

ENFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the meeting of 20th October 2015

Held in Enford Village Hall

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| Present: | Cllr Richard Roberts | Chairman |
| | Cllr Nigel Murray | Vice Chairman |
| | Cllr Patricia Holdway, Cllr Jane Young | Councillors |
| | Cllr Keron Taylor, Cllr Michael Fay | Councillors |
| | Cllr David Harbottle, Cllr Bruce Waight | Councillors |
| | Cllr Anthony D'Arcy-Irvine | Councillor |
| | Mrs Elizabeth Harrison | Clerk |
| | WO2 Tony Broadbent | MOD Liaison |
| | Cllr Charles Howard | Wiltshire Council |
| | Mr Steve Becker | |

The meeting was opened at 7.34pm by Cllr Roberts, Chairman

15/404 Apologies

- Received from Cllr Gareth Holden. Cllr Richard Petitt was unable to attend

15/405 Public Questions

- There were no questions

15/406 Verification of the Minutes

- The Minutes of the meeting held on 16th September were proposed as a true record by Cllr D'Arcy-Irvine and seconded by Cllr Taylor.

15/407 Declarations of Interest

- There were no declarations of interest.

Cllr Roberts took the opportunity to thank both Steve Becker and Anthony D'Arcy-Irvine for their attention to teas, coffees and chocolate biscuits – much appreciated.

15/408 Matters Arising

(i) Report from the Emergency Planning Workshop held on 14th October

- This was attended by Cllrs Roberts, Young, Holdway and the Flood Warden, Steve Crompton. The evening was attended by Special Branch (Anti Terrorist div) and the Fire Brigade who gave a talk as well as members of Wiltshire Council and was designed to assist Parish and Town Councils in the preparation of a relevant Emergency Plan to cover all sorts of problems including Flooding, being snow bound, lengthy power outages, facility failures, pandemic health problems etc. Template forms were made available to assist in the creation of such a plan and Cllrs Roberts, Murray, Harbottle and Young have all volunteered to get the Plan underway where relevant for Enford. Cllr Waight has a Council snowplough however it needs some adaptation to go on his current tractor.

(ii) Report from the sub-committee regarding the Enford Solar Park Application 15/07235

- The committee have all been busy following up information so as to be prepared for the Application being registered. Cllr Roberts has written to Claire Perry MP (letter available should anyone wish for a copy). The nub of the matter now is whether an incomplete application delivered on 22nd July (the deadline for higher subsidies) can still be valid to that deadline whilst not having the complete documentation in order to register it correctly. Claire Perry has written to Amber Rudd MP, Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, to seek clarification of this point. Claire Perry also states that whilst she welcomed the Solar PV

strategy laid down in 2013, it set out that the focus should be on domestic and commercial roof space. Cllr Howard says this is not a basis for policy. Cllr D'Arcy-Irvine asked Cllr Howard what was the 'process' on sending in and application without full documentation to register it correctly. As this situation is a 'first' for Wiltshire Council, Cllr Howard said there was no time limit on when the documents should/could follow and has written to the Planning Department for clarification.

It has since transpired that BSR have re-designed the site downwards to 5 megawatts from the previous 7.5 megawatts. The question remains as to when does Wiltshire Council consider the application to be registered.

Meanwhile the sub-committee will be attending a meeting in Broughton Gifford with Solar Renewables on 11th November. Cllr Roberts has been in contact with the County Archaeologist, Terry Mundy has drawn up 'template' letters against the application for members of the public to send in and Cllr Murray will be contacting Col Stewart Andrews over rumours of DIO being 'in negotiations' with BSR.

To date the Fighting Fund has raised £1,865.

(iii) Report from Cllr Fay regarding the Playpark Inspection Report

- Cllr Fay ran through the Inspection Report. There was nothing listed as more than a medium risk. He has been asked by some mothers about a gate to ensure that toddlers cannot get out of the area. Again the report mentioned the barbed wire fence however this is beyond the area that normal fencing surrounds and should not be a risk providing the children remain inside the play area. Cllr Fay will be doing some bolt tightening, Hammerite -ing and silicone greasing in the Spring on the small play unit. The Swings need bolt checking. The Basketball hoop again gets criticism. The net is reduced to a bit of string, there is apparently a hinge missing so the hoop droops forward and the backboard (plywood) is still eroding at the edges. All this is approximately 10-12 feet in the air and a step ladder is not suitable. Cllr Fay thought a small scaffold however Cllr Waight has a 'cherry picker' like attachment which could be used more cheaply than scaffolding. Cllr Roberts suggested he and Cllr Fay inspect and decide on the best way forward. Cllr Fay will continue to look for and decide on the right type of gate and hopes to give prices at the next meeting. It was suggested that the gate and possibly new/replacement equipment, as capital expenditure, could be bought with a grant from the Tidworth Area Board who still have funds available. The Clerk was also asked to check EPC's insurance for public liability... [EPC is covered on the Policy].

Due to pressure on Cllr Howard's time, Unitary Council Matters were brought forward.

15/409 Unitary Council Matters

1. Salt Bins – Until 6 years ago these were supplied and filled by Wiltshire Council. Under new cost cutting measures if Enford wished for another Salt Bin, we would have to purchase this ourselves. Cllr Howard also mentioned the P E A S scheme for salt, sand, bags etc – Enford is already signed up and stocked up.
2. Reporting of Highways issues - With the cost cutting that is happening through the Council Services, the likes of Community Days are a thing of the past. Cllr Harbottle has to approach the Council for all the problems reported to him and he is in regular contact with Nick Bancroft. Cllr Howard reported an almost 50% cut in this budget with probably more cuts to come. The problem being the Settlement Grant received from central Govt which is continually being cut back year on year and cost for the elderly for example, keeps rising. Wiltshire Council has so far shed 400 staff and there will most likely be more cuts to come.
3. There is still funding available from the Tidworth Area Board for capital grants. These can be up to £1,000 per application. Anything above this figure and up to £5,000 would require match funding. They are keen to use all the funds as otherwise this budget too will be cut back next year.
4. Cllr Howard has written to the Police Commissioner regarding the loss of Enford's Speedwatch Camera. They will continue to try and find it.

Cllr Howard then left the meeting.

15/410 Finance

The Clerk gave the Council's current financial situation as £5,073.76 at the end of September. There is still one Donation cheque of £200 that has not cleared the bank since its issue in late May.

15/411 Police Matters

No-one from the Police was able to attend. Cllr Roberts mentioned on the Neighbourhood Watch front that from his attendance at a recent Task group, there was one incident in Enford where a Corsa had been scratched. All other problems being in Lugershall or Tidworth.

15/412 Army Matters

Tony Broadbent reported that there had been:

4 'incursions' – The problem with bikers has increased considerably since the removal of Landmarc Wardens. Tony says they do not have the authority to get them off the land, they can't chase them once they are off the tracks, they have to call 101.

2 incidents of fly-tipping

1 fire – this was a hay bale on a farmers' land

2 thefts from supply stores in Bulford and Warminster. Tools, fuel and trimmers have been stolen however 12 laptops were left – possibly unsaleable on Ebay!

Due to the end of the Staff College demo the roads will be busy on Friday when the whole is broken down and the site returned to normal. There will be two per year – one on the east of the Training Area and one on the west. Different scenarios will be covered in each location.

For November there are 'bitty' exercises but at the end of the month Nov/Dec there will be larger exercises taking place and in December there will be cross canons. They have received many complaints with the recent firing of the AS90s but 'only' 4 of these were above the permitted decibel level.

Tony apologised that he would be unable to attend the November meeting as he would be away on holiday.

15/413 Unitary Council Matters

See 15/409 above

15/414 Neighbourhood Watch

See 15/411 above

15/415 Planning Applications

15/10123/TCA – Reduction and felling of trees at Cherry Pickers. No objections.

15/416 Parish Plan

Cllr Murray mentioned the questionnaire that was sent out regarding people's most important wishes for the village. It appears that less than 10 people have responded so far. There is a link to the setting up of an Emergency Plan and Cllr Roberts asked about emailing the village to try and get some response on what they want to see happen. Cllr Murray has the database and suggested having emailed all, to go door knocking to get a response. There is a reply box by the bus stop which is a much frequented location as well as the pub. Cllr Roberts pointed out the success of 'The Hub' coffee morning on a Thursday in the Swan which is a focal point for the village however Cllr Young pointed out that not all those who attend are actually from the village. A discussion regarding the purchase of a parish laptop arose again and Cllr D'Arcy-Irvine proposed we apply to Tidworth Area Board for a grant, this was seconded by Cllr Harbottle. As this had veered from the Agenda, it was agreed to discuss it at a later stage.

15/417 Roads and Highways

Cllr Harbottle reported that:

1 He has been told that the much awaited re-surfacing of the A345 from Enford Hill to beyond Compton is due to be carried out between 27th November and 3rd December.

2 There is still no news on the replacement crash barriers south of Long Acre on the A345.

3 In East Chisenbury there is now a white painted sarsen stone in the verge, marked with a reflective post. This will remain until such time as the Council can get a JCB to dig it out. This is only being undertaken due to Cllr D'Arcy-Irvine's car being badly damaged by this.

4 There is a problem for Wiltshire Council throughout the villages with stones being placed on the verges. They have not yet decided how to deal with this.

5 After two years we are still waiting for the Council to complete the work to the verges in Fifield.

6 Potholes on the bend in East Chisenbury are now on the repair list.

7 The Tidworth Area Community Transport meeting has been postponed until 2nd November.

Please let Cllr Harbottle know of any work that needs to be done so he can report it.

Cllr Harbottle also wished to thank Cllr Howard for all the effort he has put into tracking down the lost Speedwatch camera. It went for re-calibration in March and hasn't been seen since.

15/418 Public Rights of Way (PROWs)

Cllr Taylor reported that there is not a lot happening at present – no incoming problems being reported.

15/419 Correspondence

The only correspondence not circulated was regarding the 'annual' increase in rent from Landmarc/Smithsgore. The Clerk had complained about this last year being an arbitrary £10 increase and had a letter assuring EPC of no increase until 2017. However in September the 'usual' increase arrived. Finally we have a written apology and the rate remains the same for the 3x bus shelters and the Encroachment at £45 each.

15/420 Any Other Business

Cllr Murray reported that thanks to Cllr Howard there should be a storm drain between the Old Bakery and the Pub which will take flood water down to the river.

Precept Meeting. This is purely for discussion of donations etc for the 2016/17 precept. Cllrs Murray, Roberts and the Clerk will have a preliminary meeting to sort the base figures but it will be for the Council to agree the donations. This will be at a special meeting – dates to follow.

Allotments – The land is nothing to do with Wiltshire Council and is Parish land. Cllrs Roberts and Taylor will compose a letter to the 'current user' to establish the conditions of its usage in future, excluding chickens, fires and including charging a peppercorn rent. As a request for Allotments appears in the Parish Plan, this will be looked at considerably so as not to upset the status quo.

Cllr Holdway will be attending the Houses of Parliament on 16th November at the invitation of Claire Perry MP. She also suggested that if the Parish Council is going to have a Christmas meal, perhaps it should be booked pretty soon!

15/421 Date of Next Meeting

This will be on **Tuesday 17th November at 7.30pm in the Village Hall .**

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 21.12hrs.

Elizabeth Harrison, Clerk – Enford Parish Council.