

ENFORD PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Wednesday 28th April 2010 – 7.30pm

Present: Mr. Ken Monk
Mrs. Tessa Manser

Chairman, Enford Parish Council
Vice-Chairman, Enford Parish
Council

Mr. Norman Beardsley, Mr. Adrian Orr, Mrs. Jane Young
Mr. Michael Fay, Mr. Stan Bagwell, Mr. Martin Webb,
Mr. Bruce Carter.

Parish Councillors

PC Michael Bayliss, Major Peter King, Mr. Andrew Marx, Mrs
Judy D'Arcy-Irvine, Rev. Colin Fox and Mr John Poole-
Warren
Mr. Bill Vergette

Clerk to the Council

Chairman of the Parish Council opened the meeting at 7.30 p.m.

- 1. Apologies** – Mr. Steve Becker, Mrs Tanya Becker
- Chairman welcomed all present and thanked them for attending.
- 3. Minutes of meeting on 29th April 2009** were proposed a true record by Cllr. Beardsley, seconded Cllr. Bagwell, passed.
- 4. Matters Arising** – None
- 5. Report by Police Liaison Officer** – Police Constable Michael Bayliss is now our area beat officer. Michael has been in the police force for 16 years serving in Tidworth in the 90s and then Marlborough and is now back at Ludgershall with 10 villages under his jurisdiction. 5/6 of the crimes reported are in the Ludgershall area. Crimes in this particular area are thankfully few and minor, recently there have been cases of thefts of a car and from cars, a case of a vehicle being used with cloned plates and malicious damage to a swan's nest. Chairman noted that the police were fairly thinly spread. PC Bayliss said that might be so, but he and his team were of the highest quality. They have made a commitment to make at least one foot patrol per month through each village. Cllr Bagwell asked would it be possible to re-instate the police pro-action day. Constable Bayliss was unaware of this scheme but agreed in principle and would contact his superiors for confirmation. Cllr Beardsley remarked that one of his neighbours had rung the police reporting an illegally parked car and a PCSO was on the scene in 45 minutes and had the vehicle moved. Cllr Beardsley was duly impressed. Chair thanked PC Bayliss for his time.
- 6. Report by Army Liaison Officer** – Maj Peter King said that over the last year emphasis on training had been very much aimed at the ongoing conflict in Afghanistan. There has been a marked change in the way exercises have been organised, with a decrease in movement of armoured vehicles, and an increase in others, notably helicopter and driver training for the new vehicles. These are timed to agree with deployment dates, with two main exercises in July and January. Major King remarked that there was a telephone number in the Newsletter and that the usual methods of contact were in place should anyone have problems. Chair asked if the mud which accumulates in Coombe Lane in wet conditions following an exercise could be cleared. Major King said that there was a dedicated vehicle for this purpose and a phone call should bring results. Martin Webb asked about the completion date for the Northern Plain road, Maj King said that as far as he knew it was due for completion next year and was on time, with most of the tank crossings now having been completed. Cllr Bagwell asked if something could be done about the delivery lorries for the road speeding through Enford. Maj King said this had been brought up previously and the relevant authorities would make the contractors aware. Cllr Young asked about the trenches at Baden Farm, Maj King thought this might be delayed but would try to confirm. Chair thanked Maj King for his time.
- 7. Report by Enford Parochial Church Council** – Rev Colin Fox said that after this meeting he was due to go to Durrington which was now being added to the Benefice making 7 parishes. This should happen within the next 6 to 7 months. Chair asked Colin if there was just going to be him and Colin replied that the work would be shared with

Rev Mark Zammit from Durrington and a number of Lay Preachers. Colin reported that Enford Church building was in good repair and he was confident that the 5 year inspection, due this year, would find few problems. The toilet & kitchenette are up and running and have proved a great asset. Colin also reported that a new Allen organ was trialled at the Church on Sunday night with many people attending, the state of the old organ is such that a replacement is badly needed. Cost of the new organ will be around £14K but this will be money well spent, with a growing congregation and the generosity of the parishioners this can be achieved. Since last year we have a new Churchwarden with Michael Hadfield standing down and Henry Middleton replacing him, with John Poole-Warren still in place. Allen Merrett is the new Treasurer and Amanda Murray the new Secretary. Bruce Carter is now also on the PCC.

Colin said that he was glad to report a number of weddings and baptisms were coming up, and remarked that the graveyard was in good condition and hoped that people would understand that pre-booking of plots was not possible.

8. Report by Chairman of Parish Council – Mr Ken Monk.

County: The system changed when Unitary Authority took over. We lost District Councillors and County Councillors. The new Unitary Council still has teething problems which hopefully will be solved. We now have a very good Unitary Councillor in Mr. Charles Howard.

Major Tom Lort-Phillips retired in the Spring. His replacement as Army Liaison Officer is Major Pete King.

Co-option of new councillors: Mr. Martin Webb on 4th March. Martin has been the driving force behind the new bus shelter. Initial problems with funding were overcome and the result is very satisfactory. Chair thanked Martin for his efforts. Bruce Carter has also recently joined the council and we welcome him.

Village Hall: The hall opened for business 4th June for the elections, and has so far been a great success. Council congratulate the committee on their achievement.

Clerk was ill during the Summer months but Council managed to struggle on without him.

September saw the resignation of Sara Everett. Council were sad to see her leave after many years service, but understood that circumstances precluded her from continuing. We also saw the resignation of Frank Horsford for personal reasons. Frank will be missed for his well considered advice and voice of reason. Ann Merrett also left us this year to work on the Election Campaign, she also will be missed.

Enford & Avon Valley Youth Club was resurrected in the new Village Hall with council donating £1000 which had been earmarked for this eventuality. Council applaud those involved and hope the project can be maintained.

The draft minutes of Council Meetings were authorized to be included on the Website.

All Councillors have worked hard this year to keep the village running smoothly but Cllr. Bagwell is worthy of particular mention. Throughout the year Stan has waged a continuing battle with the forces of evil who are in charge of our roads. Speeding is a major concern, as is the condition of roads, and the increase in HGV traffic can only exacerbate the problem. Council continue to be grateful to Stan for his efforts. Council are also grateful to Cllr Norman Beardsley for his work on rights of way and other matters.

9. Enford Village Hall – Mrs Judy D’Arcy-Irvine

First of all I would like to thank the council for their continued support. Hall is going well and there are many regular users, including Film Nights, Pilates, Camera Club, Gardening Club and many bookings for events such as Children’s Parties, Birthdays and Weddings. Since Ollie was not here Judy touched on the progress of the Football Club, usually 2 or three matches a month through the season. They are in the Premier League and, hopefully, will remain so for next season. The Youth Club is doing very well and both Bruce and Katrina are doing a fantastic job. Judy mentioned the good work that Jane Young had done in setting up the club. The Gardening Club are helping with meeting the planning requirements which dictate the planting of trees. There is some doubt that the varieties of trees are suitable for the location, but hopefully this will be ironed out in the near future. Finances are good with a small maintenance fund being started. It is expected to decorate most of the interior once a year to continue the attraction of the venue to customers. Mrs. D’Arcy-Irvine ended by welcoming Adrian Orr as the Enford PC representative. Chairman thanked Mrs. D’Arcy-Irvine for her time.

10. Enford Parish Hall - Cllr. Jane Young said that the Parish Hall was in a poor way as far as finance was concerned. There was a jumble sale coming up, and with the little money that was left committee will run through the Summer, but the Hall will close in September with all committee members resigning. Chairman said that this will be the subject of a future meeting of the trustees. A letter detailing our options is awaited from the Charity Commission. Once all the facts are known a village meeting will be convened so that the villagers can decide the next steps.

11. Enford Football Club No representative present but Mrs. D'Arcy-Irvine has already outlined the club's situation.

12. All Saints School - Mr. Andrew Marx

A good year for the school which goes from strength to strength. Pupil numbers continue to be buoyant at 176 (April 2010). Although we have waiting lists for a number of year groups, we do have some spare places in Reception for September 2010.

The classes are now organised into 7 single year groups from Reception to Year 6.

Excellent results at the end of Key Stage 2 (Year 6) in 2009 placed the school in the top 10% of schools in Wiltshire (17th out of 195 schools listed in the Primary league tables). The % of children reaching the expected level in English and maths has risen steadily over the past three years and in 2009 was well above the Wiltshire and national averages (17% higher). The % of children achieving the highest level (Level 5) rose significantly to double the Wiltshire average.

A very wide range of extra-curricular clubs and activities are available for all age ranges and these are well attended by pupils. This means now that parents who work can reduce child care needs by having the school look after their children and entertain or educate them during the extra time. We have one male teacher. All aspects of the school are judged to be good.

Funding has been secured and planning permission granted for the erection of two new classrooms as an extension to the main building and the demolition of a single mobile classroom. The building works are due to begin in August with completion by January 2011. This will further enhance our provision, enabling us to move two classes into the main building and release a mobile classroom for use as a designated teaching space for special needs and as a children's library. The school is very keen to get involved in community projects in Enford and the surrounding area.

Finally we are always on the look out for new governors - it does involve quite a lot of work at times but it is incredibly satisfying working with a school like the one we have in Netheravon.

Councillor Bruce Carter asked Mr Marx about parking problems at the school which he considered potentially dangerous, and Mr Marx said that the school were aware of the problems and were looking at different solutions including the possibility of using parking at the BT site.

Mr Marx closed by saying he had been impressed by the Heat Exchange System in the new village hall, and this system was being considered for the school.

Chair thanked Mr. Marx for his input.

13. Millennium Playpark – with the resignation of Cllr. Everett, Chair said that council had found two new volunteers in Martin Webb and Bruce Carter. Major work had taken place in the early part of last year and he expected that painting would be required some time this year – he had a brush.

14. Enford Newsletter – Mrs Tanya Becker had apologised for non-attendance being en-route to exotic holiday destinations, but had forwarded a summary of the situation.

I would like to thank the PC for its generous donation to The Newsletter. This goes a long way to help with the running costs which are ever increasing. It was noted earlier in the year that these costs were steadily increasing and that more parties from the village are wanting to insert notices regarding functions etc in the village. We are ever mindful that the purpose of the Newsletter is to pass on and share news and information to all and so we looked for ways of raising more money to help with the cost of printing. From April 1st it was agreed by our committee that the cost of advertising would be increased as for many years it had been very low compared with Newsletters in neighbouring villages.

There will also be only 2 sizes of advert - 1/8 page and 1/3 page

1/8 page is now £20 per year - this was 1/6 page at £15

1/3 page is now £45 instead of 1/2 page at £30

There is no charge for village events and charity events. This should help a great deal and it will ensure that we can continue to give a service to the village. We lost one member of the committee, Clare Burge, and gained one new member, Ros Perry.

The Newsletter website has been running now for over a year, and is averaging 150-200 page 'hits' per week. The Newsletter is always published here for all to read and we are now publishing the minutes from The PC meetings in draft form.

There is information about Village Hall events and the Camera Club has a gallery of extremely good photos there for us all to see.

Martin Webb has produced a slide show of Enford Now and Then, which is very interesting. There is even a link to Boscombe Down Met Office Weather Forecast. You could also check out Enford Newsletter on Wikipedia. Yes it is there !

Chair thanked Mrs Tanya Becker for her time.

15. Neighbourhood Watch – Mr. Steve Becker was unable to attend as he was duty bound to accompany Tanya. He also had left a brief note on the position of the NHW.

I have discussed my plan for NHW with PC Maria Downham. What I would like to do is to dissolve the current schemes and start from fresh. This will give the existing co-ordinators an honourable let out without them having to resign - many of them have done 8 years and I am sure would appreciate the opportunity to pass this on, although perhaps unwilling to say so. They will of course be eligible to re-apply if they wish to however, this time round, I intend to recruit only people with email, as I believe the ability to pass information by email is pretty fundamental to the whole network.

Once recruited, I suggest each post (including area co-ordinator) is limited to 2 years, after which they are automatically re-advertised. I will take responsibility for recruiting scheme co-ordinators - I would like the PC to take on responsibility for filling the area coordinator post. I appreciate this might seem a bit drastic, but I think the scheme needs a good hard prune to get it up and running again. I just need to get on and implement it. I hope to be able to report progress at the next PC meeting.

16. Matters of concern to residents of Enford – Cllr. Bagwell spoke on the state of roads and traffic in the villages.

The A345 Road Surface Conditions from Enford through to Netheravon - Through much lobbying this area is now on the programme for re-surfacing this year.

A345 extension of the Speed Limit from Enford North to West Chisenbury and South to Newtown.

Work is continuing with Wiltshire Highways regarding this very serious issue. Enford Community Speed watch has been operating since August 2008 with a significant impact. We now have a more efficient camera. Traffic data from the police has been received and the presentation is very poor and detail sparse. This data is needed as evidence for extending the speed limit in this area.

Speeding and Enforcement.

We are still lobbying the Authorities for more Police on the Highways to solve this ever increasing problem.

The A338/A346/A345 Joint Working Group. Heavy Goods vehicles use along the A345

Work is continuing with this group to stop HGVs using the A345 as a "Through Route" North to South.

The A345. Request for an extra bus stop at Compton.

We have not given up on this request and are still pursuing the problem.

The C32 Meeting 17th November 2009. Cllrs. Charles Howard, Mark Stansby, Ken Monk, Stan Bagwell.

This meeting was to discuss the problems of speeding vehicles along the C32 and Traffic Calming and Signage. Out of this meeting came a promise from Wiltshire Council that certain road ground signs would be put down. I am pleased to say that they have put down 50 mph roundels at East Chisenbury and at the south end of Long Street by the Village Hall. They have also put down a "Slow Down" sign on the entrance to Enford Hill.

The Environment Advisory Panel Wed 22nd March 2006. Request for a "Footpath" A345 West Side New Buildings Enford.

We have been pursuing this since 2006 and we have finally got it past the Transport Working Group for Tidworth, and it is now going before the next Tidworth Area for this year's funding. I am assured by the Group that this is a formality. So we should have our Footpath

The Swan Accident and The Police involvement.

We are very unhappy and concerned about the way that the police have managed this. We were led to understand that there was in existence a "Stopping Officers" report of the vehicle concerned. The Police Records Department was unable to supply this and the information now is that only a notebook entry is in existence. This matter is not closed.

Bruce Carter asked about the missing 30mph sign which is proving dangerous as cars do not always see the sign on the opposite side of the road. Cllr Bagwell replied that this was in the hands of Wiltshire Highways and he would supply Bruce with the defect number. Cllr Beardsley said that he could not understand the delay as road signs are normally kept in a depot.

17. Date of next Annual Parish Meeting: One year's time.

There being no other business Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40 p.m.