

# Easterton Parish Council Meeting

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 7.30 p.m.

## Minutes

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

- 1 **Declaration of interests:** Cllr C Saunders – village hall/Coronation event
- 2 **Apologies:** Cllr A Colley, 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): 17 residents present.
- 5 **Planning Applications:** 0
- 6 **Past Planning Issues:** Strawberry Fields: outstanding issues at Strawberry fields are the installation of a grit bin and remaining lighting to be installed.
- 7 **Future Planning issues:** Halstead Farm field. The chairman invited residents present to discuss recent works on The Drove and Halstead Farm Field and informed residents that the parish council had no prior knowledge of these works and had not given consent. He said that a previous contractor had stated that they did not require tree works permission because the land is agricultural, but this is not correct as the field is within the conservation area. The Walnut tree in the field, which had a TPO blew down five years ago. The most recent contractor claims that the byway used to be wider, and he used a mechanical digger to remove earth and brambles from the bank below Strawberry Fields and the opposing bank. A resident said that the width of the byway was stated as 4.5 metres when Halstead Lodge was built. An engineer from Strawberry Fields will be coming to investigate their bank. When councillors visited the site, the contractor had already completed his excavations and said he was going to lay down road planings on The Drove to control the disturbed surface. Residents expressed concerns that the planings and mud would be washing down the road, and into the stream, by the next heavy rainfall. A resident also said that previous crushing down of stones on The Drove has damaged their water mains below. The parish council has contacted the Wiltshire Council planning enforcement officer, the Environment dept, and the (LHFIG) Local Highways and Footpath Improvements Group office has been informed. The contractor informed a resident that they will spray the vegetation and further level parts of the ground in the field, residents and councillors are very worried that this will damage wildlife habitat and may pollute the water table. The residents present said that they would prefer no development of this field and that it remain the green lung of the village as per the village statement. The parish council are pursuing every avenue to ensure that the developer does not complete further works in a conservation area without planning permission. No response has been received from the developers regarding councillors' questions or the request to engage the local community.
- 8 **Update from Wiltshire Councillor Dominic Muns:** Not present
- 9 **Governance Issues:**

9.1 Review and update the asset register – A value of £15,000 was allocated for replacement value of the bus shelter.

9.2 Review risk assessment – Councillors RESOLVED that the risk assessment was fit for purpose.

10 **Correspondence and Communication:**

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

10.2 Echoes update – Cllr J Boyt – nothing to report.

11 **Finance Update**

11.1 Appoint an internal auditor: Councillors RESOLVED to appoint David Owen Accountants.

11.2 Bank Reconciliation & budget – Cllr B Myerscough & Cllr A Colley. Copies of the bank reconciliation sheet, statements and Scribe summary reports have been disseminated. Cllr C Saunders signed the bank reconciliation form to comply with financial regulations.

11.3 Ratify a year end check by Scribe accounts at £39.00 APPROVED.

11.4 Council received a CIL payment £771.38 (17/07264/FUL).

**Payments approved:**

1. M Goddard (2<sup>nd</sup>) invoice no: 2678. £340.00
2. Administration expenses (ink, miles, HWA) £59.38
3. Annual subscription to Scribe invoice No: 3596 £414.72
4. Clerks' salary

12 **Projects and Activities Updates**

12.1 Jubilee Tree Project – Cllr B Myerscough thanked Cllr A Snook for clearing the site ready for expected arrival of a Copper Beech tree this week.

12.2 Allotments at Cemetery land – Cllr R Brooks said that the LHFIG officer has visited the site and said that he is hopeful that the steps to the footpath could be replaced with a ramp, to make it suitable for wheelbarrows.

12.3 Environment and sustainability: Cllr J Boyt said that Halstead Farm Field requires an environmental survey before any more work is undertaken. ACTION Clerk and councillor to plan an approach to the environment department at Wiltshire Council.

12.4 Defibrillators – Cllr B Myerscough – There will be a defibrillator training event on 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 7.30pm at the village hall, all welcome. Clerk to ask Wiltshire to confirm that planning permission is required for the installation of a second defibrillator.

12.8 St Barnabas School – Cllr S Rance, has been volunteering at school to help with general maintenance. She will enquire about the schools plans for the Coronation.

12.9 Consider Coronation and village celebrations – a resident is organising a band for the Bank Holiday Monday of the Coronation weekend.

13 **Highways and Byways Issues**

**13.1** Kings Road surface condition - Cllr C Saunders, some patching of the potholes has been done, but the road is very lumpy.

**13.2** Rights of Way updates – Cllr R Brooks says there are rabbit holes in footpath 6, which he has reported to the LHFIG officer, and a farming resident has been asked to erect three stiles supplied by Wiltshire Council.

**13.3** Parish Gardener update: Cllr A Snook, the parish gardener is up to date with his work.

**13.4** Parish Steward update- Cllr A Snook, Mr Batt is currently concentrating on pothole repairs.

Other information (motions for next agenda.)

Meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Next meeting: 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Signed:

Dated: