youth Club. – No further information has been received from the club. Awaiting more details.

10.4 Consider registering with ICO (Information Commissioners Office) at £35.00 per (if paid by Direct Debit) – APPROVED

10.5 Consider donations to: Air Ambulance, Dorothy House and Julia's House. Councillors RESOLVED to donate £100 to each charity.

10.6 Approve draft budget for 2023/24. After considerable discussion Councillors RESOLVED to reduce various budget lines in order to reduce the original proposed precept request from £23,000 to £22,000. The clerk noted that the precept request should at least match the current inflation rate to avoid reliance on reserves for running costs. Using reserves for council running cost is poor accounting practice and would result in higher precept requests later to recover reserves.

Payments approved:

1. Goddard & Sons invoice no: 2668 £340.00
2. Conservation contractors invoice no: 7727 £660.00
3. Cllr A Snook (screed for steel shed foundation) £48.42
4. Administration expenses (miles, HWA) £32.75
5. Cllr C Saunders (key box for steel shed) £12.99
6. Clerks' salary & back pay

12 Projects and Activities Updates

12.1 Easterton rural full fibre broadband update: Cllr A Colley – Easterton awaits the roll out of gigabyte broadband.

12.2 Jubilee Tree Project – Cllr B Myerscough –has researched tree species, concentrating on varieties that would suit the local soil. Councillors discussed various options and RESOLVED to select a Holm Oak with a budget of up to £250.00, including stake, tree guard, plaque, etc.

12.3 Allotments at Cemetery Land - Cllr J Boyt - ongoing

12.4 Environment and sustainability: Cllr J Boyt – Nothing to report

12.5 Defibrillators – Cllr B Myerscough – the second (new) defibrillator to be stored until it can be fitted at the church, the replacement unit is ready to be fitted at the pub.

12.6 St Barnabas School – Cllr S Rance – met with administration and discussed TerraCycle scheme, met with enthusiasm, more research to be done regarding the number and size of bins required. Cllr S Rance has volunteered to help with funding raising for school.

12.7 Discuss updating the village statement and inviting residents to assist – Cllr B Myerscough – One resident has already volunteered to assist. Councillors will provide the current statement to be reviewed and updated.

12.8 Christmas tree – Cllr B Myerscough – After investigations and much discussion councillors concluded that the cost of installing an electricity supply or solar power and tree, lights and decorations was prohibitive, and not justifiable this year. RESOLVED to reconsider next year.

12.9 Consider how to manage a grave that has fallen into disrepair. Sharp edges are now exposed and efforts to contact the original owner have been unsuccessful. Councillors RESOLVED that Cllr C Saunders would mark the plot with hazard tape and place a sign advising that the plot needs to be restored by a certain date or council will have to re-grass the grave space as per cemetery rules.

12.10 Overweight cemetery bin. Council is being charged additional costs for waste collection due to the bin being overfilled and would be grateful if residents could take excess waste home, instead of filling the bin until overflowing.

13 Highways and Byways Issues

13.1 Kings Road surface condition - Cllr C Saunders - ongoing.

13.2 Rights of Way updates – Cllr R Brooks – The sleeper foot bridge in East 17 has been replaced.

13.3 Parish Gardener update: Cllr A Snook – East 2 steps have been repaired by the parish gardener.

13.4 Parish Steward update- Cllr A Snook – Mr Batt arranged for a road sweeper to attend and clean the from Market Lavington to Easterton.

13.5 Update on bus stop – Cllr C Saunders – Residents have no objection to the relocation of the bus stop.

Other information (motions for next agenda.)

Meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Next meeting: 16th January 2023

Signed:

Dated: