

Easterton Parish Council Meeting

Monday 19th June 2023 at 7.30 p.m.

Minutes

Present: Cllr C Saunders, Cllr B Myerscough, Cllr J Boyt, Cllr S Rance

In attendance: Clerk S-J Bullock

1 **Declaration of interests:** 0

2 **Apologies:** Cllr D Muns, Cllr A Snook, Cllr R Brooks, Cllr A Colley.

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): 5 residents in attendance. A resident asked how the installation of the second defibrillator unit is progressing. Cllr B Myerscough has questioned Wiltshire Council about the planning requirements and is awaiting their response. Another location maybe considered if the planning issue cannot be resolved, a suggestion has been made to place the second unit closer to Easterton Sands. Another resident commented on the landscape maintenance between Easterton and Market Lavington, expressing concern about the removal of hedgerows and the resultant loss of habitat and wildlife corridors. Also, that large areas of grassland are being cut just as orchids are starting to flower, and asked if the parish council can assist in preventing this ecological damage. Cllr B Myerscough said that the parish council is not able to instruct landowners on how to manage their land unless the law is being broken and recommended that the resident speak to Natural England and Wiltshire Wildlife.

5 **Planning Applications:** PL/2023/04568 15 White Street – reduce holly tree. No Objection. PL/2023/04745 17 High Street – fell two juniper trees – No Objection.

6 **Update for Wiltshire Councillor Dominic Muns** – No report

7 **Governance issues:**

7.1 Review EPC email system. The cost of increasing storage capacity of current email system is quite high. Clerk to research other options.

7.2 Appoint local responsibility for noticeboards – Cllr A Snook agreed prior to meeting to take on this responsibility. Clerk to hold keys for the village hall.

7.3 Consider back up for cemetery in the absent of the current volunteer. Clerk awaiting information and map from volunteer.

8 **Correspondence & Communications:**

8.1 boomCast update – Cllr A Snook – No report

8.2 Echoes update – Cllr J Boyt – in progress, hoping to interview Easterton's oldest resident.

8.3 Consider adding planning applications to boomCast. Councillors discussed this and decided to just add the most contentious planning applications to keep residents informed.

8.4 Letter has been received from Easterton Country Fete requesting a grant to help facilitate the fete, agreed in principle. Awaiting completed grant application form.

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Finance update:

9.1 Bank reconciliation and reports have been distributed to councillors at month end as per financial regulations – queries to RFO.

9.2 Consider transferring majority of funds from NS&I account to reserve account or closing NS&I account. Councillors RESOLVED to close NS&I account and transfer funds to Lloyds.

9.3 Consider appointing a councillor to register for online banking and Scribe accounts. Cllr B Myerscough says he has online banking with Lloyds and a login for Scribe accounts.

9.4 Approve grant application form. Councillors RESOLVED to approve the grant application form.

Payments to be approved:

- 1) Administration expenses (office supplies, miles, HWA) £80.06
- 2) Mark Goddard (3rd instalment) inv: 2763 £489.43
- 3) Hill Waste Solutions inv: PT13481 £217.48
- 4) David Owen Accountants (internal audit) inv: 35108 £834.00
- 5) Hydro-Logic Services (telemetry) inv: 32731 £186.00
- 6) Cllr C Saunders (duplicate keys for village hall) £37.50
- 7) Clerks' salary

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Projects and activities update:

10.1 Defibrillators – Cllr B Myerscough – see above 4. public section.

10.2 Village statement update – Cllr A Colley, said prior to the meeting that he would be conferring with another resident on refreshing the village statement. A resident asked about the possibility of a neighbourhood plan for Easterton. Neighbourhood plans can take years to produce and can cost between £17,000 and £63,000 (source Wiltshire Council website) and last for two years, before requiring updating again. Wiltshire Council is currently revising their local plan, so a new neighbour plan would need to be started after this is completed, otherwise it would be out of date.

10.3 Nomination of an Asset of Community Value (Royal Oak) update – Cllr A Colley, said prior to the meeting, that the nomination forms have been submitted to Wiltshire Council and receipt has been confirmed.

10.4 Burial ground plot update – Cllr C Saunders, the plot in question has fallen into disrepair, some work has been done to tidy the plot, but sharp edges remain.

10.5 Allotment – Cllr J Boyt, has found a source of matting which could be used to support a path to the allotment area. Cllr R Brooks is acquiring a quote to repair fencing.

10.6 Environment and conservation – Cllr J Boyt, hedgehog tunnels as mentioned in Echoes can be used to record hedgehogs and other wildlife travelling through. The community could use the “i-record” app to collect and log data on local wildlife and habitats.

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Highways and Byways issues:

11.1 Right of Way updates – Cllr Brooks prior to meeting said, that someone has removed the maps and signs indicating that footpath 14 was closed at the railway line.

11.2 Parish gardener update – Cllr A Snook, distributed the list of works completed and still to be completed prior to the meeting.

11.3 Parish Steward update – Cllr A Snook advised councillors prior to the meeting, that the parish steward is no longer permitted to work in a 40mph zone without a traffic

management team at a cost to WC of £500.00 per day, due to health and safety regulations.

11.4 Footpath 14/Network Rail signage update – Cllr A Colley – no report.

11.5 Dog fouling, an on-going issue. Councillors RESOLVED to put another reminder to dog owners in the Echoes.

11.6 Ecology/tree report for footpath one – Cllr R Brooks – no report.

11.7 Renew Kings Road sign – Cllr C Saunders, awaiting response from parish steward.

11.8 Appoint representative for LHFIG and Area Board meetings. Cllr A Snook will assist with LHFIG and Cllr J Boyt will cover Area Board meetings.

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Other information (motions for next agenda).

Cllr Chris Saunders resigned as councillor after fourteen years, his knowledge, experience and humour will be missed.

Meeting closed at 9.35pm

Next council meeting at: 17th July 2023

Signed:

Dated: