

EASTON ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Tuesday 21st May 2019

Easton Royal Village Hall 7.00 pm

Draft

PRESENT

1. Councillors - Cedric Hollinsworth (Chairman), Margaret Holden (Vice Chairman), Mark De Pass, Colin Sibun, Beverley Helps, Graham Cooper. Clerk Pauline Archer
2. Other Group Representatives – Jerry Kunkler (Wiltshire Councillor) Hilary Hollinsworth (Church) Brian Norman (Village Hall) Carole Choules (Woodland Project) Liz Johnson (Heritage Group) Ian Spalding (Speed watch)
3. Public – Maggie Elliott, Michael Meredith, Margie Meredith, Ben Cooper. Ann Dancer, Brian Dancer, Hew Helps, Jim Hamblin, Dawn Hamblin, Allan Duncan, Tricia Duncan, Ray Choules

1. WELCOME

Cedric Hollinsworth welcomed all present.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Anna Patterson (Councillor) Michael Ford, Peta Puyo, Karen Nimmo-Scott, Bill Nimmo-Scott, Sarah Crookes, Caroline Cornell, James Dickie, Emma Dickie,

3. APPROVE MINUTES APM ON 31st May 2018.

Proposer – Colin Sibun

Seconder – Cedric Hollinsworth

All in favour. Approved.

4. INDIVIDUAL COUNCILLOR REPORT –

Margaret Holden - EXTERNAL MEETING

Attending regular Area Board meetings which is a good chance to discuss local issues and express views and meet with other partners e.g. Police and Fire. In addition, attending Pewsey Community Area Partnership meetings (PCAP) which is about working with other Parishes on local matters. It is also important for Parish Councillor to support any Parish grants. All minutes from these meetings are available on the Area Board and PCAP websites.

This year, the Parish Council has taken over any future financial responsibilities for the Village Hall defibrillator from the Village Hall (surplus funds from Village Hall transferred to Parish Council.)

MH maintains responsibility for the weekly defibrillator check and ordering any replacement parts.

Fiona de Pass takes on a similar role for the one on the Church wall

Beverley Helps – FOOTPATHS

Beverley Helps commented on the good state of the majority of the footpaths following more working parties and support from landowners and footpath wardens and Hew Helps and his mower. Easton Royal footpaths are also appreciated by walkers from outside the village and positive comments have been received. More projects are in hand and hopefully additional planings can be sourced. Two kissing gates require attention/repair from the Landowner which is in hand. Thanks, was given to all Parishioners who have helped during the year.

Cedric Hollinsworth – HIGHWAYS

Cedric Hollinsworth gave a report on the work done to support Highways issues in the Village. This included meetings with Wiltshire Council Senior Engineers and Jerry Kunkler to identify the poor state of the drains in the Village and the lack of effective work from the Parish Steward. The issue with the level of work undertaken by the Parish Steward who visits monthly has recently been improved, with more work having been completed, in the last two visits.

A question was raised about the replacement LED street lights which are a brighter whiter light. It is Wiltshire Council policy to replace street lights with LED bulbs which are more energy efficient.

A question was raised about speed calming on the B3097. Whilst the police are aware of the speeding on this road, Wiltshire Council have limited funds to implement stronger measures. The CATG (highways related projects raised by Parish Councils) totals £14k for the Pewsey Community Area (26 Parishes)

Jerry Kunkler agreed to raise the lack of direct support to the speed watch team and ask for a police patrol to attend (no police support has been received for over 12months)

Village still awaiting drain jetting to clear the drains and for surface debris to be removed.

An issue was raised about the stones and pebbles which are near the school entrance and are spreading on to the road making it slippery.

Colin Sibun– PLAYGROUND / REC

The school are no longer using the Recreation Ground for school sports but are using the Woodland area weekly. The Parish Council have agreed to maintain grass cutting at last year's level, the contract is being closely monitored by the PC.

Recent CIL payments received (monies from the New house at the garden of 72 Easton Royal) to be spent on the playground maintenance and improvement. Annual work takes place to ensure the playground satisfies the inspection report.

CS raised the issue of the abandoned tyres left on the Recreation Ground that had been used by the Woodland Group for the orchard. He suggested that a plan for the removal of these is brought to the Parish Council.

Graham Cooper- BETTERMENT

A small sum of money to be used for the enhancement of the Village. GC would welcome any ideas from village.

More daffodil planting along the main road verges was completed during the year.

5. FINANCE

In line with the auditing requirements of the Transparency Code, the figures for the year ending 31st March 2019 will all be posted on the Village website. Thank you to Roger Tilbrook for the completion of the Internal audit.

6. INDIVIDUAL REPORT – WILTSHIRE COUNCIL (Jerry Kunkler)

Easton Royal is a well-supported proactive community. Jerry Kunkler has had a portfolio of Leisure with Wiltshire Council for 10 years and was delighted to oversee the opening of the Vale Leisure Centre in Pewsey at the end of last year.

Jane Scott leader of the Council is to step down in July with a new leader to be appointed. Budgets remain tight with substantial investment needed in Special schools (move to one school in Rowde) and Social Care. 21% of population in Wiltshire ex Swindon is over 65. Wiltshire has maintained its investment in Libraries and Leisure campus where other Councils have cut back.

7. INDIVIDUAL REPORT – EASTON ROYAL ACADEMY

Minute Addendum – Apologies received from Chair of Governors Tony Anthistle see report below:

I took over as Chair of the School Local Governing Body in November of last year. I was delighted and honoured to be appointed. A synopsis of my background is on the school website. (I would have provided that verbally if asked had I been able to attend).

The school currently has 66 children. We are still in the process of finalising numbers for the next academic year, I do not anticipate any significant increases or decreases.

The school is most grateful to the Parish Council for the continued use of the wooded area next to the recreation ground. The children use it regularly for outdoor learning - they absolutely love it.

The council will be aware that our principal has been sharing her time between Easton Royal and Burbage. I'm pleased to report that Burbage are in the process of recruiting a full time Principal. Assuming that process is successful and I have no reason to believe it won't be (there are a number of good applicants and interviews are taking place later this week) Beck will be back full time at Easton Royal (with perhaps some strategic oversight for Burbage depending on the experience of the newly appointed Burbage Principal) from September 2019.

The school recently advertised for volunteers to help the children with reading. The take up was very positive with 4 adults from the village regularly attending to listen to children from all classes. This is extremely helpful and Beck and her staff are most grateful for the support.

The school is acutely aware of the potential problems associated with parking and speeding in the village. Parents receive weekly reminders from the school regarding both issues. The school now has 2 minibuses taking nearly 1/3 of the children (21) to and from school thereby significantly reducing the number of cars arriving to drop off and pick up children. The school has also staggered the start of the academic day in order to spread the traffic for those children who arrive and depart by car.

The Parish Council will I am sure recall the very successful Centenary event at the Village Hall where the children and staff attended in dress depicting the era. Sadly, I wasn't there but I know from talking to many of the children and the staff that it was a truly wonderful and enjoyable occasion. In fact, the older children still talk about it today.

The Principal is working with the older children on a project to look at the history of the school. She would be most grateful if anyone with any knowledge of the early days of the school could get in touch to help the children with their project.

In closing, I'm pleased to report that the school is thriving and continues to be highly regarded both locally and within the Excalibur Trust. Beck is an inspirational Principal and she has a very dedicated and capable staff. Beck has done a wonderful job at Burbage whilst at the same time maintaining the highest standards at Easton Royal. I am pleased that she will be back with us full time from September - that will be good both for her and for the school.

8. INDIVIDUAL REPORT -PEWSEY POLICE

No representative Monthly police reports are placed on the Village website.

9. INDIVIDUAL REPORT – VILLAGE HALL

Brian Norman reported on the new windows and the ongoing repairs to the Village Hall which require further funding. The Village Bar continues to raise substantial funds near £3000 thanks to Allan Duncan and all volunteer bar people. Also, other well supported events during the year (including Nigel Hall evening), progressive supper and the monthly greasy spoon breakfasts. Thanks to all who are on the Village Hall committee.

10. INDIVIDUAL REPORT – CHURCH

Hilary Hollinsworth summarising the written report as attached. Hilary was thanked for all the work she does on behalf of the Church.

11. INDIVIDUAL REPORT – WOODLAND GROUP

Carole Choules reported. The Woodland area has been enjoyed by the School children and Parishioners. Many spring bulbs have been planted making it an attractive area. Some damage from deer to the trees has resulted in some being lost. More working parties to weed and mulch the orchard trees and Andrew Cook has carried out some pruning. £482.98 left for further pruning. Request for Parishioners to clear weeds around the trees and for a team to undertake future pruning.

The removal of tyres as previously mentioned, to be given consideration.

Jan Howard has taken over the village planters and request for surplus bedding plants has been sent out.

12. INDIVIDUAL REPORT-HERITAGE GROUP

Now in existence for 13 years with 45 members. Regular meetings and events attended by around 30 people. Monies raises on behalf of the Prospect Hospice since inception of the Group is c£2000. Thanks to Ian Johnson for his research into the Village involvement with WW1.

13. INDIVIDUAL REPORT – POPPY APPEAL

Hew Helps summarised the fundraising. A total of £1505 was raised of which the curry lunch contributed £410, a fantastic donation to the British Legion from a small village.

14. INDIVIDUAL REPORT SPEED WATCH

Ian Spalding reported that the team currently consists of 7 members and they have the gun 2 weeks out of 4. More volunteers are required.

All data feeds into the police national computer, which collates information on all drivers stopped in the country.

The lack of police back up has already been commented on.

A question was raised about the speed of traffic early in the morning e.g. 6am, the team are aware of these excessive speeds and are considering doing early morning sessions.

The team were thanked for all their work and it was appreciated that this is an important means of reducing speeding.

15. TO INVITE THE PUBLIC TO RAISE ANY MATTERS OF INTEREST

The Chairman asked for comments about the size of the car park. He was concerned about the safety from too many cars especially at popular village events. Brian Norman was not in favour of any increase but acknowledged that a better parking guide might be helpful. Other Parishioners were concerned that a larger car park would eat into the Recreation Ground space, it was therefore decided that the car park was sufficient for current needs.

Meeting Closed 8.10 pm.