

# Easterton Parish Council Meeting

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> 2024 at 7.30 p.m.

## Minutes

Present: Cllr B Myerscough, Cllr J Boyt, Cllr A Snook, Cllr D Muns, Cllr R Brooks, Cllr P Bullock.

In attendance: S-J Bullock

1. **Election of chair for this meeting:** Cllr R Brooks was elected to preside over this meeting.
2. **Declaration of interests:** Cllr J Boyt – item 6
3. **Apologies:** Cllr A Colley
4. **Minutes of the previous meeting to be adopted and signed by the residing chair.** 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. Ten residents in attendance. Two residents commented on the recent flooding in High Street during Storm Henk and said that their email alert arrived post event, but they were grateful for assistance they received with sandbags, road closure, and said that they were fortunate as the flood water did not enter their house. Councillors said that it would be useful to have a stock of sand available for the future, batteries for torches and that the rake should be accessible to keep the debris screen clear and mentioned that bow waves from passing traffic could force water into adjacent properties. It is also essential that High Street residents ensure that they have current phone numbers registered with the flood working group, in order to receive flood alerts from the flood monitoring device up stream.
6. **Planning applications:** PL/2023/10332 – Potterne solar farm, an application to build a solar farm and the associated infrastructure covering over two hundred acres of agricultural land for fifty years. There was considerable discussion between councillors and residents regarding the pros and cons of the proposed solar farm. It was noted that there were numerous errors in the application which appeared to have copied and pasted from another application in another county. Residents and concerned citizens were urged to make their own comments online before the consultee deadline of 1<sup>st</sup> February. Councillors resolved to object to the planning application.
7. **Update from Wiltshire Councillor Dominic Muns** – Cllr Muns informed councillors and residents of an update re: Black dog junction, the owners of

Black Dog farm have declined to sell any of their land or relocate fencing to improve the sightlines for Black Dog junction. Wiltshire Council will have to consider other options for improving the junction's safety. A Devizes area board meeting will be held on 26<sup>th</sup> February, with a bias on Highways. A planning application has been received for a new Co-op shop and several houses in Market Lavington, a survey conducted by the Co-op indicated that 78 percent of respondents were supportive. The governments five-year housing supply target has been reduced to a four-year housing target and Wiltshire Council has exceeded the target, so the planning inspectorate should not be able to force acceptance of planning applications for more housing.

**8. Governance issues:** Nil.

**9. Correspondence & communications**

9.1 boomCast update – Cllr A Snook to request assistance with the next subscription invoice.

9.2 Echoes update – Cllr J Boyt, the February issue is on the way shortly.

9.3 Discuss D-Day celebrations – Cllr A Snook will liaise with the village hall committee.

**10. Finance update.**

**10.1** Bank reconciliation and reports have been distributed to councillors at the end of the month as per financial monitoring regulations. Approved and signed.

**10.2** Approve the draft budget and set the precept, Councillors resolved to approve the budget and the precept request.

**10.3** Investigation into higher interest rate account for reserve funds – Cllr A Colley – deferred.

**10.4** Consider membership of SLCC (Society of Local Council Clerks) for Easterton. Cost annual membership cost includes legal advice – Approved.

**Payments to ratify:**

1) David Owen payroll invoice: 35938 £96.00

**Payments to be approved:**

1) Administration expenses (office supplies, miles & HWA) £78.82

2) Clerk Salary – all approved.

**11. Projects & activities update:**

**11.1** Village statement update – Cllr A Colley – No report.

**11.2** Environment and conservation – Cllr J Boyt – Nothing to report.

**11.3** First Aid training – Cllr J Boyt – Awaiting trainer confirmation.

**11.4** Potterne Solar update – Cllr J Boyt – See item 6.

**11.5** Village Hall Committee – Cllr A Snook – Awaiting third quote for playground fencing.

**12.Highways & byways issues:**

- 12.1 Rights of Way update – Cllr R Brooks, lots of fallen trees, mud, and flood damage.
- 12.2 Parish gardener update – Cllr A Snook – The parish gardener will be asked to help remove the sediment from the bottom of Drove Lane.
- 12.3 Parish steward report – Cllr A Snook – The replacement parish steward will be visiting Easterton on 28<sup>th</sup> January.

**13.Topics for the next meeting** - Councillor vacancy and election of chair.

The meeting closed at: 21.00pm

The next meeting will be at: 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

Signed:

Dated: