

ENFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the meeting of 28th January 2015

Present:	Cllr Nigel Murray	Vice Chairman
	Cllr Patricia Holdway, Cllr Jane Young	Councillors
	Cllr Michael Fay, Cllr A D'Arcy-Irvine	Councillors
	Cllr David Harbottle, Cllr Gareth Holden	Councillors
	Cllr Richard Petitt, Cllr Richard Roberts	Councillor
	Mrs Elizabeth Harrison	Clerk

The meeting was opened at 7.28pm by Cllr Murray acting as Chairman

15/288 Apologies

- Received from Cllr Bruce Waight and PCSO Maria Downham of Ludgershall & Rural Beat

15/289 Public Questions

- Mrs Diane Christie wanted to inform as many people as possible of the new 'Community Hub Cafe'. Starting on 5th February and held at The Swan, by kind permission of Pete and Emma, tea coffee and cake/biscuits will be served every Thursday morning for £1. This is a non-profit making venture. Once the costs have been covered, any profit will be put back into an/some events within the village for the benefit of all. It is hoped this will be a social place for anyone to come along, arranging shared transport if necessary and generally create a closer knit community. The Clerk has agreed to put posters in the notice boards to help spread the word.

15/290 Verification of the Minutes

- The Minutes of the meeting held on 26th November were proposed as a true record by Cllr D'Arcy-Irvine and seconded by Cllr David Harbottle.

15/291 Declarations of Interest

- There were no declarations of interest.

15/292 Matters Arising

i. Election of a new Chairman.

Cllr Richard Roberts volunteered to take on the position of Chairman. His main concern being that he is away for two months of the year. This is not an issue. Cllr D'Arcy-Irvine proposed acceptance of this offer and this was seconded by Cllr Fay – the rest of the Council being in agreement.

ii. Co-option of a new Councillor

Following the resignation of Norman Beardsley, the legal notices from Wiltshire Council were displayed on all the boards from 19th December for the minimum period. Nobody had approached either Wiltshire Council or

the Parish Clerk. It is therefore a case of co-opting a new Councillor. It was agreed that this should be left until the following meeting allowing time for the post to be advertised within the Newsletter and on the village website. It was stated that Bob Taylor has offered to join the Council and this will be dealt with at the next meeting on March 11th.

iii. Cllr required to take on the Public Rights of Way within Enford

Following the resignation of Norman Beardsley, the Council needs to find someone to take on the work that Norman has done in this area. It would require regular checking of the PROWs, noting blocked/overgrown access, diversions etc liaising with both the MOD and Wiltshire Council to discuss/resolve these matters. No-one volunteered for this responsibility and the matter will be discussed again in March.

iv. Not an agenda item

Cllr Harbottle suggested the Parish Council moves the meetings to the Village Hall. Cllr Pettitt objected. Cllr Fay pointed out that the temperature played a factor in the speed of the meetings. Cllr Murray suggested a compromise of 'Summer' meetings – April to September – be held in the Parish Hall and 'Winter' meetings – October to March - be held in the Village Hall. Initially 5 Cllrs voted to remain in the Parish Hall permanently. On a secondary vote, 7 Councillors voted for the compromise and it was agreed that March's meeting would move to the Village Hall. The Clerk will deal with the new arrangements.

15/293 Finance

The Clerk read out the current financial situation. A bank reconciliation was produced for December but could not be completely accurate as there were no transactions in December and therefore no bank statement was issued. The amount in the account at the end of December should have been £2,126.55. Two cheques (total £455.00) have so far been raised in January which should bring the balance to £1,671.55.

The Clerk has heard that the full grant requested (£579.10) for the new bench in the Playpark has been awarded by the Tidworth Area Board. The bank details have been sent and we await receipt of the funds. On their arrival the bench will be ordered and this will take between 4 and 6 weeks to arrive.

15/294 Police Matters

PCSO Maria Downham was unable to attend but sent in a report which was read by Cllr Murray. There were three reported incidents in December

- 1 3-Dec-14 Criminal damage at Compton. Unknown suspects punctured a tyre.
- 2 12-Dec-14 Burglary at Haxton. Chained gate was broken for access and a shed was broken into. Items stolen were a chainsaw, a Stihl chainsaw, a hedge trimmer, steel pole, 3 brush cutters and a TV – total value c£1,500.
- 3 26-Dec-14 criminal damage in Enford. The reporting person's crops had been damaged by 4 unknown males in a green Subaru. Lurcher type dogs were sighted in the vehicle.

15/295 Army Matters

Lt Col Andy Sherburn attended along with Anthony (Tony) Broadbent RA. Lt Col Sherburn introduced Tony who will be taking over for the next 3 years at least as the Liaison Officer for Enford amongst other local Parishes.

Lt Col Sherburn said that the MOD's Planning Permissions were moving ahead. Plans are available to view on a moving cycle between Durrington, Tidworth and Bulford. The building works must be completed by 2017 before the troops return from Germany.

He reported that there were no more Wardens and the vedettes were empty. Unfortunately 2 Landmarc vehicles have been smashed. There are plans to put CCTV on the training area and Police awareness has been raised. Funding is being requested to man the vedettes but there is no news as yet. The staffing levels have dropped from

80 to 36 persons however these are not dedicated to patrols. If/When the funding comes through, he is hopeful that the 'old' Range Wardens will re-apply.

An issue was reported that a tank has taken out the tarmac at the top of Water Lane. Cllr Harbottle will speak to Wiltshire Council on this.*** see end of Minutes for further news.

Another incident was raised where hunt saboteurs have reportedly beaten the Master of the Hunt with steel bars.

Lt Col Sherburn reported that he would be retiring in 5 months time.

15/296 Unitary Council Matters

Cllr Charles Howard reported on 2 issues.

Firstly, the Council's funding levels – The budget for 2015/16 has been set at £315 million and is expected to be approved by the Council on 24th February. He reported a cut in Govt funding of 11% this year with continued cuts year on year thereafter. Inflation on the Council's existing costs does not help. A 2.2% increase in the national staff pay awards, plus increasing pension contributions plus increased cost of the elderly are all compounding the difficulties. They expect to be able to absorb the increases this coming year with Council Tax remaining the same and small increases in the costs for the Police and Fire and Rescue Services. In future years if these increases continue at their current rate, it will be increasingly difficult to deliver the same levels of service in many areas.

Secondly, the rolling out of High Speed Broadband. Enford is served by the Netheravon exchange and new fibre cabinets and cables are being installed to supply/provide for the majority of Enford. Cllr Harbottle reported that the cabinet outside his house was already in situ. Whilst the new cables should be able to supply 80 megabytes per second, this speed will reduce depending on the distance it travels to each house. Hopefully this should be running by the end of this summer. Coombe is affected by having Exchange Only (EO) lines (as opposed to being connected to Cabinet 1) which are not due to be upgraded in this round of funding which means that residents will have to wait until March 2016 for any upgrade.

Cllr Murray asked Cllr Howard about the Community Awards as he felt that Tanya Becker should be nominated for her continued hard work for the benefit of the village. Cllr Howard responded that Tony Pickernell of TCAP is the best person to speak to on this.

15/297 Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr Richard Roberts had nothing new to report and reminded everyone of the current telephone scam and to be aware.

15/298 Tidworth CAP

Tony Pickernell was unable to attend, he did not send a report.

15/299 Planning Applications

Application 14/11818/FUL was discussed. Not all Cllrs had seen this, fortunately the Clerk had the Plans! The fairly major work envisaged was discussed and explained by Cllr Petitt. It was agreed a site visit was not necessary and the application has the Council's support.

15/300 Roads and Highways

Cllr Harbottle reported on the CATG meeting he had recently attended. Topics discussed included Speed Indicator Devices (see 14/282iii, meeting of 26th Nov '14). Not previously mentioned was the insurance aspect and this was a 'no go' area. Also the HGV traffic on the A345 – the verges are being ruined by this and resurfacing is desperately needed. A Wiltshire Council review of this matter is due shortly.

He reported on the work done on the most recent Community Day which was 7th January:

1. Fifield Road verges – This is ongoing as discussions are in progress to get the right equipment. Once completed the road should be wider.
2. Potholes on the A345 and at the entrance to Coombe Lane. The latter have been done however some of the potholes on the A345 do not yet meet intervention levels but these are being monitored.
3. Clearing the verges and grips between Enford Bridge and the Church – This was completed.
4. Checking visibility of No Through Road sign at the junction of Water Lane and Longstreet. Checked. The sign appears sufficiently visible.
5. Replacement of concrete posts and metal barriers on A342. – Ongoing. The metal barriers are available but they are waiting for the concrete posts to be delivered. Suppliers have been chased again.
6. Check and clear gullies on C32 north of Chisenbury Court. – The gullies have been cleared.
7. Checking and clearing road signs of vegetation where necessary – This job was done
8. General check of grips and gullies - These were cleared where necessary.

The Community Steward will check the C32 and deal with any potholes that reach intervention levels. The street light problem at Long Acre will be chased up. The re-surfacing of the A345 at the top of Enford Hill is in the top 10 sites in the County for attention in the 2015-16 financial year. It has not yet been scheduled but could be as early as April this year or as late as March 16. We shall be advised as soon as it is known.

15/301 Public Rights of Way (PROWs)

No-one was able to report to the Council on these.

15/302 The Parish Plan

Nothing was discussed on this apart from the understanding that Steve Becker will be getting the village committees together to discuss the document. Once everyone has been briefed then the Parish Council can moved ahead with the various jobs/tasks from that list.

15/303 Any Other Business

i. Renovation/replacement of Notice Boards

Cllr D'Arcy-Irvine offered to get prices for boards similar to the one used by the Village Hall. They are hermetically sealed and do not warp.

ii. 'Murton's Garden Services'

Both the Chairman and the Clerk have been emailed by Gary Murton who has recently moved to Upavon. He is offering Garden Services (his own business) for the public areas in the village. It was agreed that before asking him to quote for the Playpark and Community Garden grass cutting, we should first advertise in the Newsletter to try and get a volunteer/s using their own equipment. The risk of accidental damage and insurance was raised, this will have to be looked into should a volunteer come forward. However if Mr Murton can provide an acceptable quote (the allocation in the budget planning was removed for this) then he would have his own business insurance and equipment for the job.

iii. Cllr Roberts asked about the Oil Buying Club. The Clerk explained the current position on this – i.e. An email was received recently and circulated to all Cllrs. It transpires there is already such a club in Enford. Kirsty Cross who runs

it (linked to Community First), now has the contact details of the person who originally emailed the Clerk. It is up to Kirsty if she wishes to take this further, compare prices etc. From the ensuing discussion it would appear that people belong to a variety of Oil Buying Clubs who operate different systems.

iv. The Clerk was asked to write a letter of thanks to Norman Beardsley for his very many years of hard work for the Parish Council and detailed care of the PROWs.

v. Cllr Young reported that the residents of Field View were unhappy that the new road sign did not mention their road.

vi. Cllr Young also requested the details of the Concert recently advertised/circulated through the Tidworth Area Board.

15/304 Correspondence

Cllr Murray read out the letter of thanks from the Village Hall for the planned donation from the Parish Council's 2015/6 budget/Precept.

Cllr Murray mentioned the letter received from CAB requesting support through donations. This arrived just after the Council had voted to remove the Section137 donation of £25.00 from the 2015/16 budget. No Cllr wished to reverse the decision.

15/305 Date of Next Meeting

This will be on Wednesday 11th March at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 20.45hrs.

*** Tony Broadbent has since emailed that WO1 Morris who is the Training Area Safety Marshal has reported it to the Landmarc help desk and has informed Tony that it will be repaired once the weather picks up. Cllr Harbottle's email to Wilts Council about this warns of the considerable damage to verges by tractors if this is left for better weather. Wilts Council say this part of the highway is their jurisdiction and the matter has been put to the contractors as urgent and the Council will liaise with Landmarc about the financial side of it.

Elizabeth Harrison, Clerk – Enford Parish Council.