

EASTON ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL
THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD AT EASTON ROYAL VILLAGE HALL
ON THURSDAY 14TH MAY 2015
At 1900

PRESENT:

Christopher Elliott (Chairman), Colin Sibun, Cedric Hollinsworth, Margaret Holden, Simon Riley, Mark de Pass, Graham Cooper, Pauline Archer (Clerk)

Members of the public: Jerry Kunkler (Wiltshire Councillor), Jonathan Mills (Community Police), Brian Norman (Village Hall), Hilary Hollinsworth (Holy Trinity Church), Carol Choules (Woodland Group) and 15 members of the Parish

1. OPENING COMMENTS AND WELCOME (Christopher Elliott)

A very busy year within the Parish, including WW1 celebrations, Pimms Party, Dog show, Woodland Group improvements, a new Car Park (after some 15 years of discussions), new fencing and other projects to be discussed later.

The Parish Council consists of seven Councillors each serving a four year term. Each Councillor has a responsibility for a particular portfolio and participates in other Council business. This includes all planning applications, the setting of the precept and managing a small budget and other correspondence.

The current precept (the amount contributed by Parishioners through their Council Tax), has been set at £5,600. This is the same as last year's precept. Details of the Parish Council accounts will be placed on the village website in due course.

Thanks was given to Mark de Pass for Chairing the Parish Council over the last 16 years, and to Hew Helps who resigned as Clerk and whose support had been invaluable.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Beck Stubbs (Easton Royal Academy) Jeremy Booth and Judy Grange

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting held on 13th May 2014 having been circulated were proposed and approved by Simon Riley and Margaret Holden.

4. INDIVIDUAL COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

Mark de Pass (Open and External Meetings)

Mark highlighted the current position regarding the funding of a village defibrillator. The current amount raised is circa £800. An application of £500 has been made to the Area Board leaving a shortfall of approximately £700. Rather than embark on many fundraising projects, donations from Parishioners would be welcome.

Margaret Holden (Open and External Meetings)

There are two main external meetings, PCAP (Pewsey Community Area Partnership) which meets quarterly and Pewsey Area Board which meets bi-monthly. Margaret has attended most of these meetings which work closely with other Parish Councils.

Issues highlighted during the year include, green bin waste consultation, car park consultations and bus service consultations. Area Board grants applied for by the Parish include funding towards footpaths and the defibrillator appeal.

Christopher Elliott (Footpaths)

Thanks was given to Wiltshire Council (Paul Millard's team), and the many Parishioners who have volunteered for working parties and the provision of lunches. We now have 8 Footpath wardens overseeing footpaths within the village. Six new Kissing Gates have been installed together with two stock proof gates thanks to the support of various landowners. Planings have been put down to improve the footpath along Harris Lane, landowners have assisted with the clearing back of undergrowth, and a new permissive path (for 5 years courtesy of Totteridge Farm) has been agreed.

Further planings are to be made available and will be used to improve more footpaths and the byway at the bottom of the village, all with the ongoing support and assistance of landowners.

Cedric Hollinsworth (Street Scene, Highways and Car Park)

There has been much liaison with Wiltshire Council to complete works within the village. Budget cuts are going to be an ongoing issue and some works will be reduced to an annual clearance. There may be further requirements for working parties in the village to maintain services.

Much thanks to the Community Speed Watch team who have helped to highlight speeding on the B3097, which has been given a higher priority by Wiltshire police.

We are currently progressing with the proposed 20mph limit within the village street. The funding for the legislative change and implementation has yet to be clarified.

Colin Sibun (Recreation Ground and School Liaison)

The playground passed its safety inspection but some immediate repairs have been completed. It is showing its age, and continuing repairs may not be sustainable.

Further tidying up around the Village Hall has been completed including fencing and gates. Also fencing along the B3097 has been improved and maintained.

All Parishioners have been asked to close the Village Car Park gates for safety reasons and in particular to stop children running down on to the road.

Many discussions have taken place with Easton Royal School, who are keen to use the Recreation Ground for school sport. The Parish Council are working to improve the quality of the ground including the removal of the concrete cricket pitch to make it more suitable.

Arrangements have been put in place with the Village Hall to ensure no damage is caused to the Recreation Ground when taking bookings.

Thanks were given to all Parishioners who have been involved in working parties and the work completed by the Woodland Group who have embarked on many tidying projects.

Simon Riley (Church Liaison)

Attendance at four church meetings and the Annual Parochial church meeting. The Parish Council is aware of the financial difficulties experienced by the church and the potential funding shortfalls. Support is maintained by the Parish Council to assist in the maintenance of the churchyard.

Graham Cooper (Annual Village Betterment)

It was agreed that support via the £300 budgeted amount should be given towards funding the Footpath projects within the village, in particular the improvement to village stiles. Any Parishioner who would like to propose a project within the village should contact Graham Cooper.

5. FINANCE

Financial Statement for the Year Ending 31st March 2015

Main Account

Balance brought forward	5,649.63
Income for the year	6,324.16
Expenditure for the year	7,855.05
Balance carried forward	4,118.74

The reduction in the balance carried forward is from the expenditure by the Parish Council for its share of the car park renovations £1,315.00 and the works to trees outside the Village Hall £1,120.00.

1. Adoption of the Annual Accounts – Proposed Margaret Holden and Mark de Pass
2. Annual Governance statement (circulated) proposed by Colin Sibun and Margaret Holden. Christopher Elliot signed the accounts and annual governance statement.

Roger Tilbrook had completed the internal audit of the accounts and thanks were given to him.

6. WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR'S REPORT (Jerry Kunkler)

Jerry Kunkler praised the Parish for a busy proactive year. He confirmed that Wiltshire Council had to implement £30 million of savings. Priority would be given to protecting the vulnerable, elderly, economy and jobs and maintaining a strong community.

No council tax increases have been implemented in the last five years.

The Pewsey Campus scheme is well received and part of the Councils desire to have schooling, leisure, police etc. in one place in order to support the Community.

He confirmed that at the recent Area Board a grant of £600 had been agreed to support of the footpath work being implemented in the village.

7. WILTSHIRE COMMUNITY POLICE (Jonathan Mills)

There was no reported crime within the Parish this year. Within the Pewsey area there have been a small number of dwelling burglaries, but the main issues have been a considerable number of non-dwelling thefts. These include garden equipment from sheds and gardens and thefts of equipment from local business.

Any suspicious activities should be reported through phoning 101 or mobile number or email for Community Police.

8. EASTON ROYAL ACADEMY SCHOOL (Beck Stubbs)

Apologies received. The Chairman confirmed the recent appointment of Beck Stubbs having taken over from Nicola Coupe. The school makes a positive contribution to the Village, and the Parish Council are keen to see the school using the Recreation Ground.

Please see attached School Report.

9. VILLAGE HALL REPORT (Brian Norman)

Brian Norman confirmed an active year for the Village Hall. Several events have taken place including progressive suppers, curry and quiz night, anniversary celebrations all raising substantial amounts for the Village Hall in excess of £1,200.

The Village Bar continues to be popular and successful many thanks to Allan Duncan for organising.

Other events are planned for the rest of the year and the support of the Village Hall committee was praised.

Working parties are planned for continued maintenance of both inside and outside the Hall.

10 PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT (Hilary Hollinsworth)

Services have been maintained at the Church, and thanks were given to the Rev. James Dickie for the extra services he has provided during the year. The Poppy Appeal was well received raising in excess of £1,000. The church has been active in other fund raising events.

The highlight of the year was the performance of the "Song of the Trinity" relating to Easton Priory. A DVD has recently been delivered to all Parishioners.

The church faces difficult financial concerns to do with the ongoing running costs. These concerns have been highlighted to the Parish by way of a flyer and invitation to a church meeting on the 17th of May. Also the stepping down of a number of members of the PCC requires more Parishioners to become actively involved.

The Parish Council were thanked for their ongoing support.

11. WOODLAND GROUP REPORT (Carol Choules)

Thanks were given to all Parishioners who have helped with the clearing and maintenance of the Woodland Area on the Recreation Ground. Much clearing of scrub land and dead branches has been achieved. The next project is to provide bird boxes, owl boxes and the encouragement of habitat for hedgehogs.

The school is keen to support a wildlife group using the Woodland Area to study insects and habitat and to make Dens etc., all of which the Woodland Group is keen to support.

12. MATTERS OF INTEREST FROM THE PUBLIC

- Could the Parish Council consider making a donation towards the defibrillator funding? The Council agreed to discuss this further.
- Could the Parish Council consider continuing the daffodils on the main road by the Recreation Ground up to the Village Hall? Agreed in principle
- Will it still be possible to use the Recreation Ground for the setup of stalls for village events in the light of the improvements being made for the use of the school? Yes discussions are needed with the Village Hall who book the facility to ensure no damage is done to the Recreation Ground
- Could the village phone box be tidied up? Yes a working party was suggested.
- Could the Parish Council continue to support the returning of the Post Box by the school? Yes ongoing discussions are continuing with the Post Office.

Meeting closed 2030.