

Easterton Parish Council Meeting

Monday 19th February 2024 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, Cllr P Bullock.

In attendance: S-J Bullock

1. **Election of chair for this meeting:** Cllr Richard Brooks was elected to preside over the meeting.
2. **Declaration of interests:** 0
3. **Apologies:** 0
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. Three residents in attendance.
6. **Planning applications:** PL/2024/00639 The Maltings – Crown reduction on birch and copper beech – No objection.
 PL/2024/01059 - Agricultural buildings into dwellings, pre-planning application – No objection.
 PL/2024/01207 Halstead Farm – Crown reduction for two silver birch – No objection.
 Councillors would like to thank all those who contributed to the EPC objection to the proposed Potterne Solar Farm PL/2023/10332 and the monumental effort by Cllr J Boyt, Cllr R Brooks and Jo Darlington. Council is awaiting the decision from the Local Planning Authority.
 Councillors are still awaiting the decision of the revised planning application for 2 Kings Road, although the decision date has passed, no decision has been published yet.
 Councillors noted their disappointment that the appeal by the owner of the land and buildings to the rear of Malthouse Farm, (PL/2023/07348) has been granted by the planning inspectorate. Also, that the footpath is already been damaged by runoff from this site.
7. **Update from Wiltshire Councillor Dominic Muns:** Cllr Muns informed the councillors that the Eastern area planning committee will be meeting at 3pm on Thursday 21st March at the Corn Exchange to discuss the Potterne solar

farm application. Devizes area board is having a highways themed meeting on Monday 26th February at 6.30pm at Needham House, Devizes.

8. Governance issues:

8.1 Review risk management policy, minor amendment to finance section to update. Approved and signed.

8.2 Review and adopt publication policy: Approved and adopted.

8.3 Assignment of councillors' responsibilities. Cllr Richard Brook informed councillors that he would be willing to take on the chair role but would be unable to give time to additional responsibilities. Councillors duly elected Cllr Richard Brook as Easterton PC chair. Cllr P Bullock will assist with the role of emergency co-ordinator and flood warden.

9. Correspondence & communications:

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

9.2 Echoes update – Cllr J Boyt – Echoes recent issue delivered.

10. Administration:

10.1 Sign additional inscription request form. Approved.

10.2 Review footpath issue reporting policy: a resident was distressed to receive a council letter requesting removal of a tree blocking a public right of way. Councillors discussed this and resolved that an informal email would be the initial response to landowners when any issue arise relating to any PROW. East 22 is currently blocked by a tree, council will inform Wiltshire Council rights of way team and request the trees removal.

10.3 Cllr A Snook and the clerk conducted a topple test at Drove Lane burial ground, the majority of headstones were sound, one very ancient one requires monitoring, and one small was extremely unstable and required laying down for health and safety.

10.4 Letter received from Wiltshire Search and Rescue requesting a donation, councillors resolved to donate £100.00.

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 giving a grant to Friendly Friday and Rhyme Time initiatives at Market Lavington Library. Councillors declined to give a grant as they felt the Easterton Community Hub should be supported by Easterton council.

11.3 Investigate a higher interest account for reserves – Cllr A Colley, councillors resolved to invest £14,000 of the reserve funds subject to access and notice period.

Payment made by direct debit:

1) Information Commissioners Office annual fee £35.00

Payments to be approved:

1) Scribe account subscription invoice: 5111 £414.72 (inc. vat).

- 2) Administration expenses (office supplies, HWA & miles) £81.23
- 3) Clerk salary. – all approved.

12. Projects & activities update:

- 12.1 Village statement update – Cllr A Colley – Nothing to report.
- 12.2 Environment and Conservation update – Cllr J Boyt – nothing to report.
- 12.3 First Aid training – Cllr J Boyt – Proposed date Saturday April 27th.
- 12.4 Defibrillator training – Cllr B Myerscough – Proposed date Monday evening 25th March.
- 12.5 Consider Best Kept Village competition – Deferred.
- 12.6 Consider EV charging - potential arrangement for funded EV charging, information passed to the village hall committee.
- 12.7 Discuss a replacement for parish emergency co-ordinator, as Ron Crook would like to retire from the position. Cllr P Bullock as agreed to assist with position.
- 12.8 Discuss White Street drainage ditch – Cllr A Snook and Cllr P Bullock will meet and discuss general village drainage and role of emergency co-ordinator.
- 12.9 Discuss village hall carpark – unfortunately some cars are regularly being parked in the EVH car park resulting in blocked access for village hall customers. The EVH committee are happy for dog walkers, walkers and people using the playground to use the car park but would like to avoid spaces being lost to hall hirers. More signage will be erected to encourage considerate parking.
- 12.10 Discuss playground fence – Three quotes received, councillors discussed and resolved to accept the quote from Mark Goddard.

13. Highways & byways issues:

- 13.1 Rights of Way update – Cllr R Brooks – No report
- 13.2 Parish Gardener update – Cllr A Snook – No report
- 13.3 Parish steward update – Cllr A Snook – No report

14. Topics for the next meeting:

Water management. Mud on highways. Spring clean. BKV. Planning committee meeting.

Meeting closed at 21.50.

Signed:

Dated: