

EASTON ROYAL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Chaired by Easton Royal Parish Council

Thursday 19th May 2022
Easton Royal Village Hall
at 7.30pm

DRAFT MINUTES

Present : Margaret Holden (Chair), Peta Puyo (Clerk), Amanda & Mark Baines, Karen & Bill Nimmo-Scott, Fay & Tom Doyle, Allan Duncan, Shirley & Chris Machin, Emma Dickie, Daniel Puyo, Paul Narizzano, Lloyds Cockbain, Richard Holloway, Phil Bates, Judy Grange, Carole & Ray Choules, Viv Swift, Jane Tilbrook, Ben Cooper, James de Pass, Anna Patterson, Ben Gossett, Jane Lightfoot, Rachel Edwards, Jerry Kunkler (Wiltshire Council)

1. Opening comments and welcome – Chair

Margaret Holden welcomed everyone. It was proposed that, from now on, this meeting be called the Annual Community Meeting so as to better reflect its purpose as an annual meeting for all of the residents, a community event to showcase the achievements of the community groups and organisations. This is not a Parish Council meeting and should not be confused with the Annual Parish Council Meeting. This change was **APPROVED**.

Margaret highlighted the great community spirit shown through the pandemic and since the last Annual Parish Meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Sue & Colin Hudson, Bev & Hew Helps, Ann Dancer, Hilary & Cedric Hollinsworth, Fiona, Mark, Poppy & Lorna de Pass, Graham Cooper.

3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 21st May 2019

APPROVED

4. Report from Wiltshire Council – Jerry Kunkler

Jerry was very pleased to see so many residents at the meeting. He informed the meeting that councils were facing a number of financial cuts leading to a £25million shortfall this year. Wiltshire has an annual budget of £407million and cuts are having to be made in many departments.

Recent improvements to Easton Royal included the use of Area Board Grants and the resurfacing of the main road. We were reminded that the road was redone up to Breach Cottage. Beyond that point the road belongs to Burbage.

The instalment and financing of white gates at the entrance to the village has been approved and should be in place by July.

New grants, targeting the improvement of cycle ways and footpaths are available.

Questions to the councillor included the issues with potholes and the Parish Steward's work for the village. Any potholes should be reported to Wilts CC via the MyWilts App

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and photos taken. Any other issues should be reported to the Clerk. Should the Steward not respond well to the PC's request for works to be done, Jerry should be contacted.

5. 2021/2022 Parish Council Report – Margaret Holden (Chair)

Thanks were extended to Cedric Hollinsworth, Graham Cooper, Mark de Pass, Colin Siburn for their time and dedication as councillors and to Pauline Archer for her years as clerk.

Peta Puyo was welcomed as the new Clerk and her role and work with the councillors was explained. Thanks were given to Anna Patterson who carried out the role in the interim period.

The new councillors and the clerk have followed training courses for their new roles. It is a huge learning curve and everyone is looking to improve how we function as a team. All external meetings are attended to by Margaret on behalf of the village.

Cedric Hollinsworth's lead, whilst in office, on highways proved invaluable. Tom Doyle is now the lead on this difficult topic. Drains and potholes are a priority as well as speeding in the village. As highlighted by Jerry, the white speed gates should be installed very soon and the road has been resurfaced as far as Breach Cottage.

The BT box was due to be refurbished and the works had in fact started on the day of the meeting. This telephone can only be used to make emergency calls (999).

The grass cutting has been much improved with the services of Idverde. The dog poo bins have been well accepted and used. Paul Narizzano, the lead councillor for the Rec, and his team of volunteers were thanked for their work in maintaining the area for the benefit of everyone.

The mole issue has been addressed and 7 were recently caught.

Thanks were given to Anna Patterson for carrying out the weekly playground equipment checks.

The new playground has been the highlight of the year and is being much enjoyed by all. Emma Dickie to give a fuller report during the meeting.

The trees on the Rec have been recently checked by a tree surgeon and there is one requiring removal following its damage during a storm. A budget and schedule for tree maintenance is to be set up.

Anna Patterson is the lead councillor for the church and Ben Cooper for the school.

The lead councillors for the footpaths and byways are Beverley Helps and James de Pass. The maintenance carried out by themselves, Hew Helps (and his mower), land owners and other volunteers has allowed us all to enjoy walking around the village. The footpaths are well used and appreciated on a daily basis but were used all the more during the pandemic. Thanks were given to everyone involved for their hard work.

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Their upkeep is all the more encouraged as ER is part of the Pewsey “Walkers Are Welcome” scheme.

Ben Cooper took to the floor to give an update on the services provided by the Parish Steward. He is in close contact with Karl, our Steward, and provides him with a list of jobs that need addressing. Our time allocation is restricted as is the budget. Any issues should be reported to the Parish Clerk who will forward these to Ben.

Thanks were given to Jan Howard for planting and maintaining the flower troughs at the crossroads.

6. **FINANCE** - Figures for the year ending 31.03.2022 to be placed on the Village Website as per Audit Requirements. Due to the income and expenses exceeding £25k this year (Playground Project) the reporting is slightly different and requires an external audit as well as the usual internal audit. The internal audit was carried out by Roger Tilbrook. This was his last year for the task and thanks were extended to him for the many years that he has fulfilled this role for the council.

7. **EASTON ROYAL ACADEMY** – no report

8. **VILLAGE HALL**

Tom Doyle introduced himself as the new Village Hall Chair. Brian Norman’s role as the previous chair was massive and nobody felt able to take it all on so the responsibilities have now been shared

Ben Gosset is Vice Chair, Colin Chesterman remains as treasurer, Rob and Megan Ashton are in charge of reservations and Debbie Lovern will receive all emails addressed to the Committee.

The weekly bar night continues to be very popular as well as the Greasy Spoon breakfasts. Further details of all upcoming events can be found on the village website. Important notice of a meeting to be held on Monday 13th June at 7.30pm to discuss the possibility of refurbishment/extension of the village hall. Everyone is invited.

9. **ER PLAYGROUND FUNDRAISING GROUP**

Emma Dickie wished to say a massive thanks again to everyone who contributed to the success of the new playground. Donations (financial, benches, soil...), time and so much energy as well as grants from the Area Board, NFU, Modini enabled the committee to complete Phase 1 of the playground in record time. Steve Aplin, the installer, proved an excellent choice and the equipment was well negotiated through Kompan directly. The kitchen which was made and donated to the project has been greatly enjoyed.

The basketball goal is in place and the final push for funding is required to complete the hard court, thus completing the final phase of the whole project. The shortfall of £2k will hopefully be met by fundraising events and further donations/grants.

The old swings will be removed in September and it is hoped that the older wooden equipment can be maintained and pass inspection for a while longer.

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10. **PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL** – a report from Hilary Hollinsworth was read.
It has been another challenging year for the church as no services were held until Easter. The Carol Service was held outside of the village hall.
Two baptisms were held and memorial services for Bob Walters, Anthony Green and Brian Dancer.
The Advent Window Trail took place again but no Walking Nativity was possible due to Covid.
The grounds maintenance was again satisfactorily provided by Idverde.
11. **WOODLAND GROUP**
Ivan Gale and Ian Johnson look after the pruning. There are still about 40 car tyres needing to be disposed of from the Rec. It was suggested that these be pulled out and cleaned and then a message send out to the village asking for help to get them to the tip.
12. **HERITAGE GROUP** – a report from Liz Johnson was read
First event following Covid was the shorter route of the Beating of the Bounds, which ended with lunch and drinks at the Bruces Arms. A good number attended.
Other scheduled events have or have not taken place, depending on restrictions. The display of archive material and the launch of the village book “A Wiltshire Village – Easton Royal” was very well attended and further material was given from prior residents who came to the venue.
Thanks were extended to the committee (Ian, Carole, Ray, Paul and Maggie). The bank balance is looking healthy.
13. **SPEED WATCH TEAM** – no report
14. **“POPPY APPEAL”**
Bill Nimmo-Scott reported that, sadly, the Poppy Appeal was poorly organised this year and was very frustrating. No reports were received following the collections so unable to give a final figure. Thanks were given though to the collectors as, in the past, the village has been very generous and this was no doubt again the case. The Royal British Legion has been informed of these shortcomings and the chairman will hold a meeting to resolve these issues.
A very successful Curry Lunch was held and, with the church collection, £536 was raised. A fringed Union Jack has been obtained for formal occasions.
15. **Matters of Interest**
Those present were reminded of the upcoming Jubilee celebrations.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm. The Village Hall bar was opened and many stayed to end the evening.