

EASTON ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Tuesday 10th September 2013

At 1930

In the Village Hall

PRESENT: M Holden (Acting Chair), C Elliott, C Hollinsworth, C Sibun, S Riley Mrs N Coupe, J Kunkler, Pc T Herbert

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: M de Pass

MINUTES: The Minutes of the meeting held on 7th May 2013 having been circulated, were approved (C Sibun & S Riley) and signed by M Holden

REPORT FROM PC T HERBERT Community Beat Manager Pewsey East

- Increase in non-dwelling burglaries in the East villages, and have responded by increased policing. There is a risk of increase of hare coursing linked with the post-harvest availability of land.
- Canal burglaries. An arrest has taken place. Have had approval for Canal Watch in a similar style to Farm Watch.
- Introduced a monthly Police report, which will be posted on the notice board and on the Easton Royal Web site.
- Community Speed Watch has approval for the village and this would help in reducing speeding. A group needs to be set up with a minimum of 4 members.
- Melissa Camilleri has made links with the school and talked to the children and will also talk to the parents.

CLERK'S REPORT ON ACTIONS TAKEN SINCE LAST MEETING TOGETHER WITH CORRESPONDENCE:

- Area Board: A presentation was made by North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (NWDONB) representative and there is a meeting on 16th October to which a member of the Parish Council is invited. Email with this invite and a newsletter have already been sent. There is money available for the application for projects – more details on the web site.
- Neighbourhood Development Plan for Pewsey is progressing, Easton Royal attend as a Primary consultee and a councillor should attend if possible.
- Core Strategy is out for approval on the Wiltshire Web site for comments and any additions the council think fit.
- Next Area Board is on 11th November 2013 7.00pm at Pewsey School with people from Clinical Commissioning Group focusing on Recognising Autism and Health matters.
- P Martin raised a query about signs at the bottom of the village missing, request passed to Esther Daly, who is taking voluntary Redundancy but no replacement has been declared.
- Request received on decluttering of signs. This will be considered by all and C Hollinsworth will co-ordinate the replies in due course.
- Simon Turner will be looking at the trees both dead and living around the Village Hall, which may be becoming dangerous.

REPORT FROM J KUNKLER

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- The Draft Business Plan has been approved for 2013 -2017, which has 12 key aims in order to achieve the vision of creating stronger and more resilient communities.
 1. Invest additional money between 2014-17 to reduce the historic backlog in highways maintenance
 2. Stimulate economic growth, including tourism, and create additional jobs in partnership with the LEP
 3. Further enhance the role of area boards and Youth Advisory Groups, developing innovative community-led approaches to designing and delivering services
 4. Provide opportunities for every child and young person to improve their attainment and skills so they can achieve their full potential
 5. Continue to improve our safeguarding services to protect the most vulnerable in our communities
 6. Invest to refurbish council housing and encourage the development of new affordable homes, including supported living in rural areas
 7. Build on the work of the Military Civilian Integration Partnership and maximise the benefits of the Army Rebasing Plan
 8. Delegate cost neutral packages of land, services and assets to town and parish councils
 9. Create a campus opportunity in each community area
 10. Integrate public health at the heart of all public services
 11. Working innovatively to deliver at least £120m budget cost reductions over the next four years
 12. Develop the knowledge, skills, behaviours & leadership of our workforce, managers and councillors

The Draft Business Plan can be found on the Wiltshire Council website and a link is also to be found on the Easton Royal Website

Pewsey Campus is already in formation with a consultation and more details on Our Community Matters website which has been circulated, a link is also to be found on the Easton Royal Website

Planning has been quiet.

Cost reductions will be achievable by selling off buildings and reducing staff but still protect Frontline Services. This will necessitate more voluntary work in frontline service. An example of this in practice is the Library, where the service has improved since being taken over by voluntary staff.

Concern raised over surgery waiting times and 'Out of Hours' cover in Pewsey because of the size of the village and also the ageing population. The next Area Board will cover some of these concerns so attendance at this next Area Board would be positive.

At the previous Area Board meeting, the use of Defibrillators was discussed and a GP mentioned that the communities would be better served first by having more members trained in First Aid techniques.

Wiltshire is the 3rd most content county and 2nd safest.

REPORT FROM EASTON ROYAL SCHOOL Nicola Coupe Principal

- The school has been an Academy for a year. Whilst Excalibur Academies started as just 2 academies, the Trust has expanded to 3 schools, with the conversion of Burbage Primary School (BPS) on 1/4/13. The 3 academies have been working well in partnership – looking at developing our 'all through' curriculum with more colleagues has been professionally very exciting. We have strong learning cultures developing in each school and have shared Staff Meetings where appropriate.
- From this September Nicola Coupe is the Executive Principal of Burbage Primary School as well as Principal of Easton Royal Academy (ERA). The previous Principal is working within Excalibur in the important role of Special Educational Needs and Disability coordinator across all 3 schools. A senior leadership team is being built up across the 2 primaries as Nicola Coupe is splitting her time between the schools. This has many benefits including giving opportunities for leadership and professional development for staff in both schools that might otherwise not be affordable in individual small schools.

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- **Ofsted Inspection** We have been expecting this since September 2009 and it came at last, in the last week of term, with the school play booked in for the afternoon of the second day(!) Despite the challenging timing, the inspection went well. We were judged as GOOD overall, which is very pleasing as the government has systematically increased the challenge of the targets for schools in recent changes to inspection. There are 4 categories that make up the judgment. Our outcomes were: Good for Teaching, Good for Attainment, Outstanding for Leadership and Management and Outstanding for Behaviour. This is 'the best Good you can get' and when you read the report you will be able to see how many outstanding elements the inspector has included.
- **Number on Role.** This continues to remain steady with families relocating to the area choosing the school for entry in year groups other than reception. We have a slightly lower intake to Reception this year, but already strong interest in next year. We have 52 children starting term this September which equals our highest number of past 2 years. We no longer have any 'small year groups' but could accommodate 2 or 3 more pupils. The admission to ERA is still managed by County, but the Directors of Excalibur are reviewing the admissions policy this autumn and it will go out to consultation before January..
- **Premises + Transport.** A replacement school sign will be put up on the bank outside the school gates. It is smaller than previous one. All premises matters are dealt with by Mr Cook from St John's
- 3 local families are helping to overhaul the wildlife garden. It looks beautiful. We are using money the school was awarded after winning the Butterfly Barrow Competition at Woodborough Garden Centre last term.
- Successful transport applications have been made to County by 3 families living in our catchment villages. A taxi service has been put in place which currently transports 4 children to and from school. This will help to reduce traffic in the village slightly. More families may use the service once it is up and running.
- Re speeding – we have kept up the reminders to parents. There are more families walking to school (as we have more village families who have chosen the school for their children). We have supported families to source fluorescent tabards for children and are planning more village walks regarding traffic surveys to help 'traffic calm'.
- NC showed a poster at meeting, which could be placed in a variety of sites so that it doesn't become ignored. Sizing is about 60cm by 1200cm. 'Speed Kills – 20 is plenty'. Councillors approved of this and this will be trialled in the village in two sites for those both entering and leaving the village, as well as some 'bin stickers'.
- **Staffing** remains stable. Mr Bogg is teaching at ERA 5 days per week and has leadership responsibilities when Nicola Coupe is at BPS or St John's.
- **Village activities**
 - a) Easton Eagle (school newsletter)- is out! Will be distributed this week and some left in the Village Hall
 - b) Harvest Service – This is to take place on Friday 4th October to be in line with the Village Harvest supper. All welcome. Tea will follow in school hall with eating the Harvest loaf and produce made by the children. We will decorate the church as usual and the children are keen to support the Trussell Trust again.
 - c) Remembrance. Is there anyone who lives locally who would be willing to come in to ERA on 11/11 for morning assembly to talk to the children about life in the services? We are interested especially in a female visitor, or someone in Navy or RAF. – Bill Nimmo-Scott was proposed as the link.
 - d) Hoe Down at Bouverie Hall – 19th October Tickets are £15. All welcome.
 - e) Nearly new sale on Friday 13th September. Clothes, toys and wellies for children age 5-11

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f) Textiles collection on Monday 16th September. The materials will go off for recycling and the school will be paid per Kg.

g) School topic is 'Where are we now?' Looking at the history of Wiltshire

PE funding

As a result of the feel good factor generated from the Olympics, the Government has pledged to give primary schools some extra funding 'to promote competitive sports' over next 2 years. Funding is designed to enable schools to improve pupils' experience of PE and increase opportunities to take part in competitive sport. NC would like to discuss the possibility of the school joining with village groups to try to source further funds and support plans to further develop the recreation ground for all users. The school would like to:

- ❖ Have PE lessons on the recreation ground site & be able to play cricket, rounders, rugby and football, as well as athletics (100 meters running)
- ❖ Host possible competitions for rugby or football
- ❖ Have Sports Day on the recreation ground

Issues are currently the fact that the ground is too rutted to play safely. Risk for children regarding Dog Fouling would also be an issue.

Cricket concrete could be taken up and the goal posts uprated. Pitch and sports marking would be undertaken by the school.

With the improvement to car parking, there is the possibility of introducing the Walking Bus since residents with children now consider this idea to be safe.

Make use of the Village Hall for loos and changing at an agreed rate.

The school will need to get agreement that we can use Government Funding in this way. If there is a group who would want to seek further funding, please contact the school.

Councillors congratulated Nicola Coupe on the great improvements made.

Finance and premises management are now covered by St John's. Other members of staff now have leadership skills giving more time for Nicola to concentrate on running the school in a more lively fashion and develop the curriculum to suit. Foreign languages and RE syllabus are being developed.

PLANNING: The following applications were confirmed at the meeting following initial discussion by circulation.

PLANNING:

Existing Applications outcomes

E/2013/0114/TCA Old Beer House Work on Trees Cons Area	Approved
E/2013/0206/TCA Pathways Work on Trees Cons Area	Approved

New Applications since last meeting

13/02696/FUL April Cottage First floor Extension (in circulation)

FINANCE: A discussion took place on the funding for Holy Trinity Church. After much debate it was again agreed that the grant could only be used for the maintenance of the Cemetery.

A request for funding was received from Holy Trinity Easton Royal. The Council resolved that, in accordance with its powers under section 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972, it should incur the expenditure £1,000 for the Cemetery upkeep.

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Proposed by C Elliott and seconded by C Hollinsworth, the following Payments were approved

Bawden	189.14
H D T Helps	420.00
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Holy Trinity Church	1,000.00
H D T Helps	420.00

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- Items raised in C Elliott's email for APM
 - The party and presentation to retiring councillors went very well. Certificates were awarded to the three retiring Parish councillors Pete Martin, Ray Choules and Gary Webb (who was unable to attend).
 - Councillors to take responsibility for certain areas, acting entirely as a representative of the council but not having independent power and presenting reports to the Parish Council.
 - External meetings such as the Area Board, Health matters and the Neighbourhood Development meetings **Chair or Vice Chair**. Other councillors can also attend but it should be the responsibility of the Chair or Vice Chair, thus providing consistency.
 - Other areas where a single parish councillor could be a focus within the village.
 - A discussion followed and it was agreed that the various portfolios would be allocated and that those not present would have two weeks to decide and respond. If after this period there was no response then this implied consent.
 - Footpaths **C Elliott**
 - Streetscene **C Hollinsworth**
 - School Liaison **C Sibun**
 - Church liaison **S Riley**
 - External meetings **M DePass and M Holden or a substitute**
 - Recreation Ground/School and Village Hall link **C Sibun**
 - Car Park improvement link with Village Hall **C Hollinsworth**
 - Annual Village Betterment **G Cooper**
 - Open meetings **M DePass**
 - Communication within the village. Although unapproved minutes cannot be published, draft minutes can be as can reports of what has been discussed and will be discussed at parish council meetings. Bullet points can be posted, both on the website and also on the parish notice board. Dedicate half the Notice Board by the Village Hall as 'Parish Council'. Important items can be done by leaflet drop and also by email to those on the 'Village list'. Tricia Duncan has volunteered to circulate a note encouraging residents to send their email address to the Parish Clerk for distribution of notices.
 - A permanent agenda item- brief reports from each portfolio lead on progress in that particular area, in person and via email to the Clerk.
- C Hollinsworth Highways report
 - A metro loop was installed on the top road recording 22,000 vehicles in a 7 day period and 85% exceeding the speed limit. Having confirmed that there is an issue, Easton

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Royal is eligible for a SID (speed indication device) for one week in six. Also entitled to set up a Community Speed Watch (CSW) group. This requires 4 – 6 volunteers, approved by the police, and attend a training course- 2 hour sessions. CSW will be re-launched with new staff and new IT at the end of September. **Parish Council unanimously agree to support the use CSW and SID, proposed C Elliott, seconded C Sibun. C Hollinsworth** will contact Roger Tilbrook to lead a CSW team.

- Location of 30mph and Village sign. Traffic Management have inspected the location. The sign on the Right hand side is visible from 120 metres but on the left hand side only visible from 45 metres. The report indicated that the visibility could be improved by the trimming or removal of part of the nearside hedge and pruning of the tree. This could only be achieved by complete removal of the hedgerow and removal of the tree. Highways are offering to replace the 30 mph sign with a high-viz yellow backing board and 30mph, which was not done when replacing the 40mph sign with the 30 mph sign. The solution is to move the signs some 300 metres back towards Burbage together with the village sign. Parish Steward is responsible for keeping the visibility of the signs in good order. **Parish Council is unanimous in requesting that the village sign and 30 mph signs be moved to a more suitable location. Proposed C Elliott and seconded C Hollinsworth**
- Highways. New contract managed by Balfour Beatty taking over from 7 different contractors. Balfour Beatty have multi-tasking teams to tend to matters identified by area engineers (including parish stewards, who now work in pairs). Streetscene and area engineer have inspected all the roads in the parish and come up with a list of issues and actions required. Some work has already been done, gullies cleared, manholes repaired. Potholes still need to be repaired and other issues to be resolved. There is a lack of communications between Balfour Beatty and Wiltshire Highways and thence to Parish Council.
- The drain by the church has been cleared of rubbish and the existing soil and wooden posts (since disappeared) inserted. There is roadway under the soil and therefore this soil needs to be removed. Clerk to confirm to Highways **that Parish Council wish this soil to be removed to expose the existing road surface-** exact wording to be confirmed with C Hollinsworth. There is also scope to check highways width on the opposite bank. Work program is in production.
- C Hollinsworth report on Community Days
 - These will focus on particular tasks, outside their normal program, to be presented to Streetscene such as clearing of footpaths, verge clearing. Parish Council to produce a list in the future, once the present list has been completed. Gully cleaning needs to be done more frequently. Footways need more maintenance.
- C Sibun report on Use of Playground and speeding (School)
 - Contact made with N Coupe on the use of the Recreation Ground. Permission requested to contact C Brennan for quotations on removing the concrete wicket, levelling the recreation ground where required and update the goal post. The issue of the playground improvement needs also to be considered as well as removal of the hedge. The hedge is now maintained by Bawden. Improvements/ move / change of the Playground should be considered under priorities at an open meeting. There is merit in moving the Playground to improve the availability for car parking and use of the recreation ground. There will be a financial implication on both improvements and upgrading, which will be discussed with the school.
 - An Open meeting must be arranged in order that priorities be discussed but ‘more than concepts’ need to be presented for any decisions to be taken.

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- 20 mph consultation. Parish Council support the principal of 20 mph in The Street
- Open meeting – Car Park, Defibrillators funding is available £500 and a fund raising committee would need to be set up, Improvements to Recreation ground. These projects need considering and costings produced before being presented to an Open meeting. **Chairman** to identify someone in the village who would be interested in investigating funding for Defibrillators. There may be a requirement for St John's Ambulance training
 - Priorities on major funding projects and also on minor projects. Major and minor projects are not mutually exclusive.
 - Costings on each priority need to be produced
- Frequency of Parish Council meetings and meeting dates. There is a view that the interval between meetings is too large. Six meetings per annum would enable the council to achieve much more. November, February, early April, later in May with the Annual Parish Meeting, September and November for the Precept.
- From the floor.
 - Anne Hastie requested a tall pole for the stiles to assist **C Elliott** will investigate
 - Tricia Duncan.
 - Village needs to be tidied up especially around the Village Hall. Dog waste can be put in the normal waste bin. Parish Council will request a new bin and see if Wiltshire will supply these free of charge.
 - Signpost for Ram Alley has disappeared **C Hollinsworth** to investigate
 - Improvements to the access to Village and other areas
 - Sighting of wheelie bin. This could be cut into the bank, set back in a safe position so as not to restrict access to the notice board.
- Items under AOB should be presented before the meeting in order that councillors can prepare.
- There is no legal right for members of the public to speak under AOB at a Parish Council meeting. But it may be appropriate for items from the floor be raised at the beginning of the meeting so that these can be discussed.
- Welcome Packs. These need to be updated and Tricia and Allan Duncan have offered to undertake this.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING 5th November 2013 at which the Precept will be discussed.

The meeting closed at 10.20