

ENFORD PARISH ANNUAL MEETING

Draft Minutes of the meeting held at
Enford Village Hall on Wednesday 27th May 2015 at 7.30p.m.

Present: Cllr Richard Roberts Chairman, Enford Parish Council
Cllr Jane Young, Cllr Michael Fay Councillors
Cllr Pat Holdway, Cllr Bruce Waight Councillors
Cllr R Petitt, Cllr D Harbottle Councillors
Cllr Keron Taylor Councillor

Amanda Farrow (ECF), Steve Becker, Tanya Becker, Wiltshire Councillor Charles Howard
Tony Broadbent – MOD, plus one member of the public
Mrs Elizabeth Harrison Clerk, Enford Parish Council

The Meeting was opened at 7.33pm by the Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Richard Roberts

1 Apologies:

Apologies were received from:

Cllr Nigel Murray, Cllr Gareth Holden, Cllr D'Arcy-Irvine

Mr Ollie Stagg - Enford Football Club

Maria Downham – Police Liaison

2 Welcome by the Chairman of the Parish Council – Cllr Roberts

The Chairman welcomed all those present as listed above

3 Verify Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th May 2014

The Minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting of 2014 were agreed as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Petitt and seconded by Cllr Waight

4 Report by Police Liaison Officer

Although unable to attend, PCSO Maria Downham had sent a record of events over the last year. As Enford was included with 22 other villages in the Ludgershall area the 14-15 figures do not accurately reflect crime in Enford. Cllr Roberts read these out, they are listed as:

Victim based crime	down 13.2%
Domestic Burglary	down 44.4%
Non domestic Burglary	up 100%
Vehicle crime	up 5.9%
Criminal damage and Arson	down 46.8%
Violence against a person	down 10.7%
ASB incidents	down 35.2%

General County Matters.

Cllr Howard said the past year has been yet another one of good progress in many ways and gave examples of:

- The Council Tax having been frozen for the fifth successive year, although there will be small increases of a few pounds per household this year due to the amounts payable to the Police, Fire and Rescue and some Parish Councils. The Council's achievement in holding the rate for a further year is remarkable because the Settlement Funding grant payments from Central Government have been reduced by about 11% (by 9% last year) and is likely to reduce still further next year. Despite this, they are continuing to maintain front line services and invest in yet more care for the elderly and vulnerable people, improving their housing stock and spending extra millions of pounds on the roads to clear as much as possible of the backlog in repairs. With ongoing inflation at 2%, Wiltshire Council has had to find savings of £30 million this year to balance its budget. The Council Tax we will all be paying in the coming year, compared to similar and surrounding councils, is one of the lowest in the country.
- The new Core Strategy was adopted by the Council on 20th January. This has been a major piece of work which sets out the policy in Wiltshire on a range of planning matters, including the location and number of new houses that are to be built in the county between now and 2026.
- The Army Basing Plan for the arrival of approx. 4,300 Army personnel and their families from Germany between 2016 and 2019 is now well on the way to completion. The total number of people including families will be approx. 7,600 to be accommodated in new housing at Larkhill, Bulford, Tidworth, Ludgershall and Upavon. This involves provision of new infrastructure including medical and educational facilities as a joint venture between Wiltshire Council and the Ministry of Defence.
- On a personal note, Cllr Howard informed us that he continues with his membership of four committees of Wiltshire Council, including being Chairman of the local Eastern Area Planning Committee, and Vice-Chairman of the Wiltshire Pension Fund Committee and a member of the Police and Crime Panel. He is also a Governor of the Wellington Academy.

Local Matters.

He has been involved in a range of issues of direct interest to Enford during the past year. He was pleased to note that high speed broadband is now available in many parts of the village. He said it had been a pleasure working with the Parish Council during the past year.

Cllr Petitt asked how Balfour Beatty Living Places (BBLP) were getting on as new contractors to Wiltshire. Cllr Howard said things were getting better and highly

commended Nick Bancroft who is the contact for Cllr Harbottle on Highways and Roads etc. Cllr Howard explained that BBLP do the smaller projects and Atkins are contracted to do the major works.

The Parish Council thanked him for his continuing support, efforts and report.

6 Report by the Army Liaison Officer: Tony Broadbent

Tony Broadbent reported that the reduced amount of Landmarc personnel was a big problem for them. With reduced personnel patrolling the training area, theft has become more regular with goods stolen from a Royal Artillery property, fences being stolen, padlocks and chains being cut and even Landmarc vehicles being drained of all their fuel. He asked everyone to keep an eye out for 4x4 vehicles on the Plain and particularly hare coursers.

Rebasing Programme – There will be 480 houses built between Larkhill Camp and the Golf Course with new road layouts. This will impact on the current road system with a greater flow of lorries and supplies attending the site thus increasing traffic for the next 18-24 months.

Cllr Petitt asked where people would be housed in Upavon. It will probably be about 100 people in the Trenchard Lines camp though there are no new buildings for this. He also asked about Upavon School re-opening however Cllr Howard said there would be new schools in Larkhill, Bulford and Ludgershall.

Tony Broadbent said we could expect more Army on the Plain for training as this is an 'armoured' area. There is also an armoured training area around Warminster as there are no Public Rights of Way however there will be increased armoured training around here. Cllr Roberts mentioned the noise from night firing. Tony Broadbent confirmed the cut off time at night is 11.30pm in the summer and 10.00 pm in the winter.

Amanda Farrow asked about the regulations on bikes and 4x4s on the Plain. Tony explained that they cannot cover the whole area due to reduced manpower and this is leading to more such problems.

Cllr Roberts thank Tony Broadbent for his time and he left the meeting.

7 Report for the Parish Council – Chairman Richard Roberts

The Parish Council started this last year having taken on the full complement of Councillors (11). Norman Beardsley was elected as Chairman with Nigel Murray as Vice Chairman.

However in November last year the Council were very sorry to say farewell to Norman Beardsley as Chairman. His knowledge and experience on the Council as a whole had been invaluable and he made a real contribution to EPC over the many years he was involved, he was thanked (in his absence) for his hard work. Following Norman's departure Richard Roberts was elected Chair and after the mandatory advertising period of a vacancy, The Council attracted four applications and after an election were very pleased to welcome Keron Taylor who has now taken on the Public Rights of Way representation where Norman left off. The Parish Council has worked hard to keep the Precept figure as low as possible endeavouring to support parish needs wherever possible and keep the community together. As the funding is sourced from Wiltshire Council whose grants have been reduced from Central Govt over the last two years, this has made the precept budgeting very specific and complex. It is hoped that the Council have done a good job and is always open to input and comments from the parish.

All Councillors are members of the Planning Committee and are guided by Richard Petitt with his building knowledge on all the applications received. David Harbottle continues to liaise with Wilts Council on the Highways and Roads issues, for example the 30mph speed limits have been extended through the villages. Cllr Roberts deals with the Neighbourhood Watch and co-ordinates with the Police. Councillors are also representatives for other groups and committees within the village so for example, Anthony D’Arcy-Irvine not only keeps abreast of events on both the local Area Boards (Tidworth and Pewsey) but also represents the Village Hall at meetings. Jane Young keeps the Council informed on both Youth Club and Parish Hall events, Michael Fay keeps an eye on the condition of items in the Playpark and does repairs, Richard Petitt represents the Parochial Church Council. In this way, the Council tries to keep on top of things that go on in the village/parish and be as accessible to everyone.

As an example of the many things the Parish Council is involved in, there is currently on a rota to keep the grass cut and plants tidy in the Community Garden and at the Playpark. It’s an ‘experiment’ this year and is saving the council some £700 from the expenses in keeping the parish looking good for everyone. However this may not be a viable way forward and as always, it would be good to have more volunteers from within the community to assist with the overall upkeep and look of the parish. (For example emptying bins at the Playpark, collecting litter, grass cutting as demonstrated by Jonathan Walsh who is helping to cut the grass at the Community Garden).

The Council have recently installed a new bench seat in the Playpark and will shortly be renewing the main noticeboard in Enford. The aim is to be more visible with all activities within the Parish.

8 Report for the Parochial Church Council

Unfortunately no one from the PCC was able to attend however Cllr Petitt gave the meeting a brief rundown of issues. The Church needs more funds, the roof needs to be re tiled and re-leded, there are material repairs needed and some graves are collapsing. Whilst some grants can come from the Government and some from the Church of England, they have not always been successful in getting these grants and continue to do their own fund raising.

9 Report for the Village Hall

The Chairman, Mrs Judy D’Arcy-Irvine, was unable to attend but Steve Becker kindly read out her report on the Village Hall. The Parish Council was thanked for their continued support and donation from the Precept. It is used towards the upkeep of the Recreation Ground and subsidising community user groups and events where needed.

The Hall is being used by the local community as well as other groups from outside the area for various clubs, classes and celebratory events. The Committee has managed to keep the same charges list for the last six years.

The accounts for 2013-14 were independently examined and submitted to the Charity Commission. Income totalled £17,935 and expenditure £18,229 resulting in a small loss of £294 for the year and they hope to break even in this current financial year ending 30th June 2015. As mandated by the grant providers they

continue to hold a Contingency Reserve Fund which is currently £33,000 for future repairs and maintenance and they increase this figure in line with inflation every year to ensure the Hall remains financially viable.

This last year has seen improvements and additions to the facilities including picnic tables and benches, a water softener and extensive internal redecoration. This next month will see some repair work to the floors in the changing rooms. The Committee carry out as much maintenance and repair work as they can but this does take time and money.

They are researching the possibility of outdoor exercise equipment and improved sporting facilities.

On 19th September 2015 there will be a commemoration of WWI. A Concert with supper is being organised for October and a Curry Lunch will take place on Remembrance Sunday in aid of the Church and the Army Benevolent Fund. Details will be published in the Newsletter nearer the time. As always, all volunteers to help would be most appreciated.

10. Report from the Parish Hall & Reading Room – Cllr Richard Petitt

Cllr Petitt reported that it had been a reasonably good year for the Parish Hall. The expenditure through the year had been £771.24 and the income had been £1,286.79 giving a profit of £515.55. This has come about mainly through weekly Circuit training, some Jumble Sales and some supper evenings. The planned re-cladding of the building did not happen last year but they hope to do it this year. They continue to carry out regular maintenance on the building. Cllr Petitt thanked both the Enford Community Fund and the Parish Council for their support with funding. Cllr Harbottle asked when the AGM would be and this will take place at the end of June with notice being given beforehand.

The Parish Council's insurance was also mentioned at this point. The Clerk will double check what the Council's insurance policy covers to ensure there aren't two policies covering the Parish Hall building. The Clerk will also check the details of the policy and exactly what is covered. The insurance is due for renewal on 16th June.

11. Report from the Parish Plan Steering Committee

Steve Becker as Chairman said he appreciates that there are a lot of people doing a lot of work in the community it is easy to get caught up in one's own life and forget the bigger picture. The Parish Plan is about the needs of the wider community – the old, the young, the disabled, the lonely, those who don't drive and rely on footpaths and buses and those who need to count their pennies towards the end of each month. Then, trying to get everyone to pull together for the benefit of all. Having made people more aware, he is pleased to see some things happening of their own accord.

The job of the Steering Committee has been to identify the needs in the community, propose some ideas and it is then up to the community to find a way forward.

The surveys have been done and analysed, the issues extracted and proposals considered for addressing identified needs. These have been circulated to the Parish Council and other committees in the village with possible actions for them to take. Some responses are still to come however when all the responses are

returned the members of the community will be asked to prioritise their actions and make the beneficial changes they can for the whole community.

All of the information is available on the website

(http://enfordnewsletter.org/pdf/parish_plan/Actions.pdf) so if there is a project that you and a friend or friends would like to take on, please contact the Steering Committee who will be happy to get you started.

Report from the Enford Community Fund

Amanda Farrow reported that the ECF's end of financial year is at the end of September and their accounts are available on the Website.

Over the last year they have granted/allocated funds as follows:

Enford Village Hall £750

Enford Newsletter £150

Enford Youth Club £250

Enford Football Club £55

Red Lion Football Club £400

Enford Parish Hall is able to draw down up to £500

PCC £1,000

From their raffle held at the Village Fete, 50% of the funds raised (£68.50) was donated to the Afghan Trust.

This year £750 has gone to the Village Hall and up to £800 is going to the Youth Club to ensure that the trip to Oxenwood is available to all the children wishing to attend. They have also donated to £160 to the Parish Council to assist with the cost of a new noticeboard in the centre of the village and £200 to the WWI commemoration. £1,000 has been awarded outside of the village.

Since the Fete and the Fireworks started they have raised £15,500.

Whilst all the above is a huge success and great achievement Amanda reported on a serious underlying problem – a lack of volunteers/support from the village community. The fete alone needs 60 volunteers to make it run smoothly, so far with only a month to go, she has 22 volunteers and is having to ask her family to help. If volunteers and help don't come forward they will not be able to run the Village Fete at all.

Cllr Roberts thanked Amanda for all her hard work. Cllr Howard noted that an annual fund raiser achieving £4,000 per annum in Collingbourne Ducis has had to stop because of a lack of volunteers to help.

Cllr Petitt asked about the village database and Steve Becker agreed to send out an email. Cllr Taylor suggested a notice and flyers for the village boards; Amanda will email such to the Clerk. Cllr Young suggested a leaflet drop.

This year's fireworks night is booked for 31st October.

12. Report from Enford Football Club

Mr Ollie Stagg had sent his apologies for not being able to attend and a report which was read out by the Chairman.

Due to an apparent lack of interest from players and volunteers alike, they are unable to run an adult side in the Salisbury and District league. Sadly this does not look as though it may change in the near future.

They are still running the children's coaching sessions on a Saturday morning at the Village Hall which are more popular than ever. They have between 12 and 18 regular boys from Enford, Netheravon, Figheldean, Upavon and Rushall. The sessions are run by a qualified coach from the Marlborough area and his costs are met by the (very reasonable) charge to children of £2.50 per session.

They are hoping to enter two teams in the six-a-side competition at the Fete this year. They have positive responses from two schools so far giving a definite four teams on the day.

Ollie thanked the Parish Council for all their support over the years.

13. Report from the Enford Newsletter Committee

Tanya Becker was present and read out the following report.

General Running of the Newsletter There is a general feeling that the Newsletter has been used more over the last year by various groups in the Parish to advertise what they are doing and giving reports on what has happened. There are regular slots for the Gardening Club, the Camera Club, the Youth Club, Youth Football sessions and Avon Valley Cricket Club to name but a few. The Parish Council has also contributed by giving updates on what is happening at some of its meetings. Tanya asked for a few articles from individuals about anything which may be of interest to us all.

The website is a valuable asset and many items that are too long to go into print are moved to the website - for example the SPTA News and Landmarc Support Services.

They have worked hard to try and get a full, detailed list of those who will distribute the Newsletter to each individual house in the village and hopefully they have now succeeded.

As the last telephone directory was issued in 2012, they have now updated this with people's permission to publish such data and this will be distributed with the July issue. The Parish Council had previously assisted with publication costs and on this occasion, the Enford Community Fund has kindly done so.

Finances – The finances are currently healthy which means they can continue for another year. Thanks to income from advertising, donations from various bodies within the village and adjustments made to the Newsletter over the years, they are able to manage without an envelope collection. This is looked at every year. There is a small amount of money held in a deposit account so that should there not be any grants or donations, they will be able to continue producing the Newsletter for about 6 months. The accounts are of course available on the website.

Tanya suggested that with the amount of grant giving in the village and the amount of groups and committees requiring funding at different times for different projects that a possibly more effective way to proceed would be for

everyone to have a meeting once a year and decide where grants are best placed to benefit the whole community.

Tanya thanked the Parish Council, the Enford Community Fund and all those individuals who had kindly made donations throughout the last year. As usual the Newsletter Committee will be taking a break in July which means that there will be no newsletter in August. Their Annual General Meeting is arranged for Tuesday 25th August at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Cllr Roberts thanked Tanya on behalf of the Parish Council. Amanda Farrow also thanked and commended Tanya for her hard work.

14. Report from the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme
Cllr Roberts is the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme co-ordinator who reported that crime figures in Enford are negligible by comparison to other local villages. He has attended every meeting since he took the job on last year from Steve Becker. He also mentioned the Community Messaging scheme which is a direct link through to the Police. Steve Becker pointed out that the vacuum created by reduced levels of Army patrol personnel on the Plain allows for more 'trouble' to spread into the villages. Cllr Howard said there are now no MOD Police in Tidworth. Cllr Taylor who works on a military base confirmed the huge pressure everywhere due to cut backs and lack of personnel.
15. Report from Enford Youth Club
Cllr Young spoke on behalf of the Youth Club. There are now 24-36 children involved and once a month there is a special evening for slightly older children. The trip to Oxenwood is booked and there is also a fishing trip in the offing. The Club is financially alright at present but she reiterated the problem that besets all such groups – a lack of volunteers to help run the Club.

Amanda Farrow suggested having a board in the Village Hall on Fete day explaining more about what the Parish Council does, the Youth Club etc, the items they need and what they hope to do in the future as a possible way of attracting more helpers and volunteers from the community. Cllr Roberts asked the Clerk to add this to the Agenda for the next Parish Council meeting (17th June).
16. Matters of Concern to the Residents of Enford
There was only one member of the public present who was not representing a part of the village.

Cllr Pettitt voted a thank you to Cllr Charles Howard for his constant and continuing hard work on behalf of Enford.
17. Date of next Annual Parish Meeting
This will be held next May (2016) with an exact date to be published nearer the time.

There being no other matters raised for discussion, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10pm.

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