

**EASTON ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL
EXTRAORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23RD APRIL 2021
BY "Zoom"
AT 6.00pm
DRAFT**

PRESENT:

Cedric Hollinsworth (Chairman), Margaret Holden, Colin Sibun, Anna Patterson, Beverley Helps, and Pauline Archer (Clerk)

Peta Puyo, Emma Dickie Easton Royal Playground Fundraising Group (ERPFG)

Jane Lightfoot, Judith Mclain, Vivien Swift, Faye Doyle, Ann Dancer, Paul Narizzano, Allan Duncan, Judy Grange,

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Graham Cooper, Mark de Pass

2. TO RECEIVE MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

None

The Chairman congratulated the ERPFG for their hard work, and professionalism. The project had been extremely well researched, and the information sent out to villagers was very well presented. He noted the many private donations from the Village, which demonstrated the widespread support for the project, together with the contributions from local businesses. Also, the successful applications for grants funding and other fundraising events.

3. APPROVAL OF PLAYGROUND COSTINGS

The Parish Council have reviewed the proposals put forward by the ERPFG for the purchase of equipment from Kompan (quote 15.3.21 for net £13,462.20 and the Installation by Steve Aplin (31.3.21 for net £8,674.25) Other quotations have also been received and considered by ERPFG and the Parish Council.

It was resolved that the Parish Council would accept the two quotes noted above and recommended by ERPFG.

4. CONFIRMATION AND DELEGATED AUTHORISATION TO PLACE ORDERS

It was resolved that the Parish Council would allow ERPFG to place orders in conjunction with the Clerk on their behalf.

5 FEEDBACK FROM CONSULTATION PROCESS

See attached summary of consultation process.

The short timescale for the approval of the quoted noted, was due to the desire to have the new playground installed for the Summer holidays. The equipment quotation that had been received which includes a substantial discount, has a limited time to approve. In addition, the installer has limited availability and if the June time slot is missed, the whole project will be delayed. Similarly, Graham Cooper and his team have limited time slots available due to farming commitments and the ERPFG were anxious not to miss this generous offer of free labour and supply of equipment. Other volunteers within the village are also available at this time.

The equipment purchase has 6-to-8-week order time lag, if this is not agreed now, works may have to be delayed until much later in the year or Spring next year. The Parish Council strongly support pushing ahead with the playground now, so that Villagers can see how their donations have been spent.

Due to Covid it has not been possible to have a display or meeting in the Village Hall. However, the consultation has been extensive with leaflets, mailchimp email providing updates and information. Further information is provided on the Village website. The fundraising group have offered to meet many parishioners individually. The committee has always remained open to anyone who wished to join or contribute. (Thank you to Hew Helps for support with website and Mailchimp)

The final layout of the equipment will be discussed with the professional installers by ERFPG.

The Chairman confirmed that no final decision had been made about how or whether to enclose the playground. There is a preference by many villagers to leave it fully open, or alternatively consider open fencing or low hedging.

It is essential that all dog walkers respect the area of and around the new playground, and ensure no contamination of the ground takes place

The prime duty of the Parish Council is to ensure the safety of all future users. Safeguarding issues concerning minors need to be taken into account. The meeting was reminded that safeguarding concerns had been the driver behind lowering the hedge around the current play area, and that even now some Villagers considered that it was too high. It was proposed to take further advice from Rospa at the proposed final inspection.

The ERFPG will bring some options back to the Council

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS RELEVANT TO THE REPLACEMENT PLAY AREA.

The Chairman thanked Vivien Swift for forwarding some very relevant and pertinent questions and observations prior to the meeting.

-It was estimated that the current playground covered approximately 6% of the Recreation ground. The new area would be slightly greater around 8 to 9%.

It was considered that a low hedge was necessary along the B3087 side of the Recreation ground to restrict the view from outside of the play area, and that any hedge would supplement the chain link fencing. Any hedging would have to be child friendly.

-Safety of the gates for vehicle access to the Recreation ground. It was agreed that despite the signage on the gates, these were not regularly kept closed. The concern is children running, skateboarding or being on bicycles or scooters and coming straight onto the road into the path of vehicles. It was agreed to look at this further to see what additional safety measures can be provided.

Meeting closed 18:35

CONSULTATION - Easton Royal Fundraising Group (ERPFG)

20 October 2020

Distribution of a letter to all residents outlining the proposed project. **This included questionnaires.** Posted on website, village notice boards, Mailchimp and paper copies to those we know are not "connected". 29 questionnaires were returned, and many verbal discussions had.

05 December 2020

"Breaking News". Confirming that the Community Group had been endorsed by the PC during their meeting on 26 Nov 2020. A list of important questions was asked at this time **including the requirement of a new playground and its location.** This was posted on the website; village notice boards and Mailchimp. Everyone was clearly asked to participate if they so wished.

11 January 2021

Leaflet with Sponsors insert was hand delivered to everyone by Peta and Emma to all residents. Many conversations were had again at this time.

19 January 2021

"Leaflet Distribution". Another letter with reference to the paper Leaflet distribution of the previous week.

20 April 2021

Distribution of Proposal sent to the PC including visuals, pdf document and equipment specification list. Posted on the website, village notice boards and sent by Mailchimp.

Fundraising events. Although limited in number, they have been well publicised. Everyone was well-aware of the project. All Group members have been always available for updates.

The **ERPFG** has held its own meetings where minutes have been taken and recorded. The time since February has been spent meeting suppliers, carrying out general research for the project, collecting quotes and applying for grants.

The playground project is systematically on the Agenda at Parish Council meetings and all reports are in the minutes.