

EASTON ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT EASTON ROYAL VILLAGE HALL
ON TUESDAY 18th November 2014
AT 19.30

PRESENT:

Christopher Elliott (Chairman), Cedric Hollinsworth, Simon Riley, Mark de Pass, Pauline Archer (Clerk)

Members of the public: Jerry Kunkler (Wiltshire Councillor) and Chris Lightfoot (PCC Holy Trinity Church)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Margaret Holden and Colin Sibun

TO RECEIVE MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Christopher Elliott, Simon Riley and Graham Cooper declared an interest in Planning Application 14/09221/FUL Follets. None of these Councillors took part in the Parish Council decision.

MINUTES:

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16th September 2014 having now been circulated were approved and signed by the Chairman.

REPORT FROM HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

A letter dated 26th October 2014 (circulated) from the PCC secretary of the Holy Trinity church requesting a Parish Council Grant to assist with the Cemetery/Churchyard grass cutting. The Parish Council confirmed the provision of £1,000 for this purpose in line with previous year's request.

All Agreed

Chris Lightfoot on behalf of the PCC expressed thanks for the Parish Council's continued support. He provided further information concerning the financial difficulties that the church is experiencing. In summary, the General fund of the church is currently running at a deficit. This fund represents the day to day running costs of the church and includes the Diocesan parish share. These costs are not sufficiently covered from the regular church congregation, donations and fund raising. Without being able to meet these costs, the church will run out of funds and be unable to continue. The PCC intend to put forward more information to Parishioners in the New Year together with ideas on how to increase support and donations.

The Chairman thanked Chris Lightfoot for attending and explaining the church's financial difficulties.

REPORT FROM EASTON ROYAL ACADEMY

Apologies received from Beck Stubbs the recently appointed new Principle of Easton Royal Academy. Beck has sent an invite for Councillors to visit and tour the school.

Action: Clerk to organise.

REPORT FROM COMMUNITY POLICE

Apologies received from Teresa Herbert. Police report circulated.

REPORT FROM JERRY KUNKLER WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR

Planning permission for the Pewsey Campus scheme has now been submitted. Various facilities will be closed or moved whilst building work is taking place. Jerry Kunkler reiterated the new youth model (LYN) and confirmed that any specific youth projects within villages could be considered. Two important surveys were mentioned, the change in routes on the Connect to Wiltshire buses and a survey on car parking charges in Wiltshire.

Cedric Hollinsworth confirmed that there had been no progress with the Parish Steward with one community day having been completed. No further information has been provided by Balfour Beatty over this ongoing issue. (Jerry Kunkler suggested contact be made with Philip Whitehead Wiltshire Councillor Highways)

Christopher Elliott updated Jerry Kunkler on the Kissing Gates that have started to go in. This work has been undertaken with the support of Paul Millard (Wiltshire Council senior rights of way officer) and working parties from the village. Christopher Elliott asked Jerry Kunkler to pass on thanks for the work undertaken and organised by Paul Millard and Ken.

The application for an Area Board Grant of £600 towards this project had been unsuccessful due to no more available funds. It is hoped that funding for this project may be available in February.

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CLERK'S REPORT ON ACTIONS TAKEN SINCE THE LAST MEETING.

All noted.

The Parish Council thanked Cedric Hollinsworth for negotiating a satisfactory conclusion to the damage caused at the entrance of the Recreation Ground, and overseeing the Car Park.

- Donation request from Community First to support the Good Neighbour co coordinator
- Donation request to Carer Support Wiltshire

It was agreed to provide £20 to each request

Proposed by Christopher Elliott agreed Cedric Hollinsworth.

PLANNING:

Existing Applications outcomes:

14/07890/TCA	The Old Forge work on Trees	Parish Council Objection. Split Decision
14/08267/FUL	72 Easton Royal two storey extension	Approved

New Applications since last meeting:

14/09152/TCA	Martindale works to trees	Approved
14/08267/FUL	72 Easton Royal New dwelling	Parish Council objection/Application Withdrawn
14/09221/FUL	Follets 3 New dwellings and annex conversion	Parish Council objection/Application with drawn

Cedric Hollinsworth led the discussion on planning application 14/09221/FUL Follets. He confirmed that he and Margaret Holden had meet with Mike Fowler the architect and agent. They had outlined the Parish Council concerns including the size and scale of the development (5 to 6 bedroom 3 story properties) with limited gardens and parking. The narrow access to the site and the dangerous access back onto the village street. Concern with drainage and flooding also highlighted. This application has now been withdrawn by the applicant. (Parish Council response circulated).

FINANCE:

Payments to be approved:

Bawden grass cutting	£189.86
ROSPA play area safety inspection	£81.60
Bawden grass cutting	£189.86
S.L.C.C membership renew	£64.00
Grant to Holy Trinity Church	£1000.00*

*Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Proposed by Simon Riley and agreed by Mark de Pass

PRECEPT BUDGET AND PROPOSAL

It was agreed that the precept request for the financial year 2015/16 should remain unchanged at £5,600 (see Appendix 1). This will result in a slight reduction of 1.04% in the average for band D properties to £40.93 (£41.36).

It was acknowledged that this year has been heavy on capital projects, and that reserves of approximately £2,500 should not go much lower.

Christopher Elliott requested approval to bring forward some of next year's Village Betterment grant to be spent on additional Kissing Gates.

All Agreed.

REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLOR PORTFOLIO

Mark de Pass

No external meetings to report

Margaret Holden

Portfolio report circulated.

The Chairman thanked Margaret for her detailed report and for attending the external meetings on behalf of the Parish Council.

It was requested that a short report covering the two important surveys on the “Connect to Wiltshire Bus timetable” and Wiltshire Council Car parking be circulated by Margaret Holden and put on the village website.

Cedric Hollinsworth

Portfolio report circulated.

A discussion took place on the withdrawal of Wiltshire Council funding for the speeding repeater signs. The suggested cost to the Parish would be £262.50 out the total cost of £4200. This amount would need to be funded from the precept.

It was regrettably decided not to continue with the speeding repeater. As a small Parish no additional funds were deemed available. It was considered that the speed watch scheme was more effective.

Graham Cooper

Graham Cooper confirmed that he was in favour of the village betterment fund of £320 being used to fund 3 wooden Kissing gates. See further report from Christopher Elliott.

Christopher Elliott

A report on the first Kissing Gates working party had been circulated, with two gates now installed. It is intended to install a total of 5 gates over the next few weekends. Christopher Elliott thanked those Parishioners who had helped with the gates and those that had provided an excellent lunch.

Simon Riley

The church quinquennial inspection has now been completed. The report was positive with no major expenditure identified over the next five years. Simon Riley confirmed that active fundraising had continued this year. He reiterated a need for an open meeting early next year so that Parishioners are more aware of the church’s financial requirements. A further discussion over the PCC share of the diocese expenditure may be required.

Colin Sibun

Portfolio report circulated.

Point 1 “The schools use of the recreation ground as a sports field “

All agreed

Point 2 “replacement of fence posts along the main road”

All agreed (a provision has been made in the precept budget).

Point 3 “removal of railings to the east of the village hall”

All agreed

Point 4 “hedge around the children’s play area”

All agreed to the reduction

Point 5 and 6 “children’s play area”/Rospa report.

Some repairs to the playground have been completed but ongoing maintenance will be required. The need for a replacement play area was discussed.

All agreed that the Parish Council would support a team of volunteers pursuing this project therefore determining whether a replacement playground was deemed viable and funding could be raised.

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OTHER BUSINESS

Mark de Pass confirmed that funding for a defibrillator which is to be sited in the village was almost in place. Finding a suitable site within the village would be required and the school has been suggested as a likely venue.

Date of next meeting Tuesday 24th February 2015

Meeting closed at 21.45

Appendix 1

Precept Budget

PRECEPT BUDGET: Budget 15/16

Insurance	400.00
Petty Cash	50.00
Subs./admin	420.00
Clerk	1800.00
Cemetery grant	1000.00
Mowing	1000.00
General Repairs/trees	300.00
Play area Insp.	70.00
Village Betterment	320.00
Donations	125.00
Car park	0.00
Contingencies	115.00
TOTAL	5600.00