

# ENFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Held in the Village Hall.

To be verified at the meeting of, Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Present:	Cllr Richard Roberts	Chairman
	Cllr Mark Hiskett	Vice Chairman
	Cllrs Pat Holdway, Cllr Coulthard	Councillors
	Cllr Jane Young, Cllr Peter Cliffe-Roberts	Councillors
	Mrs Elizabeth Harrison	Clerk
	W.Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling	Wiltshire Council
	Mr & Mrs Hall-Smith, Mr & Mrs Poole-Warren	Residents
	P C Sharon Duggan	Police Liaison

The meeting was opened at 7.38pm by Cllr Roberts. WCllr Ian Blair-Pilling was coming from another meeting and was a little delayed.

## 20/001 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Bruce Waight, Cllr D'Arcy-Irvine. Cllr Exley did not attend and neither did WO2 Jeff Payne

## 20/002 Public Questions

Mr & Mrs Hall-Smith and Mr & Mrs Poole-Warren attended the meeting to raise the matter of the proposed Royal Artillery Museum and event location in Netheravon. They had received a flyer through their letter boxes quoting alarming statistics and being very much against the project. This item had been delayed during the course of the meeting so WCllr Ian Blair-Pilling who has a greater knowledge of the matter would be present. Concerns of noise and light pollution as well as increased traffic and the proposed events were discussed at some length. WCllr Ian Blair-Pilling said that Planning Officers and Highways Officers would have their say and reminded everyone that it was the Highways Officers who refused to allow the building plans on the old mink farm site due to road safety issues. They will study the plans with the same subjective attitude. The plans are due to be available towards the end of January and it was agreed that WCllr Blair-Pilling would send out word when the planning application was on the website. Everyone would then be able to look at all the plans and write their opinions, concerns etc in the normal way. Netheravon Parish are due to hold a public meeting on the matter and Cllr Roberts suggested that, once the plans are available, Enford should also have a public meeting and send a Cllr as a representative to the Netheravon meeting.

## 20/003 Police Matters and Neighbourhood Watch

PC Sharon Duggan attended the meeting in her new role of 'Rural Crime and Heritage Officer'. She has years of service and experience behind her and is qualified in a large variety of policework aspects though not tasers or firearms. Although based in Amesbury she is the local contact for Ludgershall, Tidworth, Haxton, Netheravon, Everleigh and Enford. She is passionate about speeding and traffic problems and will hopefully join the Speedwatch team whenever she is able. She warned about strange vehicles and suggested 'fake' CCTV cameras in vulnerable areas along with notices warning of surveillance. Having sized up a location, this is a favourite time of year for theft/burglary. There is one vehicle in particular that the Police would like to know the whereabouts of – it is a green Mitsubishi 4x4 (possibly a Shogun), registration X668 ADF. The front number plate is broken so only showing X668. Do not approach the vehicle, contact the Police. Any hare coursing should be reported on 999 not 101. She kindly gave her email and mobile number which she is happy to have printed in the Minutes for everyone to access – they are [Sharon.duggan@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Sharon.duggan@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk) and 07586 496262.

## **20/004 MOD/Army Matters**

WO2 Jeff Payne was unable to attend and did not send in a report.

## **20/005 Unitary Council Matters**

WCllr Ian Blair-Pilling reported on current matters within Wiltshire Council, firstly:

- i. The budget process. There are meetings in Trowbridge (15<sup>th</sup> Jan.) and Devizes Library (16<sup>th</sup> Jan.) focussing very much on the long-term future direction WC should be taking, not just the immediate future.
- ii. New Chief Executive Officers. This is a 'structural' change within the Council, one Officer will be focussed on the requirements of places in the County and the other will be focussed of the requirements of people.
- iii. Flytipping. WC is cracking down hard on flytipping offences. It is not just those people who are caught doing it but if the appropriate paperwork cannot be produced, the person contracting the waste disposal will also be prosecuted with fines of between £2-3,000. There was an incident in Collingbourne Ducis last week of someone flytipping dangerous chemicals.
- iv. Porton Science Park. WC are planning to spend £5,000,000 on this project. It will in fact only be spending £2,500,000 as this is to be matched by the EU - probably the last opportunity to get it.
- v. WC will be purchasing land on the edge of Devizes which should allow local business to expand. Any excess land purchased will then be put to good use to provide an income for the Council.
- vi. 'Stone Circle' is the name given to a holding company being set up by WC. There will be 3 subsidiary businesses (1) to acquire housing (2) to 'run' any spare land used by WC and (3) to create an energy company to supply the Council's electricity needs. This will not be for domestic use.
- vii. Paths for All meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> to be held at Castledown at 7pm. He is hoping that some military sites might be incorporated into the 'Paths' and possibly some military funding to join it!
- viii. WCllr Ian Blair-Pilling congratulated Enford PC on its planning for and reaction to flooding matters and has mentioned EPC as an example in terms of our pro-activity to parish issues.

## **20/006 Verification of the Minutes**

The minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December were proposed as a true record by Cllr Hiskett and seconded by Cllr Holdway.

## **20/007 Youth Liaison**

Neither Evie Chamberlain nor Rhys Teasdale attended the meeting.

## **20/008 Declaration of Interests**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

## **20/009 Matters Arising**

- i. Land Asset Transfer. There has been no further news from Wiltshire Council.
- ii. Code of Conduct Complaint. The complaint against three Cllrs which has been reviewed twice by Wiltshire Council who have twice declared no action should be taken, continues to retain some confidentiality issues. Those Cllrs who were accused of malpractice and dishonesty are happy to reveal themselves. They are Cllr Roberts, Cllr Hiskett and Cllr Cliffe-Roberts. The Complainant continues to remain anonymous. The Clerk read out the latest statement from Wiltshire Council:  
*"I appreciate that it is frustrating for both you and the councillors concerned that you have been waiting this long for a decision on this matter. Therefore, in order to bring it to a close,*

*I have this afternoon discussed it with the Deputy Monitoring Officer. He has determined that we are not able to approve the disclosure of the names of the parties in this case. Following representations that were made to us on this issue by the complainant, we checked the wording of the procedures that were in operation at the time that the complaints were made. The wording on the complaint form and guidance has recently been changed to allow disclosure of the full final decision notices, subject to consideration of any representations that are made by the parties. However, these complaints were originally made under the previous procedures and documentation, which were not sufficiently clear on this point to permit disclosure of personal details."*

Cllr Coulthard said that if the Complainant, who is obviously a Cllr themselves, had so little opinion of and complete lack of trust in their fellow Cllrs that there should be no place for them on the Council and they should stand down and let the Parish Council get on with their business unhindered by such unnecessary behaviour.

Cllr Cliffe-Roberts said "this statement only arrived today and I have not had time to consider my full response. Initially, however, I would like to express my disappointment in this response from Wiltshire, coming as it has over 2 months after its Standards Review Committee upheld the earlier decision not to uphold the complaints of misconduct. To say the least it is clear that Wiltshire's procedures are not fit for purpose. I would also wish to record my disappointment, but not surprise, that the Complainants themselves have not had the courage to reveal their identity."

A brief discussion was had and the suggestion that further dialogue with WC on the rights of the three mentioned Cllrs should be had as the current situation is not open or fair. All other Cllrs present agreed they would support such action.

- iii. The Clerk had previously suggested that a Parish Council only website could be hosted, free of charge, by Google and had offered to build such. Recent layers of transparency and compliance legislation suggested a new PC only website might be the answer. Having spent many hours on the project it has been discovered that Google do not supply the right software for cookies and neither will they allow it to be incorporated in the website. This also has a knock-on effect with GDPR issues. It is therefore impossible to proceed. If the Council wanted such a website it could be built externally at a cost of c£500 and would then require a further c£100 per annum to host it. The current situation of having space on the Newsletter website can continue for the immediate future however the latest compliance issues will apply to the Newsletter later this year and therefore they too may have to make changes. The Clerk will discuss the whole matter with Kim Riche who runs the Newsletter website and report back to the Council.
- iv. Cllr Roberts and Cllr Hiskett had previously obtained more sand and bags for potential flooding issues. This was fortuitous as two houses have had flood water reaching their doors. Assistance was given and thankfully the waters have now abated. Cllr Roberts reported that Wessex Water had spent 3 days over Christmas and new year clearing the drains after raw sewage was appearing at the bottom of Water Lane. This problem has also now been cleared. Cllrs Waight, Roberts and Hiskett have had a meeting with Landmarc regarding trees that are leaning dangerously into the river. Landmarc agree that the problem must be dealt with but it cannot do so at present due to the waterlogged ground. Cllr Waight has offered his services as Flood Warden.
- v. Christmas tree review. It was agreed by all Cllrs that this had been a success again last year and come December 2020, we should do so again.
- vi. Loan to Parish Hall. Cllr Roberts said that in light of the Parish Council having agreed to loan the cost of the demolition to the Parish Hall (£7,000.00) the terms of the agreement should be drawn up. The loan is to be interest free for a nominal 10 year period and is to be repaid

as and when the PHMC are able to repay. If at a later date the Parish Council wishes to write the loan off, that would be for the then Councillors to agree.

Cllr Holdway asked if the Parish Hall's income from parking spaces was known. Cllr Cliffe-Roberts explained that until the demolition was complete, the PHMC had then to decide on the layout of the redeveloped site and how many vehicles could have off-road parking. This then has to go to WC Planning for approval before any decisions can be made or knowledge of future income. Cllr Coulthard asked about a possible change of use for the site. Cllr Cliffe-Roberts explained that a village meeting had already been held and the plan for parking with a small garden area for the village were the two most popular options which have been combined. The loan arrangement was proposed by Cllr Coulthard and seconded by Cllr Holdway with all other Cllrs being in agreement.

- vii. New parish notice boards. The builder of the two new boards expects them to be ready by the end of January. These will be of plain oak and replace the current boards in Coombe and central Enford.
- viii. Speeding signs. The Clerk confirmed that as agreed from last month's meeting, 3x "20 is plenty" signs have been ordered. Delivery is not yet known

### **20/010 Finance**

The Clerk read out the bank reconciliation for December. At the beginning of the month there was a balance of £20,095.45 with total outgoings of £1,528.08 leaving a balance for January of £18,567.37. Over £1,000 of this figure was the 50% deposit required for the making of two new noticeboards (one for Coombe and one for central Enford) which should be with us by the end of January. There were no questions. Cllr Roberts suggested the previously agreed loan of £7,000.00 to the Parish Hall Management Committee (PHMC) would be made by direct payment to the Contractors of £6,768.00 (their invoice) and the balance of £232.00 to the PHMC current account. All Cllrs agreed.

### **20/011 Planning Applications**

There were none.

### **20/012 New Playpark**

There was nothing new to discuss. The balance in the account for new equipment stands at £3,790.71

### **20/013 The Parish Hall**

The contractors started on site on 16<sup>th</sup> December, notice to the neighbours having been given on 12<sup>th</sup>. During the week to Dec 20<sup>th</sup>, the contractors were able to remove the small amount of asbestos-products from the site, in accordance with the approved Method Statement, and to erect scaffolding. A letter from a Building Surveyor was received under the instruction of Cllr & Mrs D'Arcy-Irvine raising issues on the demolition work. The Building Surveyor was referred to the full Consent permissions granted by Wiltshire Council. Work then ceased for Christmas – New Year and recommenced 6<sup>th</sup> January. As at today, the building has been removed and demolition almost concluded, but there remains some finishing-off work as some brickwork remains above ground. As part of the demolition contract, a stock-proof fence has been erected across the road frontage of the site. Cllr Cliffe-Roberts is in discussion with the contractor, but unfortunately he has left a telephone message to say that he is somewhat distracted, and not a little irritated, by having received a letter from the Health and Safety Executive, demanding full details of the works carried out, photographs etc, which he says is the result of an "anonymous" complaint. The contractor is not particularly enthused about returning to the site. Negotiations continue.

A meeting of the PHMC will be called soon.

### **20/014 Roads and Highways**

Cllr Coulthard had attended the Community Area Transport Group (CATG) meeting on the previous evening. His contact at the Highways dept has, as requested, driven through the village to gauge whether or not Enford might be suitable for a 20mph limit. Research costs into this would be circa £650.00 which the Parish Council would have to pay and if Highways then agreed that there should be a 20mph limit through the village, it could cost the Parish a further £1,200.00. After discussion it was agreed that the research could be done before the next meeting of the CATG (in three months time) and he would then make the full application to the board. Cllr Coulthard proposed this course of action which was seconded by Cllr Hiskett with all other Cllrs in agreement.

- The highways dept are aware of the state of Water Lane and when appropriate, will relay.
- The Parish Steward is due to visit on 22<sup>nd</sup> January. If anyone spots any jobs that need doing, please contact Cllr Coulthard.
- Cllr Roberts reported that there is a lens off the light near the church car park.
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**20/015 Public Rights of Way (PRoWs)**

Cllr Hiskett reported that the next Paths for All meeting was on the following night. This coming Friday he will be assisting with the installation of another two kissing gates to the west of B crossing going towards Netheravon. He is also cataloguing a walk from Enford Church up on to the Plain and back to the Red Lion pub.

**20/016 Correspondence**

There was none.

**20/017 Any Other Business**

Cllr Roberts will be attending a meeting in Tidworth on Ash die-back on the Plain organised by the Army and Landmarc.

**20/018 Date of Next Meeting**

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 7.30pm** in the Village Hall.

There being no other business Cllr Roberts closed the meeting at 21.30hrs

Elizabeth Harrison - Clerk, Enford Parish Council .....

Dated: 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020