

EASTON ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL

NOTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Held on Tuesday 13th May 2014 in the Village Hall

PRESENT: M de Pass, , C Sibun, S Riley, C Hollinsworth, C Elliott, M Holden, J Kunkler (WC Councillor), N Coupe, PCSO M Camilleri and 4 members of the Parish

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**, G Cooper Tricia and Allan Duncan, Bill and Karen Nimmo-Scott, Hilary Hollinsworth, Carole and Ray Choules, PC T Herbert,
2. **MINUTES** The Minutes of the last meeting held on 7th May 2013, having been circulated, were approved and signed
3. **MATTERS ARISING.**
Village improvements these will be covered in the Portfolio reports from the Parish Councillors. Planning permission has been granted for the new surface for the car park.

4. **FINANCE:**

Financial Statement for the Year ending 31st March 2014

Main Account

Balance brought forward	4551.61
Income for the year	5862.38
Expenditure for the year	5034.15
Transferred to Notice Account	500.00
Balance carried forward	4879.84

30-day Notice Account

Balance brought forward	269.51
Interest received	0.32
Transferred from Main Account	500.00
Balance carried forward	769.83

1. Adoption of the Annual Accounts – proposed by S Riley and C Sibun
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 and thanked them for supporting the Parish. The proposed upgrade to the Car Park on the Recreation Ground has been approved by Planning and thanks extend to Cedric Hollinsworth for all his hard work in getting the project to conclusion. The new Village Welcome Book has now been published and is a very great update. Thank you all those involved in getting this produced. Thank you to all those who assisted in the clearance of brush and debris around the Village Hall. Finally, thank you to all members of the parish council for all their hard work on everybody's behalf and for their continued support and of course to Hew, our hardworking under paid Parish Clerk without whose strenuous efforts the council would not operate. Hew is retiring as clerk in July so this will be his last APM. I am sure you would wish me to thank him for all his hard work over the years and wish him well for the future. We are now looking for someone to take on the role of Parish Clerk. We look forward to the WWI One Hundred Year commemorations in the village and further afield.

6. **WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR** Jerry Kunkler

Pewsey community Area Partnership submitted a plan for the future year and the Area Board has funded the coming year. Peter Binley from Highways attended the Area Board meeting and explained how the extra funding over the next four years will be spent. Pewsey High Street will be closed for a week in June for major repairs. Youth service consultation has just closed with over 2,000 responses and special Cabinet meeting is being held on Thursday to take forward Youth facilities over the next few years making use of the Campus facilities and other areas. Area Board will be backing the retention of the Night Bus and fighting for improvements to the

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local route which serves Easton Royal. Planning permission has been granted for the Car Park in the Recreation Ground and the Area Board have given a sum of money (50% of the cost) to the Village Hall to support this project. Portfolio is still Leisure and Sport and this is being linked to Public Health to ensure that these two are successfully integrated over the next two years. This integration may well benefit the Pewsey Campus by adding the opportunities for a GP referral unit within the Campus rather than traveling much further afield. Thank you for your support.

7. SCHOOL REPORT Nicola Coupe

OFSTED

- In the final week of the summer term last academic year, we were Ofsted inspected. The outcome was very pleasing with a strong 'GOOD' with Outstanding elements highlighted being "Children's Behaviour" and "Leadership and Management".

Numbers on Roll

- Our numbers are slightly rising (at 53 currently) with more families coming to the school from catchment villages than previously.
- Our small cohort of Y6 leave for Secondary school in summer (5 children) with all of them getting their first choice secondary schools.
- Excalibur Academies Trust have a new Admissions Policy for Sept 2015 entry and this puts children in catchment of the linked primary academies up above entry to St John's by children in catchment for traditional 'feeder' schools. (In recognition of the joint work done and 'all through' learning journey for children). If a child is out of primary academy catchment/St John's catchment, then they go into a lower category, but are at the top of that list (i.e. ahead of children attending a feeder primary but living out of catchment).
- The Local Authority has informed us that we have 8 children joining us in September and expect our numbers to be around 56 in September. Next year we have a large cohort of Y6 leavers (10), and so numbers may reduce slightly.
- Since last year, families have been successful in getting Free Transport to the school from the catchment village of Milton Lilbourne which has gone some way to reduce the traffic in the village at drop off and pick up times. The school is in support of the 20MPH speed limit and has purchased 2 signs to remind drivers. Thanks to villagers who have got the 'movable' one on their banks.

Academy Developments

- Nicola Coupe – Easton Royal Principal is also Executive Principal to Burbage Primary School. This has resulted in enriched Senior Leadership opportunities for our small Easton Royal Academy (we have an Acting Deputy Head) and staff are enjoying the opportunity to meet with other staff to develop our curriculum and share best practice.
- Operational 'administrative' matters are increasingly handled by staff working centrally from St John's. This has helped teaching staff focus on Teaching and Learning.
- Premises - Our site is managed by the Premises Director at St John's as part of Excalibur Academies Trust (EAT), which stands at 3 schools. We are currently 'out to tender' for Grounds Maintenance contract. Looking to see if a company wants the business across the 3 EAT academies, or might just do the primaries.
- The Government has given a PE award (£5,000 per year for three years) to primaries which is ring-fenced to ensure provision for competitive sport increases in primary schools. We are using it jointly with other cluster schools to support the competitions and festivals that run. We recently did very well in the Tag Rugby Tournament winning our Group. We are still awaiting a new shed. *A discussion took place on the use of this PE Grant, once improvements have been made to the Recreation Ground. These improvements have been delayed by the delays to the car park improvements.*
- Ground Force Day at School on Saturday 17th May – parents, children and staff working together to tidy school grounds and do gardening. Anyone interested in joining is welcome.

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Universal infant Free School Meals/Lunchtimes

- The government has initiated a scheme whereby all children of infant age will be entitled to take a school meal without cost to parents. We are currently working with our cluster business manager to look at providers. With 27 infants from September it could be something a local caterer may be interested in delivering for the school.
- We are advertising for a member of staff to be our MDSA 5 days per week for 1.75 hrs. per day. This could be standalone or could be joined up to a Cleaner in Charge position of 11hrs per week. If you know anyone who may be interested, please let school know. We have had to extend the deadline and are very keen to have someone join the team.

Village Links – Community Cohesion

- Our thanks go to the volunteers (many from the village) who are working with the school in Collective worship sessions called 'Open the Book'. These happen fortnightly and are ways to share bible stories with the whole school. They are very well received by staff and pupils alike.
- Due to pressure of time, the Easton Eagle has been less frequent this year and we are looking to see if we can get a parent on board to put the children's work into Publisher format as this is the time consuming element.
- The Easter Church Service was held at Holy Trinity Church at the end of term, and was a fitting way to end a busy but enjoyable term. New vicar has been very proactive with the school and visits regularly for assemblies.
- The Welcome Book is a lovely document and our thanks for being included.
- Looking forward to the WWI Commemorative event and happy to get involved as much as required.
- The school is looking forward to doing our 'dig' for the archaeology project.
- The Village Summer Fair in July is also on the school's calendar and we are keen to provide a display or take part as decided by the committee.

Local, National and International Links

- Local – Partnerships with local schools continue to thrive. We are part of MAEP (The Marlborough Area Education Partnership) which consists of St John's, plus 6 other primaries (St Katharine's has joined this year). The focus being the development of an all-through curriculum. Work this year includes ICT – we work collaboratively over a 'cloud' and children are now working together through the Virtual Learning Environment. We held our first Modern foreign languages performance evening in February where children sang in French. It was a resounding success and will be repeated next year. Staff are currently developing the all through approach to Science teaching and assessment.
- National - We took our School Councillors to Vaughan School, the large urban school in Harrow we have links with, back in September. It was very much enjoyed. Next year will be their turn to visit us.
- We took the school to the Neasden Hindu Mandir which was an awe-inspiring trip enjoyed by all the children despite the long journey. This term we visited Salisbury Cathedral for a pilgrimage visit and the children enjoyed comparing the two buildings.

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

The hall licence is now in its third 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.

After many years Simon Riley stood down as treasurer but has been ably replaced by Roger Tilbrook.

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Similarly Rosie Riley has taken on the role of secretary from Beverley, and Jane.

The village owes enormous thanks to all three for their efforts in supporting the work of the hall committee, and keeping the chairman under control. Jane is continuing as booking's officer, and Beverley is continuing to lead the Helps BBQ team.

The hall committee has put on a number of more traditional social events:-

Flower, produce and pet show

'Call my bluff' wine tasting

Curry night and

St George's Supper

Pimms party (courtesy of Bill and Karen Nimmo- Scott)

In addition a car boot sale was organised.

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 exterior walls were repainted as part of a working party day, which also involved tidying up the Parish Council land at the side of the hall (this element was finished by a second team led by Tricia Duncan, the following weekend) Many thanks to Chris Elliott for taking the lead on this initiative, and a very special thank you to all the villagers who turned out to undertake the work, and to Beverley Helps and Anne Dancer for ensuring the team was fed and watered.

At the same time work was started on tidying up the Parish Council owned land on the "Street" side of the hall, and this was completed by a second working party led by Tricia Duncan, the following weekend.

Adrian Bull has been commissioned to repair some of the window frames, and then painting will be undertaken by Ben Higham, with the frames taken down to bare wood before three coats of paint are applied. Ben will also apply gloss to some of the interior doors

Internally new tables have been purchased which are easy to keep clean, and stack. The older ones have been retained for use on outdoor events such as car boot sales.

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!

Once the painting work has been completed, the hall will be in good condition, considering its age, and it will be 80 years in 2015, since it arrived in the village. This should be a reason for a special anniversary event.

Externally the improvements to the car park, and path to the store should be completed by September now that Wiltshire Council have approved the Planning application submitted by the Parish Council. I would encourage any new residents, as well as more longstanding ones to consider joining the hall committee. New expertise and ideas are always very welcome

This will be my last report as Chairman. Thank you to everyone for your support over the last 20 years, in particular those villagers who have, and continue to serve on the hall committee, it has made the role of chairman quite easy.

A new Chairman is required from the AGM in October, so please can we have some nominations.

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9. **PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT** Presented by Cedric Hollinsworth.

Attendance at services has been maintained during the year and we were pleased to welcome Revd Mark Windsor as our Team Vicar in May, with grateful thanks to all the visiting clergy, and especially the Revd James Dickie, who have supported us during the interregnum. Festival services continue to be well attended.

With the ever increasing pressure of finances from the diocese, Roger Tilbrook is undertaking a study on the viability of the Church with a current account deficit running at the moment. This is unsustainable

During the year there has been one service of thanksgiving and two internments of ashes in the churchyard.

Clergy continue to be welcomed in to school and the festival/end of term services have been held in church. Christingles were made by the children and distributed at the end-of-Christmas term service. 'Open the Book has continued in school and has been well received.

Harvest collection of dry goods for the Trussell Trust amounted to 58kgs. A successful harvest lunch was held this year.

A 'Big Lunch' was held in June.

Carol singing around the village took place and combined with the collection from the school service £246 was sent to the Children's Society.

Parishioners took part in the Lent discussion groups.

We have welcomed the Dancers to the parish, especially as Brian plays the organ. A new set of CDs has been purchased as a contingency.

We were sad to say farewell to the Nitsches who have moved to be nearer their family.

A repair was made to the wall to the east of the lych-gate and a working party was held in November to tidy up, clear drains and remove rubbish.

A risk assessment has been undertaken in the church building, churchyard and cemetery.

We welcomed Tony Toller to the PCC and Viv Swift has stood down from the council.

I continue to be grateful for the ongoing support from PCC members and others in the parish - through their help in the services, providing refreshments, flowers and cleaning.

The continuing pressures on maintaining the building must not deter us from sharing the love of God in the parish.

10. **PEWSEY POLICE REPORT**

Annual Police report to 12th May 2014

Within the past twelve months we have investigated the following crimes within this Parish;

Non dwelling burglaries;

Overnight to 15/05/2013 – forced entry to two barns and search made of within. Location accessed via fields, off road. A suspicious vehicle was subsequently identified which may be linked – silver grey Toyota and trailer seen being driven erratically in the area.

Overnight to 07/06/2013 – further incident at location and a Tamaka petrol strimmer stolen.

Suspicious incident;

Overnight to 20/12/2013 a padlock was removed from a field gate and tyre tracks located in the field. Poaching/hare coursing suspected.

Recent incident in nearby area; dwelling burglary at New Mill.

Between 2230/29/04 and 0300/30/04/2014 entry to dwelling whilst occupants asleep upstairs. Entry believed via an insecure door and goods stolen from within.

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Updates

Policing Priorities; Community safety and traffic matters.

This priority has enabled our team to focus upon speed enforcement and other traffic offences; as a result a number of £100 fixed penalty notices have been issued for vehicles being driven at excess speed through a number of east villages. Other motorists have been advised regarding minor infringements.

Similarly, together with partner agencies we engaged in a policing operation on 20th March whereby stop checks of relevant vehicles including 4 x 4, scrap collection vehicles, vans and trailers were conducted along the A338 corridor in order to identify criminality and traffic offences. Two drivers were dealt with for no insurance, one vehicle was seized, another driver was issued a £100 fixed penalty notice for not wearing a seatbelt and two others detained for drug searches. Customs and Excise Officers dipped fuel tanks for red diesel and WC Enforcement officers dealt with several drivers regarding their carriage of waste materials.

In addition we have conducted a number of school and playgroup visits with a focus upon stranger danger and road safety, lots of engagement with children, good work conducted by PCSO CAMILLERI.

New priorities;

Theft from motor vehicles, particularly in beauty spots. All intelligence is welcome.

Criminal damage to farmland due to poaching activity.

Policing operations.

Two large scale night-time rural crime operations have been conducted in recent months; the latter running recently on Sunday 27th and Monday 28th April; Working with volunteers from the local community throughout the east villages resulted in a number of stop searches of vehicles and occupants and intelligence gathered

Crime Statistics for the Pewsey East area are published on the Parish Website as are regular reports from this policing team.

We are still experiencing some damage to farmland due to those engaged in poaching activity however; this has reduced quite significantly upon a year ago. Excellent work has been undertaken by our local farming community in target hardening measures including ditching and gating. This together with our targeted patrols and successful prosecutions of offenders has provided positive outcomes in this area.

It has been a pleasure working with this community for the past two years; if you have any matters you wish to discuss please email us at pewseynt@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk .

Community Speed Watch has been in operation with successful results. CSW is at present one week in four sharing with three other parishes within the Pewsey Area.

There has been an increase in poaching of fallow deer between Burbage and Hungerford with damage to crops although Hare-coursing has decreased. There have been a number of dog thefts. If in doubt, call in even a partial number plate.

Consider whether to use 999 or 101 depending on the urgency of the situation.

11. **Councillor Portfolio Reports**

- a **M Holden –External Meetings.** This role is shared with M De Pass. There are two main areas in this role. Pewsey Area Board which is chaired by J Kunkler and the Pewsey Community Area Partnership (PCAP) which meets quarterly. Although allocated to M De Pass and M Holden respectively, this does not preclude any other Councillor from attending either meeting particularly if matters being discussed are within the scope of their portfolio. The Pewsey Area Board is open to any member of the community to attend. PCAP has developed a good working relationship with Wiltshire Council and the community plan developed by PCAP is part funded by the Area Board. It consults widely on various activities and holds public engagement events that involve all areas of the community. It covers 22 parishes and any parish issues are collated quarterly through a reporting process which consolidates and then escalates to the Area Board those issues that have not been resolved in a timely manner. Issues reported recently involved speeding road repairs. Have also attended North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty meeting, Area Health community meetings, and Joint Strategic

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Assessment meetings. As a Health and Social Care professional I have attended Health and Social Care forums. I am considering attending further meetings linked with GP forums and it is important that any issues in these areas are brought to my attention so that I can raise these in the correct forum. I have undertaken Defibrillator training provide by Friends of Savernake Hospital.

- b **M DePass** has attended some of the Pewsey Neighbourhood Development Plan meetings since Easton royal is involved as a primary consultee on this plan. Easton Royal has no requirements for an NDP, the Village Statement is sufficient for the village needs.
- c **C Elliott – Footpaths.** As a walker I am pleased to take on this role. My aim, set out in a previous Parish council meeting, is to keep open and passible our Public Rights of Way in Easton Royal seeking harmony between the rights and needs of the public and rights and concerns of landowners and tenants. A number of stiles have been repaired during the year and praise to one landowner who very speedily repaired broken stiles. There have been no abusive actions by walkers on footpaths which has happened in the past. For the future, there are a number of plans. The stiles need to be more walker friendly with the possible addition of poles to assist climbing over. Wiltshire Council are very keen to fund replacement of stiles with Kissing Gates and hope to create a low level route close to the village with Kissing gates or enhanced stiles. Kissing Gates may not be appropriate were there are livestock. Looking for volunteers this autumn, witness the speed at which the Village Hall was painted in under a day when it was a 4 day plan! In subsequent years look at the remaining stiles to either replace with Kissing Gates or enhance the existing stiles. Alan Archer praised the state of the existing stiles and, as a keen dog walker, would be very pleased to assist.
- d **C Hollinsworth- Highways, Streetscene and speeding.** Role is liaise with Highways Co-ordinator and report to him on matters that need attending to. He then liaises with the subcontractor Balfour Beatty. The transition from Ringway to Balfour Beatty has not been smooth and there is a lack of a proper management plan for proposed works either by the Parish Steward or other works requested to be done in the Parish. The wet winter has created issues with the routine maintenance being superseded by emergency repairs. There are three community days a year where a team of some 8-10 operatives will undertake various jobs as requested by the Parish. This has allowed some of the backlog of repairs to be progressed but to bring the Streetscene back to a standard of the past will take many years. The Parish Steward has not done as much as was hoped. The drain by the church has yet to be cleared and, although the works have been approved, there has not been an opportunity to get the correct equipment on site. The work appears to require a JCB and there is only one in the area! All the drains in the village have been flushed through and there have been some potholes repaired. Work has taken place in the dip on the B3087 but still more work to be undertaken. The roads have not been kept to their correct width, leading to erosion of the banks and the filling of the grips. Highways are aware of the issues but Streetscene have challenges with working with Balfour Beatty. At the Area Board meeting, Wiltshire outlined their plans for the next 6 years and are borrowing monies to try to clear the problems. Normally Wiltshire Council receive a grant of about £9 million per year, they are going to spend £21 million a year for the next five years to make some inroad into the backlog of repairs. The schedule for works shows Easton Royal will not be done until year 6. Although there have been failures of previous works, the damage is not sufficiently bad to justify emergency repairs. Potholes and streetlights issues are regularly reported but it needs a number of similar reports before any action is even considered. The Wiltshire App incorrectly reports the exact location so is no use for reporting faults. Speeding. Metro-loop indicated a speeding problem in the top category- speed is now faster than when a 40 mph limit applied. There is now the opportunity to have the solar powered SID (Speed Indication Device) for two weeks every six months. Have now initiated the CSW (Community Speed Watch) Group with seven people currently trained and any more volunteers would be welcome. Have the equipment for one week in four for seven days. It has to be used in daylight and the location for the CSW is between the bus stop and the entrance to Tudor House, which gives good views in both directions. Really need to have three people to undertake the task. Information is sent to Devizes where it is passed back to the Neighbourhood Policing Team and, once checked with the Police Database, people are visited and advised of the findings.

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Training is very simple and waiting for the CSW signs for both ends of the village and also Speed watch Hi-Viz jackets. Have to borrow Pewsey jackets. Requested the relocation of the Village signs at the eastern end of the village which should have been done by the end of March this year. Also on the list are repairs to the potholes at the bottom of the street as well as repairs to the top road and pothole repairs especially in Ram Alley. Submitted a formal application for 20mph on The Street. This has been agreed and put forward by CATG and is now in its formal review stage. If approved it will not take place until the next financial year 2015/16. Implementation will have to be borne by CATG and Parish Council. Asked for repeater signs through the village- have one pair so far but there is a need for one more pair. A question was asked about gates at the village entrance. There is no reason for the variation on speed limits between Pewsey and Burbage. There is a lack of connection between Wiltshire council and Balfour Beatty.

- e **Colin Sibun- Recreation Ground/Car Park improvement/School liaison.** Agreed, following the Open meeting in November and subsequent Parish council meeting, that we would level the playing field, which would allow the school to use it, remove the cricket wicket and use the rubble as part of the sub-base for the car park. Because of various delays this will not now take place until September this year. This plan had been discussed at the September 2013 Parish Council meeting and it was agreed to hold an Open meeting in November with costed options. Brennans were asked to provide costed options and by combining the three elements the cost of the car park would be drastically reduced. Nicola Coup is very keen to get involved and can help fund some of the running cost. It was decided at the Open meeting to keep the goal posts and these will now need to be painted with a Hammerite type product later this summer. At the last Parish Council meeting also picked up the task of producing a Forward Plan for Village projects. If anyone has any particular projects that could be included in this plan please let the Clerk or C Sibun know. It will be discussed at the parish council meeting that follows this meeting.
- f **Simon Riley –Church Liaison.** This has been covered by the Parochial Church Council report.
- g **Graham Cooper – Annual Village Betterment Fund.** A sum has been set aside from the Precept for projects that will improve the village. Presently set at £300per annum- large projects will take some time to come to pass unless extra funding becomes available.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Allan Archer- On behalf of the village and not connected to the Parish Council, I am astounded by how much goes on behind the scenes by the parish council for the benefit of the residents. It is a shame that there is not a way that would encourage more to turn up to support this meeting and the hard working Parish Council. Alan suggested that Pauline may be interested. This will be pursued. Alan Archer offered to help on an occasional basis and thanked the parish council for their work.

C Elliott proposed a vote of thanks for Hews hard work as Parish Clerk.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21:00