

EASTON ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL

NOTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Held on Tuesday 1st May 2012 in the Village Hall

PRESENT: M de Pass, R Choules, G Cooper, P Martin, M Holden, J Kunkler (WC Councillor), G Webb, N Coupe and about 30 members of the Parish

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**, C Elliott, H Hollinsworth
2. **MINUTES** The Minutes of the last meeting held on 3rd May 2011, having been circulated, were approved and signed
3. **MATTERS ARISING**.
Work on stiles by Highways has now been completed and a letter has been sent thanking them.
4. **FINANCE:**
Financial Statement for the Year ending 31st March 2012

<u>Main Account</u>	
Balance brought forward	4,929.16
Income for the year	5,231.36
Expenditure for the year	4,584.42
Balance carried forward	4584.42
 <u>30-day Notice Account</u>	
Balance brought forward	269.27
Interest received	0.12
Balance carried forward	269.39

 1. Adoption of the Annual Accounts – proposed by M Holden and seconded D Patterson.
 2. The Chairman M de Pass signed the Accounts and Annual governance statement.
5. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Mark de Pass welcomed everyone to the meeting.
The parish has been quiet this last year with no major planning issue problems. The 30 mph speed limit has now been implemented on the top road (B3087). We are all looking forward to Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations, which the Jubilee Committee is well in the throes of organising. It should be a real occasion to remember. Lastly, I would like to thank all members of the Parish Council for their hard work and continued support and also a big thank you to the Parish Clerk, Hew whose painstaking work allows the Parish Council to operate with the minimum of fuss
6. **WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR'S REPORT** Jerry Kunkler
Thanked the members for electing him three years ago and reminded the audience that Wiltshire Council Elections take place next year. Attended the Celebrations in Salisbury today and the Pewsey Area Board Tent was one of those chosen for the Queen to visit, resulting in a discussion with the Queen. The Timeline created for the Jubilee is a great display and shows many of the sites of the Vale. New speed limit of 30 mph has had an impact on speed in the village and also of traffic into Pewsey. Street Lights have been discussed and planning has been quiet. Council Tax has been maintained at the same level as last year. Thank you for your support.
7. **SCHOOL REPORT** Nicola Coupe
Numbers continue to strengthen. The School roll is close to 50 with next September possibly rising to 54. The School was in the Gazette and Herald as a school in focus with many partnership and links across the world.

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Easton Eagle comes out three times a year and most of you will have now received a copy or read it on the school website.

With rising numbers the budget has increased allowing an extra ten hours of teaching staff leading to a split in the maths class improving education. Appreciate there are now issues with school rush hour and car parking but thank you for your patience.

Recent improvements on the School include a dedicated covered outside area for the younger members of the school with direct access to the school. Safeguarding requirements are now much improved and this reduces the risk of just anyone appearing in the school unnoticed. There are plans for an outside theatre area funded partially through the schools budget but also by the PTA who put £5,000 towards this project.

The partnerships across the world extend to both India and to Harrow (amongst others) and visits have taken place with these partners. The school is part of the Marlborough Cluster which gives us access to a school business manager leading to better discounts on purchases. The cluster also gives the school access to an HR Department with all the benefits accruing from this. Partnership with St John's is increasing with teachers going to St John's and coming from St John's to mutual benefit. Work is going on to ease transition from the School to St John's. Working with St John's on moving to an Academy by 1st September.

Links with the church and village in particular with plans for the Jubilee taking shape.

FERS are planning a funding raising ball on Saturday 12th May in the Bouverie Hall.

Thank you for your support.

8. **VILLAGE HALL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT** Cedric Hollinsworth

The Hall has again continued to act as a focus for social events in the village, and with the granting of the Premises Licence, has been able to build on the success of various single events by offering a forum for social intercourse on Friday evening. The bar facility is being managed by Allan Duncan, ably supported by a team of volunteer bar persons, and is proving a significant success. A number of successful fund raising events have been held over the past year. However the main event in 2011 was the Royal Wedding Celebration, largely funded by a Table Top sale organised by Maggie Elliott, who is hoping to repeat the success to raise funds for the village Diamond Jubilee Celebrations. As usual, a number of committee members and other villagers worked extremely hard to put on the events, and as I run the risk of missing someone out, I will not name any particular people but simply record a very big thank you to everyone who has helped in whatever capacity, and to the village for continuing to support the functions. The hall was extremely grateful to receive a gift of a Christmas tree from the de Pass family. Significant expenditure has been incurred on purchasing a new kitchen range, and more recently converting the old playgroup storeroom into the bar.

Going forward, the Hall continues to need to raise several thousands of pounds each year, simply to maintain the existing fabric of the building, and to cover running costs. Wherever possible, grants are applied for to finance specific projects. The Hall has recently received a donation from Pewsey Carnival of £100. We will continue to consider all the options for income generation.

The Hall facilitated an open meeting to take soundings from the village about celebrations for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and a separate committee (independent from the Village Hall Committee) has been formed to raise funds and coordinate and organise Jubilee Celebrations. Questions from the floor were taken about using the hall for other charity events. Contact details for hiring the Village hall are on the notice board and on the village website.

9. **PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT** Jane Lightfoot on behalf of Hilary Hollinsworth

This year has been a quiet one compared to the last but attendance at services has been maintained and we have welcomed the services of Rev James Dickie to support the Team clergy. Festival Services have been well attended with average attendances at 15.

Work on the Team Profile began in the summer and in November Rev Deborah Larkey was appointed the Team Rector. 3 people have been interviewed for Rev Larkey's post as Team Vicar with responsibility for Pewsey, Upavon, Rushall and Charlton. Sadly for us, our Team

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Vicar, Rev Michael McHugh is moving on to become the Team Rector of the Savernake Team in July. It is hoped that the process to appoint his successor can be shortened and accommodated within the current selection process for the Pewsey post.

During the year there have been four funerals, notably Dick Nash, who was a central figure in village life for many years, and farmer Stan Cooper. There has also been one baptism, one wedding and one renewal of vows.

Clergy have continued to be welcomed into the School and their festival/end of term services have been held in church. Children made Christingles in Advent and these were distributed at the end of term service before Christmas. Carol singing around the village took place and £170 was sent to the Children's Society.

Dry goods were again collected at harvest for the Trussell Trust.

Work with the School on the design for a new alter frontal is progressing with a design now agreed and will be put up in the church.

New initiatives planned and started are the 'Open Book', a scheme to take Bible stories to the school, SPLAT (singing, praise, learning, activities and tea) an informal activity for families around the Team, NADFAS children's trail and the Heritage Group display cabinet.

The financial position is proving challenging. The Deanery share rises inexorably and will require further fundraising to meet the demand. Julian Pilkington has agreed to take charge of Gift Aid and Carole Choules will take over the keeping the accounts. Thank you to Jeremy Booth and Brian Devlin for their work on these in the past.

My thanks to the PCC for their continuing support and all those who support the Church in more practical ways- cleaning, flowers, sidespeople, readers, organist, refreshment providers and fundraisers.

10. **DIAMOND JUBILEE OPEN MEETING** introduced by Cedric Hollinsworth

The main Jubilee celebration plans are going ahead with a just over £1,000 available to spend on the events. Thanks to Liz for providing unique Jubilee mugs to be handed out to the children. Great support for fund raising events, coffee morning and table top sales together with generous donations from individuals providing a sound financial position for the Monday event.

The Heritage Group are leading a history trail up the village to the village hall with a lunch generously provided by the Group. The Jubilee Pageant will be on the wide screen and the bar will be open. The Church will have a flower festival over the weekend and a service on the Saturday evening with hymns nominated by the parishioners, followed by a wine and cheese event at the church.

Discussion is now needed for a permanent memorial of the Jubilee. At the open meeting the concept was to have a seat around the Oak tree, this seat would be far too expensive to fund.

Carole Choules and Fiona dePass presented an idea.

Enhance the Recreation field by developing the bottom of the Rec with a nature area. A mown walk, plant areas with new trees and wild flower area under advice from the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. The goal posts are not used much and the concrete cricket pitch is no longer used so could be removed. Also to plant an Apple/soft fruit Orchard, under planted with daffodils near the road. Bird boxes, bug hotels and rotten wood plugs to encourage children to explore. If the maintenance of these areas was becoming a problem, it could be left unmaintained. Grants may be available from the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, Woodland Trust and various other organisation. Hopefully the children will make it their own. Setup costs would be funded but maintenance costs would be low. The school would be interested getting involved in the whole project. They would like to make more use of the Rec possibly for sports but there would be a need to roll the Rec to improve the surface. The Woodland Walk and Orchard Project idea received general approval and those willing to lend support on work parties were asked to leave their names on a sheet at the back of the hall. Costs could be reduced by requesting donations of fruit trees and labour. There will be discussions with the Contracting team for mowing to make sure that there would not be increased mowing charges. There will need to be a clearance party for much of the rubbish and a boundary will need to be established.

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11. Any other business.

Discussions followed on the changing of the position of the Play Area and new equipment with possibly grants. The cost would be in the region of £20,000. There will also need to be a provision for a change in the car parking area. A plan needs to be formulated and a committee formed. The School offered to help with any bids, including the making of a video. Playbuild funding has been stopped and the Area Board cannot give funding to Parish Council applications on this matter so the plan will have to come from other than the Parish Council.

W Nimmo-Scott thanked the village for the Poppy Appeal this year which raised in the region of £400. Particular praise was extended to the School in their appeal efforts.

Ben Cooper has recently set up a Youth Council with links to Pewsey and other villages in the area which may help in extending the use of the Recreation Ground.

Colin was asked to liaise with Chris Brennan on the removal of the cricket pitch.

A Defibrillator for the village was once again raised with a location perhaps being in the Village Hall Porch or in the School. Governors of the School felt that the Village Hall would may be more appropriate or in a more central area of the village. This will be discussed further.

A Jubilee bench might still be an option but in the Woodland Area at a possible cost of £1,000 although cheaper options are available. Adrian Bull was asked to price up a bench and inform Carole.

The idea of renaming the Woodland Walk as the Jubilee Walk was also discussed, met with approval and was passed back to the Woodland project.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20:56