

ENFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the meeting of 7th March 2017

Held in the Village Hall.

To be verified at the next meeting to be held on Tuesday, 18th April 2017

Present:	Cllr Richard Roberts	Chairman
	Cllr Patricia Holdway, Cllr Bruce Waight	Councillors
	Cllr Jane Young, Cllr Cliffe-Roberts	Councillors
	Cllr David Harbottle, Cllr D'Arcy-Irvine	Councillors
	Cllr Keron Taylor	Councillor
	Charles Howard	Wiltshire Cllr
	Mrs Elizabeth Harrison	Clerk
	6 Members of the public	

The meeting was opened at 7.42pm by Cllr Richard Roberts, Chairman.

17/018 Apologies

Cllr Richard Petitt, Maria Downham (Police Liaison), Tony Broadbent (MOD/SPTA Liaison). Cllr Gareth Holden did not attend.

Cllr Roberts thanked Wiltshire Cllr Charles Howard on behalf of the Parish Council for his enormous and very helpful contributions to the parish for the last 8 years. He is unable to attend the meeting in April and is standing down as a Councillor in the Council Elections in May.

17/019 Public Questions

Adam Plank (member of the public) asked the Council where the Skate Park was to be located. Cllr D'Arcy-Irvine said this was to be alongside the current Playpark and the Parish Council were also looking to upgrade some of the play equipment, install the Skate Park and possibly have some Allotments. Adam's brother asked if there would be a 'box jump'. A short discussion followed on possible equipment and Cllr D'Arcy-Irvine suggested he bring a picture to the next meeting. He explained that a minimum of £7,000 needed to be raised before anything could happen. Cllr Roberts suggested a meeting between the Plank family, Cllr Young and Cllr D'Arcy-Irvine to discuss this further.

17/020 Police Matters

Maria Downham was unable to attend the meeting but sent in the following information which was read out by Cllr Roberts.

The Police & Crime Commissioner, Angus McPherson, has released his new 5 year plan for the Police Force. At present Wiltshire Police are trialling body cameras and should this prove successful, they will be rolled out to all officers by the Summer. The Force will continue to look at equality, diversity and inclusion (this can be followed on social media). He also raised awareness of the national campaign regarding the dangers of using a mobile phone whilst driving and the changes in legislation coming into effect from March.

Maria Downham included the list of reported crimes throughout the area which list two in Enford. One, a road traffic collision (3 cars crashed at Compton) and the other Criminal Damage, it is not known where.

Cllr Waight said there were more crimes committed than listed. Due to calving, he and his sons are out late at night and there are many drivers 'messaging around' on the Plain, not staying on the tracks and destroying fencing and property as well as the increase in hare coursing. Cllr D'Arcy-Irvine said there were hare coursers in West Chisenbury recently. Cllr Taylor suggested the Parish could keep a register of offences and present this to the

Police and the MOD to try and put pressure on their systems to reinstate more personnel and patrols. It was also suggested that the Council should write to the Salisbury Plain Commandant.

17/021 MOD/ Army Matters

Tony Broadbent was unable to attend but sent in a report which was read out by Cllr Roberts.

- The bridge by Bravo & Bravo 1 crossing has been damaged by a military unit and the weight limit has been reduced from 80T to 50T. It will be repaired in due course and will be out of bounds for approximately one week. Tony will let us know when this is due to happen.
- Normal exercise activities from the Royal School of Artillery and Infantry School in Warminster on a daily/weekly programme
- There are 3 major exercises coming up on the Plain. (1) Ex Joint Warrior – 13th to 31st March. (2) Ex Crossed Cannons (AS90 – Artillery from 3rd to 7th April). (3) Ex Wessex Storm (Light Wheeled from 27th April to 14th May).

As always, please help to identify any unusual activities on the Plain (hare coursing/off road bikes/4x4) and report them to Wiltshire Police on 101 and inform Landmarc 24hr Ops room on 01980 674951.

17/022 Unitary Council Matters

W Cllr Charles Howard reported:

General County Matters –Council Tax. This year's increase is 4.99%, of this 3% is an increase in the Social Care Levy and comes on top of a 2% rise in 15/16. This cost and particularly the adult social care in the community is continuing to increase at a high rate, well above inflation, and the Council has no option but to raise the necessary funding from Council Tax.

Excluding the Social Care Levy there is a 1.99% rise in Council Tax due to the reduction in the Government's Settlement Funding Allocation to Wiltshire Council. This year it has been reduced from £86.7 million to £72.3 million and over the next 3 years this will continue until the figure is zero. Against this, Business Rates are at present collected by the Government and then passed back to local authorities in the form of Settlement Funding. Over the next 3 years the system will change so that local authorities are allowed to retain a proportion of the Business Rates they collect. The Government will still be able to control the amount that Wiltshire receives back by allocating more funding to parts of the country with high levels of deprivation. Further information on this year's budget can be obtained from Wiltshire Council.

In general the past year has been one of steady progress for Wiltshire and the entire speech by Leader of the Council, Baroness Jane Scott, is available at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/news/articles/2017-budget-speech.

On local matters – Cllr Howard reported it was a quieter year for Enford in terms of major issues. He hopes the controversy over the Parish Hall will be resolved before long and remains aware of the shortcomings and inadequacy of the A345 as a serious problem. This latter issue would be a huge cost to rectify/solve and he cannot see where such funding could come from. He is pleased with the success so far of the Parish Steward Scheme. He is aware of the long standing problems of broadband in Coombe Lane but has no more power over BT than anyone else and suggested that possibly the Parish Council should try to bring pressure to bear on them. It was reported by a member of the public that a new line for Coombe Lane had been approved, however when personnel turned up to start the job it was found that some of the poles were too rotten to use and these had to be replaced first. This is being dealt with. Cllr Roberts reported that there is currently a tree resting on a cable in Enford which is causing problems for some people.

Whilst standing down as a Wiltshire Councillor in the May elections, he will continue as Chairman of the Eastern Area Planning Committee, a member of the strategic Planning Committee and Chairman of the Wiltshire Pension Fund Investment Committee. He is also a Governor of the Wellington Academy. Having finished his report, Cllr Howard left the meeting at 8.17pm

17/023 Verification of the Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of 24th January 2017 were proposed as a true record by Cllr D'Arcy-Irvine and seconded by Cllr Harbottle.

By an earlier email Cllr Petitt said he did not agree the Minutes of the meeting held between him, Cllr Roberts and Cllr Cliffe-Roberts regarding the Parish Hall. Cllr Roberts said these were notes taken, not Minutes as such.

17/024 Declarations of Interest

There were none

17/025 Matters Arising

i. Update on the Parish Hall

Unfortunately neither Cllrs. Petitt nor Holden were present to update the Council. Cllr Petitt had sent his apologies for absence. Since a meeting between Cllrs Roberts, Petitt and Cliffe-Roberts some 6 weeks ago (14th January 2017), no more news has been forthcoming on plans for the future of the Parish Hall. It was understood that during this time a meeting of the Parish Hall Management Committee (PHMC) would have taken place to decide the future of the Hall. Cllr Cliffe-Roberts expressed his and Cllr Roberts' great disappointment at this total lack of any progress. Cllr Young who is also involved with the PHMC said she had not been notified of any meeting. Cllr Harbottle made the point that there was nothing but "procrastination after procrastination" and asked how long this situation was going to go on. Cllr Roberts replied that the Parish Council has no 'control' on the hoped for progress, it is up to the PHMC. A discussion ensued on the insurance of the Parish Hall and how it affects the individual members of the PHMC as well as those living next door to the Hall. The Parish Council will write to Cllr Petitt as Chairman of the PHMC and Mr Bob Taylor as Treasurer requesting proof of adequate insurance. Cllr Young is deeply distressed by the whole situation and is considering resigning from the PHMC. Cllr Harbottle asked whether their insurance company had been made aware of the lack of maintenance and the true state of the Parish Hall. The answer is not known though the Hall continues to be used for Circuit Training. The Parish Council is becoming increasingly frustrated by the lack of openness, co-operation and any progress from the PHMC.

ii. W A L C – one year trial to start from April

As requested, the Clerk has contacted the Wiltshire Association of Local Councils (WALC). Due to their annual membership (effectively April to March) WALC suggested that Enford sign up from April 2017 and the cost for this would be £187.70 +VAT = £225.24. Being a member of WALC gives the Parish Council access to Clerk training, Councillor training, getting the most up to date information on legislation and good practice, courses including Law, procedures, Planning and Finance. If requested Katie Fielding at Community First would be happy to attend a Parish Council Meeting and explain more about WALC's activities.

iii. T C A P Awards

Cllr Roberts asked if anyone should be nominated for their contribution to the Community. He had thought possibly Ollie Stagg for his 18 years of running the Enford Football Club however as he has recently retired from this he may not be eligible. Cllr Roberts will check with Marc Read the Tiworth Community Engagement Manager.

iv. Coombe Lane Signage

See item 1 of Roads & Highways 17/030.

v. P R o W working Group/Grants

As Parish Councils are not allowed to apply for funding themselves, the only way to apply for Area Board funds is to be a 'Group'. Funding is available to assist with purchasing equipment for self-help clearance of footpaths and Rights of Way which is no longer being done by Wiltshire Council. Cllr Taylor has previously put a note in the Newsletter requesting volunteers but with no response. There are two or three people who do help with keeping paths clear at present but a Group needs to be formed to access funding. Cllr Taylor will submit another note to the Newsletter asking for volunteers.

vi. Youth Club update

Cllr Young reported that the Youth Club has now officially 'gone' to Netheravon. Noone volunteered to come forward and oversee the Club which is all it required. Netheravon had 20 odd people to help and wanted to start up and so they have taken it over but retained the name.

vii. Litter Pick Update

Cllr Roberts reported that there was a great turn out (20 plus people) on Sat 4th March and 26 bags of rubbish were collected from roadsides and hedgerows throughout the parish. He also wanted to note his thanks to 'The Hub' who had sponsored bacon rolls and coffee in The Swan afterwards. Some equipment had come through Marc Read at Tidworth but the Parish Council had previously voted to spend up to £50 on extra equipment. Photographic evidence will appear in the newsletter soon!

viii. Upcoming Elections in May

The Clerk read out some of the general 'rules and regulations' regarding the process of an Election. Further information will be distributed as it becomes available.

ix. The Resignation of Michael Fay

Cllr Roberts announced that he had received the resignation of Michael Fay. The Council were all saddened by the news and wanted to express their regret and thanks. The clerk has been asked to write to him along such lines.

17/026 Finance

- i. The Clerk reported that at the end of January the account stood at £7,064.71. As February's bank statement had not yet arrived, this could not be formally reconciled. It is estimated that at the end of February the account stood at £6,814.71.
- ii. The Clerk reported that she had been asked to pay in funds raised for the Skatepark and keep them ring-fenced. Having discussed this with the Bank, the best way forward is to open a subsidiary/savings account specifically for the Skatepark. This is in the process of being done and once opened, the currently raised sum of £387.91 will go straight into it. There is an auditing issue of keeping separate any private funds raised by the Parish from the Parish Council's Precept funds which are public money.

17/027 Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr Roberts had nothing to add to the Police report above – 17/020.

17/028 Planning Applications

No Planning Applications had been received.

17/029 Parish Plan

Cllr D'Arcy-Irvine had nothing new to report.

17/030 Roads and Highways

- i. –The Coombe Lane sign. Wiltshire Council have finally agreed to fund and place a brand new sign for Coombe Lane up to a value of £500.00 This will hopefully be done within the next 6 weeks.
- ii. – The reported potholes on the A345 are not yet deep enough to warrant being repaired. Potholes need to be a minimum of 40mm deep before repair is considered.
- iii. –The Highways survey carried out last September was purely related to weight restrictions and not repair timetables as had been thought. The Tidworth Area Transport Group (TATG) have applied again for weight restrictions to be imposed.
- iv. –The Parish Steward will be in Enford on 15th March and to date there are only two items to be dealt with. Firstly cleaning the 'Z bend' sign on the A345 between Newtown and Enford and secondly, cleaning the 'sharp bend' sign opposite Three Horseshoes in Enford. Cllr Harbottle is also raising the potholes on Enford Farm Road for the second time. If anyone has noticed any other problems that need to be sorted, could they please contact him before 15th March.
- v. –The new salt bin has been ordered and this will be located at the edge of the Allotment/ track on Water Lane. It will be partially filled with salt in case of possible relocation.

17/031 Public Rights of Way (PRoWs)

Cllr Taylor had nothing new to report

17/032 Correspondence

There was nothing to circulate

17/033 Any Other Business

- Cllr Taylor reported that the wind propelled lamp by Mr Stagg's house is not working. Cllr Harbottle has reported this. The Parish Council would like to thank Bob Taylor for clearing the foliage around the street light in Water Lane.
- Cllr Roberts reported that Community Speedwatch (CSW) had been very active recently and many people had been 'caught' speeding. Some people had also stopped to 'question the validity' of the CSW.
- Cllr Young asked if there was any response to the request for anyone willing to 'house' a Defibrillator in either Coombe or Chisenbury. The Clerk replied that no one had come forward.
- Cllr Roberts mentioned the ongoing situation with Mario Young's use of the Allotment area in Water Lane. They had spoken recently and Mr Young says he is now prepared to sign the rental papers – a new set to be issued.

17/017 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 18th April 2017 at 7.30pm in the **VILLAGE HALL.**

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30pm

Elizabeth Harrison, Clerk - Enford Parish Council