

# EASTON ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL

## NOTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2013 in the Village Hall

**PRESENT:** M de Pass, G Cooper, C Sibun, S Riley, C Hollinsworth, N Coupe and 9 members of the Parish

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**, C Elliott, M Holden, J Kunkler (WC Councillor), Teresa Herbert, Debbie Lovern.
2. **MINUTES** The Minutes of the last meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012, having been circulated, were approved and signed
3. **MATTERS ARISING**.  
None.

4. **FINANCE:**

Financial Statement for the Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013

Main Account

Balance brought forward	4,584.42
Income for the year	5,373.79
Expenditure for the year	5,576.10
Balance carried forward	4,551.61

30-day Notice Account

Balance brought forward	269.39
Interest received	0.12
Balance carried forward	269.51

1. Adoption of the Annual Accounts – proposed by G Cooper and seconded S Riley.
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 past year has been marked by the Royal Wedding and Olympics, enjoyed both in the village and elsewhere. Thank you to all who contributed to these celebrations, whether organising or participating Planning has been quiet this year apart from the renovation of our cart shed, which is at last underway hopefully completed later this year 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 contribution is much underestimated. We say goodbye to Peter Martin, Ray Choules and Gary Webb as Parish Councillors over some considerable time. We welcome Cedric Hollinsworth, Colin Sibun and Simon Riley and we look forward to working with them. There is a joint initiative between Parish council and Village Hall committee to redo the existing car park on similar but more permanent lines. We would appreciate your input for ideas and will be arranging an open meeting. Parish Council are involved as 'primary consultees' on the Pewsey Neighbourhood Development Plan but we believe that our village statement meets our current needs but may consider a joint Neighbourhood Plan with Milton Lilbourne and Wootton Rivers.

6. **SCHOOL REPORT** Nicola Coupe

The School roll stands at 52. Cohort of year 6 who leave at the end of this term, all achieving their first choice. There will be 5 joining in September, a smaller number than usual but this is a trend at other schools. Became an Academy on 1<sup>st</sup> September, which has taken 2 years to achieve, joining St John's to form the Excalibur Academy Trust and have been approved as a Sponsoring Academy Trust. As of 1<sup>st</sup> April Burbage Primary School has joined Excalibur sharing staff and experience and gaining in mutual trust. Premises improvements have been limited by budget but bought 16 new laptops. We have a group of children, with support from a teacher guide, who would be pleased to teach anyone on how to use tablets, digital cameras or general

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use of emails and the internet as an after school activity. We are reviewing our Travel Plan with assistance from our business manager from St John's. Looking at a car sharing scheme but it must be safe, especially as more families are walking to school and there is evidence of speeding down the street during the 'Rush 5 Minutes'. Very keen to address any Health and Safety issues both on and off the school site. Village links remain very strong, some of the highlights being the collective worship known as 'Open the Book', Hilary Hollinsworth and Vivien Swift being two of the supporters who visit every fortnight learning bible stories. Open afternoon and Christmas services have always been a traditional link with family. The new vicar will be visiting the school. Children very much enjoyed the fund raising for a Pear Tree that they chose for the Village Orchard and years 3 and 4 very much enjoyed the planting of the trees and then also were interviewed on BBC Radio Wiltshire. Local and national links are still going well, although the International links, based in India, have run into communication problems through IT. We are part of the Marlborough Area Education Partnership – Easton Royal, St John's and five other primary schools including the infant and junior schools in Marlborough – focusing on an 'All through Curriculum' in particular science. Made a link with a small school in Cumbria of similar size and mix of class group, writing stories and writing to the school, sharing our topic on Dragons. Would like to welcome any one who has not visited the school.

Question raised from the floor about guaranteeing a place at St John's. Review of the admissions policy for 2014 only moves children up the list for admission to St John's but there is no cast iron guarantee. This may be taken a step closer for 2015 admission. Technically still outside the designated catchment area but there would be a very good case for appeal because of all the collaborative work so far undertaken. Traffic and speeding- no staggered start to the day, which adds to number of vehicles but in the afternoon the load is spread by having a number of after school clubs. The Travel Plan will encourage car share and for those in Milton Lilbourne and Wootton Rivers there is the option of providing a taxi or minibus. This takes time to organise. Parking near the school and speeding down The Street are highlighted in the regular newsletter to parents. With the Village Hall Committee looking at the car park and the DfE looking at giving each Primary School a significant sum of money for competitive sport, it may be possible to make use of this money to provide more areas for sport and hence a walking bus. The Travel Plan will show how many families walk versus travel by car in due course. Speeding is not just limited to close to the school but also near the B3087 in both directions. Technically the speed limit is 30 mph but the matter of 20 mph was raised. A review is underway on 20 mph in village streets.

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

The hall licence is now in its second year of operation and the Friday evening bar continues to provide an excellent social facility, used by many villagers, and the profits are providing funds to cover the basic running costs of the hall. It is hoped to build on this success by offering more BBQs in the summer, and other occasional Friday evening mini events. The bar is very effectively managed by Allan Duncan, assisted by his team of volunteer bartenders from the village. The hall committee has also put on a number of more traditional social events:-

Plant sale

Flower, produce and dog show

'Call my bluff' wine tasting

Curry night and

St George's Supper

The main Diamond Jubilee Celebrations were organised by a separate group of villagers. The hall events, in line with other village organisations, have been less well supported than in previous years and the committee would welcome feedback, so that consideration can be given to running events with the widest possible appeal. Behind each of the events has been teams of committee members and other villagers, who give unstintingly of their time to make them a success. Thank you to everyone who has helped in any way, as there is a considerable amount of unseen work behind every function. The interior walls were repainted as part of a working party event, which saw considerable improvements to the bar area. Again, many thanks to all those who supported the working party.

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Externally the repainting was hampered by the unseasonal weather experienced last summer. Hopefully, a more typical summer should enable completion of the work this year. The hall has again received a donation of £100 from the Pewsey Carnival funds. We continue to monitor the hall floor, which although not level, does add a unique characteristic to the building! Looking forward, there are areas of expenditure to be considered – more comfortable chairs, new tables and car parking facilities. With regard to the car parking, it is proposed to hold a village meeting, which will be chaired jointly by the Parish Council and Village Hall to discuss options. Hopefully this meeting can be scheduled in the next few weeks.

### 9. PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT Hilary Hollinsworth

Attendance at services has been maintained and we have welcomed the offices of Rev James Dickie to support the Team clergy, especially since the move of Rev Michael McHugh to become Rector of the Savernake Team in July 2012. We have welcomed other visiting clergy during the interregnum. Festival services have been well attended. June 2012 marked the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the occasion was marked by a weekend of activities in the village beginning with a Songs of Praise service on the Saturday evening. The following morning the Heritage Group organised a Trail starting at the Church and heading up to the village hall for a lunch before the Thames Pageant. The Monday saw an afternoon of family fun followed by a barbeque and dancing with the climax of the day, the lighting of the beacon on the Clump. In September we welcomed Rev Jennifer Totney to the Team, with responsibility for Pewsey, Upavon, Rushall and Charlton. The Bishop granted permission for the vacancy in the eastern clusters of the Team to be filled given the level of turbulence in the past few years. The Profile was updated but no suitable candidates applied when the post was first advertised in November but was advertised again in January and the post has now been filled and the new incumbent, Rev Mark Windsor will be licenced next week. During the year there has been one funeral, six baptisms and three weddings. Clergy have continued to be welcomed into school and their festival/end of term services have been held in church. Children made Christingles and these were distributed at the end of term service before Christmas. 'Open the Book', a scheme to take Bible stories into school, started in September with two groups of three taking an assembly on alternate weeks. NADFAS Children's Trail has been completed and was launched in November with a wonderful piece in the Sarum Link. Our thanks to the volunteers who have worked very hard to complete the Trail. Dry goods were again collected at Harvest for the Trussell Trust in conjunction with the school and 69kgs of goods were taken to Salisbury. Carol singing around the village took place and £180 was sent to the Children's Society. Work with the school on the design for a new altar frontal has been very slow but is progressing. Parishioners have taken part in the Lent discussion groups. The Heritage Group display cabinet is now installed and wired up. My thanks to the PCC for their continuing support and especially Jeremy Booth (for his diligence in Gift Aid collection), Pam Spalding and Angela Munn who have stepped down from the PCC and all those who support the Church in more practical ways – cleaning, flowers, sidespeople, readers, organists and refreshment providers. Julian Pilkington has stepped up to take on Jeremy's role on Gift Aid Collection. Thanks also to the parish council for the provision of a grant of £1,000 for churchyard maintenance.

Question raised about the condition of the driveway to the church. The driveway belongs to the Parish Council and more gravel in the bad areas could solve the problem. The driveway is also used as a turning area so would the parish be prepared to pay for tarmac? The Wall will be repaired shortly.

### PEWSEY POLICE REPORT Pc 2460 HERBERT Community Beat Manager Pewsey East Villages

I am pleased to report that no crimes have been reported, within this Parish in recent months. Follows a list of Crimes in nearby areas;

**Burglaries to canal boats;** We have been investigating a number of burglaries to canal boats, five of which have occurred in the Wootton Rivers area; Between 26<sup>th</sup> February

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and 1<sup>st</sup> March three narrow boats were broken into and food stolen. A further burglary occurred on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2013 at Milkhouse Water and the fifth incident occurred between 10<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> March to a vessel moored in Wootton Rivers. Enquiries are ongoing and currently we are seeking to identify the location of a male name Allan CAMPBELL aged 39 years, (as below) who is a suspect to these offences. He is described as white ethnicity, 6'2" tall, proportionate build with numerous tattoos on his hands, arms and back.

**Theft of heating oil;** On 24<sup>th</sup> April two reports were received reporting theft of domestic heating oil from properties in Chisbury and Little Bedwyn. Please consider target hardening measures such as building a structure around you tank, fitting an alarm and improving security to your garden. Simple measures such as closing your driveway gates can help and do deter opportunists.

**Theft from vehicles;** We have been investigating a number of thefts from parked and unattended vehicles at beauty spots. These have occurred at Martinsell Hill on 13<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> April and Wilton Windmill; the most recent incident being 21<sup>st</sup> April . Handbags, wallets and sat navs are being left inside vehicles which are being targeted by thieves. Policing operations are ongoing in our efforts to identify those involved. In recent weeks a male from the Salisbury area has been charged with theft from a vehicle at Walkers Hill.

### **An input from our Crime Reduction Officer Amanda CLARKE.**

#### Beauty Spot Thefts

We are very lucky in Wiltshire to be surrounded by beautiful countryside and many people spend their leisure time walking the footpaths and public areas available to us all. Mostly people will park at the locality either in designated parking places or in local lay-bys, and the security of your vehicle and its contents is something that should be considered before leaving home. Try to remove anything that you will not need from the car before setting out. Park your car in the most visible and best lit part of any car park, and leave the glove compartment open to show nothing is hidden within. Do not leave items such as bags or coats visible even if nothing of value has been left in them as thieves may break in to check what they contain. Preferably put items in the boot before entering the car park, to avoid people seeing what you are storing and always make sure electrical items are completely switched off. If you notice anyone acting suspiciously at any time please call the police. We would rather check out a false alarm than have to deal with a crime.

#### Shed Security

With brighter days and warmer weather, thoughts turn to the garden and all that needs to be done outside. Garden sheds are particularly vulnerable to thefts, as their structure can be flimsy. Protecting your garden equipment can also increase the security of your home as garden tools can be used to gain access to your property. A good closed shackle padlock, with an alarm if it will be heard, is a good starting point, but it must be secured to a good quality hasp, fitted with a back plate and with the screw heads disabled. Back plates should also be fitted to the door hinges and any brackets, and their screw heads disabled. If your shed has a window, fit some wire mesh on the inside or board it over if it is not necessary. Marking your tools to make them identifiable as yours with bright paint or scratching your postcode on them will make them less desirable to steal. Any equipment with a serial number should be registered with Immobilise.com. Chaining large items together makes them difficult to remove. If possible, more expensive items should be stored within a locked garage or inside the home.

For more information please visit the Wiltshire Police web site on [www.Wiltshire.police.uk](http://www.Wiltshire.police.uk) or contact a Crime Prevention Officer by dialling 101

Question raised from the floor over speeding on the B3087. This matter will be raised through the Parish Council at the meeting following this meeting.

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## 10. Any other business

### **Report by Carole Choules on the Orchard and Wildlife Area.**

Launched with the Apple fest last year. 44 fruit trees have been planted in the new Orchard, all but two have been sponsored by members of the village. Trees have been bought for the southern end of the Rec but we have also been given 60 whips by Wiltshire Wildlife, planted in April with the help of Easton Royal Academy and Pewsey Vale School. 30 children in total helped with the planting and Wiltshire Gazette came out and Wiltshire Radio interviewed them. The next planting will be in the autumn for which we have been given 9 ancient tree varieties- these are being grafted at the moment. Pewsey Area Board gave a grant of £1,500 and we have match funded this sum partly from a donation from the Parish Council of £300 and also from an Easter Fair. Looking for assistance with maintenance, grass cutting pruning etc. Had a bonfire of all the dead wood and rubbish but this will be removed and reseeded and is not to be used as a general bonfire site for others to use. Concern raised about the Japanese Knotweed, which needs to be treated with Glyphosate but it will be a long term project to remove this.

Question on the height of whips. Bush like rather than tall. There will be some specimen trees which will grow quite tall. It will not become a forest, more a woodland glade. There has been a lack of communication on what is or will be done. The area has been used as a dump, which needs to be discouraged. Need to create a village email list that would reduce the amount of leaflet dropping required. Information also posted on the eastonroyal.org website.

### **Village improvements.**

Concern raised about children playing in the street and coming off the recreation ground. Children playing sign may be considered and there are no pavements on the Street. The recreation ground is not very level and the school may wish to use it for sport. Improvements to the surface may be funded by the school, should they wish to make more use. Concern raised over the goal post being safe and up to date. Potentially dangerous may be taken down? Are they used? Health and Safety report indicates that painting is a possibility. Cricket at Easton Royal may be considered- remove the concrete wicket and change it to a water feature! Recreation was left to the village for children's enjoyment although not many children make use of this. Any improvements need to be done in consultation with the school.

Issue of speeding on the top road was also raised under this item and waiting for a Metro Loop which may lead to a Speed Indication Device and Community Speed Watch. Speed signs and village sign may need to be moved. This will be raised with the Area Board. Further discussion continued with various ideas put forward.

### **Stiles.**

Concern was raised over the stiles in the village. Some of these are unsafe. Cross over steps and a pole may help. Wiltshire Council are responsible for maintenance and these are due to be updated this year. Make use of CLARENCE to report any defects rather than relying on the Parish Council to report these.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20:55