

# Easterton Parish Council Meeting

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7.30 p.m.

## Minutes

Present: Cllr B Myerscough, Cllr J Boyt, Cllr A Snook, Cllr D Muns, Cllr A Colley, Cllr R Brooks

In attendance: S-J Bullock

1. **Election of chair for this meeting:** The clerk opened the meeting and Cllr Richard Brooks was nominated and elected at the chair for this meeting.
2. **Declaration of interests:** 0
3. **Apologies:** 0
4. **Minutes of the previous meetings to be adopted and signed by the residing chair.** The minutes were approved and signed.
5. **Adjournment and welcome to the public.** (Max 3 mins per question, 20 minutes in total) for questions from residents in attendance: Two members of the public were present. One to confirm the installation of the defibrillator at the church this month. A second resident was present to meet the councillors and introduce himself as he would like to join the council.
6. **Planning applications:** Easterton Parish Council note that a Wiltshire Council planning enforcement officer has visited a property located at the rear of 2 King Roads which is currently in breach of planning permission and advised the owner to rectify or reapply for planning permission.
7. **Update from Wiltshire Councillor Dominic Muns:** Wiltshire council has added an additional £10 million to the £40 million allocated towards road repairs and maintenance and this work has started. Councillor Muns has reassured residents that Wiltshire Councils financial position is excellent due to wise investments, unlike like other councils currently in the news. Wiltshire Council is holding public consultations on the new Local Plan, which be available to view at Devizes Library on 5<sup>th</sup> October between 3pm-7pm, there also a webinar people may register for online attendance. Cllr Muns confirmed that a Village Design Statement is useful instrument to inform the planners of the local resident's wishes for future development in a village. Cllr Muns mentioned that Lavington Lane development in West Lavington, has been visited by planning enforcement team as the houses should not be inhabited until a puffin crossing has been constructed, however this is not the case. No crossing has been constructed as yet and some houses are occupied.

**8. Governance issues:**

- 8.1 Review Easterton Parish Council financial regulations. Councillors APPROVED and signed.
- 8.2 Councillors' responsibilities: Strawberry Fields and St Barnabas School responsibilities – DEFERRED.

**9. Correspondence & communications**

- 9.1 boomCast update – Cllr A Snook – working well.
- 9.2 Echoes update – Cllr J Boyt, the Echoes will be out by the end of the week.

**10. Administration**

- 10.1 Councillors' signatures required on EroB grants, these were signed and will be distributed by the clerk.

**11. Finance update**

- 11.1 Bank reconciliation and reports have been distributed to councillors at month end as per financial monitoring regulations.
- 11.2 Consider allocating CIL payment of £771.38 to allotment/cemetery boundary fencing. APPROVED.
- 11.3 Burial income received £410.00 reservation of a double depth plot.

**Payments to be ratified:**

- 1) Parish online invoice: 00HY089-0002 £57.60.

**Payment to be approved:**

- 1) Administration expense (office supplies, miles & HWA) £135.89
- 2) Mark Goddard (6<sup>th</sup> instalment) inv: 2812 £489.43.
- 3) Townsend design & print (maps) inv: 42725 £25.50.
- 4) C. Payne (maps) £20.00
- 5) Clerk salary.

**12. Projects & activities update:**

- 12.1 Defibrillators – Cllr B Myerscough, the second defibrillator with be installed at the church this month.
- 12.2 Village Design Statement – ACTION Cllr A Colley to update the village design statement, hopefully with assistance from village residents.
- 12.3 Community Asset update – Cllr A Colley confirmed that the Royal Oak public house is now on the Wiltshire Council Community Asset Register.
- 12.4 Allotments – Cllr J Boyt, quotes have been received for fencing. However, separate quotes will be required for the moving the old fence and water supply between the cemetery and the rear paddock initially, to create additional space cemetery space and tidy up the boundary. Councillors raised concern that wildlife such as rabbits and deer could be a problem for allotments, wildlife controlling fence is expensive. Further quotes are required for a path through cemetery. ACTION Cllr R Brooks & Cllr J Boyt to get separate quotes for the boundary fence and access path. Cllr R Brooks to investigate land registration.

- 12.5 Environment & Conservation – Cllr J Boyt – nothing to report.
- 12.6 First Aider training – ACTION Cllr J Boyt to get more quotes for first aid training. Councillor APPROVED partial payment of the cost dependant on quotes, with those being trained to pay the remainder.
- 12.7 Request for grit bins for Strawberry fields, Cllr A Snook that there are eight grit bins in the village currently and just seven of them are serviced by Wiltshire Council, extra bins would have to be serviced by Easterton PC. Councillors RESOLVED to purchase an additional grit bin for Strawberry Fields as originally discussed.
- 12.8 Fencing around the play area behind the village hall is rotting and requires attention. EPC is expecting quotes from the village hall treasurer in October.
- 12.9 Consider a contribution towards a Christmas tree at the Royal Oak, which has received a contribution of £300 from the fete. Councillors RESOLVED that they are willing to contribute towards the Christmas tree in principle, dependant on quotes received.
- 12.10 Consider purchasing crosses to mark the reserved plots at the cemetery, councillors RESOLVED to get quotes to modify some original metal plot markers for this purpose.
- 12.11 Appoint a councillor to conduct topple tests annually - Cllr A Snook agreed to take on this responsibility.

### **13.Highways & byways issues**

- 13.1 Rights of way updates – Cllr R Brooks, no rights way officers available.
- 13.2 Parish Gardener update – Cllr A Snook, nothing to report.
- 13.3 Parish Stewart update – Cllr A Snook has a list of jobs to do around the village. Gully pots around the village need emptying.
- 13.4 Footpath 14 / Network rail signage update – Cllr A Colley no response from Network.
- 13.5 Ecology/tree survey for footpath one – Cllr R Brooks, there are dead ash trees, but they are with Halstead Farm field boundary.
- 13.6 Consider signs and speed reduction for Kings Road – ACTION Cllr J Boyt to send a request to LHFIG for speed humps and signs.

### **14.Topics for the next meeting**

- 14.1 Councillors to view and comment on the New Local Plan. Co-option of new councillors. Broadband update. Christmas tree and assign councillors responsibilities.

Meeting ended at: 9.25pm

Next council meeting: 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023