

ENFORD, ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Draft Minutes 2024

**Meeting held at the Enford Village Hall on
Tuesday 2nd April 2024 at 7.30p.m.**

Present:	Cllr Richard Roberts	Chairman of Enford Parish Council
	Cllr Mark Hiskett	Vice Chairman
	Cllrs Martin Farrow and Charlotte Clark	Councillors
	Cllrs Bruce Waight and Pat Holdway	Councillors
	Cllrs Peter Cliffe-Roberts	Councillor
	Cllr Anthony D’Arcy-Irvine	Councillor
	Mrs Elizabeth Harrison	Clerk
	WC Ian Blair-Pilling	Wiltshire Councillor

Members of the Parish who attended:

Judy D’Arcy-Irvine, Mort & Mary Burdick, Sue de Candole, Rob Hibberd, Tom Hunter, Emma Nutt and Beren Cliffe-Roberts

Richard Roberts, as Chairman of the Parish Council, opened the meeting at 7.40pm

1 APOLOGIES

Cllrs Jane Young and Rob Coulthard. Chris Rose – Enford Community Fund, Steve Todd – Enford Football Club, Alan Day – Community Speed Watch Team, Enford Newsletter – Theresa Horsey

2 WELCOME BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Richard Roberts thanked everyone for making the effort to come out on a miserable damp night. He also wanted to publicise the fact that as part of an informal meeting and getting to know your local Police Officers, they will be in the Church Car Park for one hour between 4 and 5pm on Saturday 6th April.

3 VERIFICATION OF THE MINUTES (held on Tuesday 11th April 2023).

The minutes of the 2023 Annual Parish Meeting had been circulated and were verified as a true record by Cllr Pat Holdway and seconded by Cllr Mark Hiskett.

4 REPORT FOR ENFORD PARISH COUNCIL – Chairman, Richard Roberts

Firstly, I should like to thank all the Councillors, who volunteer their time and the Clerk for their support and assistance over the last year - as always it has been a busy one. Some wonder what exactly the Parish Council does, well, we are the first level of local government. As we all live in the Parish, we respond to residents’ concerns and try and do what we can to help keep our Parish the best place possible in which to live.

Around the Parish we organise the maintenance of the assets – the noticeboards, bus stops, benches, the Playpark and all the equipment in it. We finance the installation the emptying of the public bins which often need chasing, we manage the monthly visits by the parish steward to repairs potholes in the roads which you will have seen is a real challenge, the control of vegetation be it along the verges or the public footpaths. We fund the grass cutting and shrub maintenance in the Memorial Garden, the Coronation Garden and the Playpark etc. We are involved in various Schemes set up by Wiltshire Council for the benefit of the county as well as individual parishes on topics such as speeding and flooding which has been a particular problem this year, we helped where we could with support, sandbag delivery and road signage to try and control the often-reckless driving through the floods. We are currently making representations to WC to try and deliver a more

sustainable solution to our flooding problem. Where possible we keep in contact with both the Police and the MoD as the information flowing both ways helps us all.

We are always delighted to be involved in and support Parish events such as the Queen's Jubilee and more recently the King's Coronation and the 80th D-Day Anniversary coming up on 6th June. We also organise such things as the annual Litter Pick which we recently completed, sadly we collected 20 sacks of litter from around the Parish and we thank the 25 volunteers who turned out to help, also huge thanks to Geraldine Symonds, with support from Amanda and Fi, for hosting the excellent refreshments. Each year we put up (and remove) all of the memorial Poppies for Remembrance Sunday, the Christmas tree lighting up evening with carols, mulled wine, chocolates for the children etc. This year we also funded the installation of another de-fib for the Parish sited at the Red Lion pub and organised a training session attended by 20 residents primarily from East Chisenbury. All these things help engender a community spirit and help keep our community in touch and hopefully a more pleasant and safer place to live.

All of the above costs money – the Precept – and this is reviewed and adjusted every year. We try hard to keep costs down for the residents but unfortunately costs and services only ever seem to go up. The annual accounts are internally and externally audited every year and are published on the PC website along with other useful information at www.enfordparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Next month sees our AGM – the election of 'offices' and the roles of the Councillors to the representations required.

At this point Cllr Roberts asked WC Ian Blair-Pilling if there was any further news on questions posed by 'Enford' at a Flooding meeting recently organised by WC Graham Wright involving The Highways Dept and Wessex Water and the Environment Agency. Cllrs Roberts, Waight, Farrow and Mark Symonds had attended. WC Ian Blair-Pilling explained that WC, whilst appreciating Enford's situation, has to look at a county-wide problem and their first responsibility is to keep the roads clear and safe. It is the houseowner's responsibility to keep their property safe. WC is now using 3 vactors (drain clearers) across the county and their priority is the roads. We are all experiencing the highest levels of rainfall recorded in Wiltshire (220% above average) and so all usual drainage solutions are stretched to their limits, if not failing. With the amount of rain, it is a combination of surface water on saturated ground which unfortunately uses the same drainage pipes as sewerage which is why there can be an escape of 'foul water' on the surface. WC's engineers must deal with their priorities first but he assured the meeting, they would come back to Enford to look at the problem.

5 REPORT FROM WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR IAN BLAIR-PILLING

WC Ian Blair-Pilling then went on to report that WC's finances were sound and wanted to draw attention to the letter sent out by WC with this year's Council Tax bills. For years they have been looking ahead and investing in matters like child and social care, and decarbonisation and so are 'ahead of the curve' where other Councils are just facing the problems. There are no libraries or leisure centres closing in Wiltshire again, due to forward planning.

With further reference to the meeting reported above, this was one of many organised across the county by 18 Area Boards. WC will be putting an additional £10 million into the road network and current campaigns such as fly-tipping and flooding over the next two years – this is not from the Govt but from WC.

Nick Holder has been appointed a new Cabinet member tasked with improving communications between the Council and residents. There will be a new version of the My Wilts app coming out in the Summer which will hopefully be an improvement on the current version and he pointed out that it is a very complex design, there is no 'off the shelf' solution.

The speed limit through Netheravon on the A345 at 40 mph is a one year trial. This is a new methodology based on the 'natural driving speed' of vehicles. If the traffic remains at 40mph on

average, it will become the permanent speed and the process will be repeated throughout the county.

Cllr Hiskett asked if Wessex Water was engaged with WC and the flooding the problems. WCllr Blair-Pilling said they were for cleaning things up but he will check with WC whether they are engaged with WW for problem solving. Cllr Hiskett pointed out there have been more springs appearing this year and suggested increasing the diameter of the current drains as an obvious answer however WC Blair-Pilling pointed out this would be a complex issue involving WC, Wessex Water and the Environment Agency coming together and agreeing such a project, it is not something he sees happening in the immediate future.

6 REPORT FOR THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL – by Sue de Candole, Church Warden

She emphasised that everyone is welcome at the Church Services and that the Church is open every day from 9am to 5pm for anyone wishing to have a quiet time of reflection and prayer.

There are weekly services at Enford Church each month apart from the second Sunday in the month when there is a rotation of services in the Benefice. Otherwise the services are Holy Communion (modern format) on the first Sunday at 9.30am, Breakfast Church 9.30 am on third Sunday, Evensong (Traditional Book of Common Prayer service) on the fourth Sunday at 6pm and family communion services on the fifth Sundays which occur.

She announced that the 'Team Vicar' Gale will be retiring in September however Rector Philip, Curate Simon, retired Priest Susan and lay leader Chrysofen will continue to serve.

The Breakfast Service (at 9.30 am on the third Sunday of the month) is the most popular service with around 20 adults and 15 children (mostly under the age of 12) attending. It is very informal and happy with bacon butties, good coffee and hymns played on the guitar by Fi Leaky. There is an Organist for Evensong every month but otherwise pre-recorded hymn music is used for other services. Once the Church permissions are granted they hope to install an electric organ which has been offered free of charge – this should be more appealing to play for the Organist.

They are looking to replace the old wooden chairs in the north aisle with more modern, easy to stack chairs which will be comfier for services and other uses but this again is dependent on gaining permission to do so.

Last year there were two Marriages and five Funerals. This year so far there are four Weddings booked in already. All the fees from such services go towards the Church's fund raising. On other fund-raising lines, the Church hosts Concerts and usually a Summer BBQ as well as the very popular Christmas Fair. The north aisle is used for a local men's Circuit Training on a weekly basis and they are happy to loan their trestle tables for a donation to the Church.

They are also very grateful to all those who donate huge quantities of cakes etc for the Chisenbury Priory Open Garden every June. Sales from the teas at this event are donated to the Church. The funds raised from weddings, funerals and all other activities as mentioned above go to help cover the costs of the clergy and diocesan support and the care of our church building – now 800 years old.

Unfortunately, the PCC have had to spend more than that which was donated or raised last year on emergency repairs when a part of the Chancel ceiling collapsed. They are planning to write to every household in the village asking if any more people (other than the present small number of regular donors) are able and willing to contribute their time to help on the PCC and/or regular giving to the church. It is to try and ensure they can keep the Church running. The parish contribution to clergy and diocesan support costs around £14,500 each year which they raise.

The Church Architect made his five yearly inspection last year and has given a list of works to be done over the next five years. These are likely to cost a further £10,000 of additional spending and they will be applying for grants wherever possible.

On behalf of the PCC Sue thanked the Parish Council for their continued support in the care of the Churchyard which is carried out by Ray Hatchman who receives an honorarium for his much appreciated hard work.

Thanks must also go to the talented 'Flower Team' and 'Cleaning Team' who keep the Church dust and spider-free as well as a beautiful place of peace, welcome and support for everyone in the village (and visitors) – as it has been for the last 800 years.

Thanks also go to Mort Burdick for arranging the renewal of the flagpole and the regular raising and lowering of the flags and for getting the church tower clock repaired so it is now telling the time for the village again. To Fanny Middleton for opening and closing the Church on a daily basis and to the Community Fund for their contribution to the new flagpole.

The annual parish meeting is on Monday 22nd April at 7.30 in the Church. This is open to all who live in the parish and is held in order to vote for the churchwardens who are appointed by the parish as a whole. There will be some sausage rolls and wine - do please come!

7 REPORT FOR ENFORD VILLAGE HALL – Judy D'Arcy-Irvine, Chairman

The Management Committee would like to thank the Parish Council for its continued support and donation. This helps towards the cost of maintaining the Village Hall and Recreation Ground for everyone to enjoy.

Unfortunately, regular bookings have still not yet returned to pre Covid levels. There are fewer classes but the Clubs are successful, including Film Nights, the Gardening Club and Short Mat Bowls. The Committee continues to subsidise the Junior Football Club which runs on a Saturday morning.

At the moment the Hall is mainly used weekends and evenings but more daytime activities are needed and would be welcome. The Great Bustard Project uses the Hall for its visitors and this provides a steady income. A volunteer has offered to take on marketing to try and attract more potential users by reaching a wider catchment area through social media.

Broadband has recently been installed to help market the hall and also to enable streaming of films and live performances.

Hire Charges were reluctantly raised by a small amount last September due to rises in energy and other costs. Charges are kept as low as possible and remain competitive with other halls in the area. Local residents and charities both benefit from reduced rates.

Income for Financial Year 2022-2023 was £15,238 with Expenditure £14,740 resulting in a small surplus of £497. At the moment a loss is forecast for the current financial year but it is hoped more bookings will come in before year end.

Enford was one of eight Wiltshire village halls chosen to benefit from a free, comprehensive energy audit for a project being run by Oxford Brookes University. The survey took place last week and various improvements identified including the installation of smart thermostats (another reason why Broadband has been installed), replacement of older lights with LED fittings, and possible installation of solar panels. The full report has not yet been received but hopefully it will support grant applications for help towards the capital cost of implementing new energy saving measures.

Thanks are due to Members of the Committee who carry out various tasks and minimising costs as much as possible. Thanks are due to Hamish Scott-Dalgleish for organising the Broadband installation and for mowing the recreation ground and to David Spencer for monitoring and keeping an eagle eye on maintenance and repairs.

8 REPORT FOR THE PARISH HALL AND READING ROOM – Peter Cliffe-Roberts, Chairman

I reported to the Annual Parish Meeting in 2023 that the work of converting the site of the former Parish Hall into a public garden and parking area was almost complete. At that time the outstanding tasks were the erection of an information board on the garden, the completion of the disabled access path into the garden and the planting of various shrubs and hedging.

These works were all subsequently completed and I would like to put on record now my thanks to the small band of volunteers who consistently stepped forward to achieve these and many previous tasks at minimal, and often no, cost. A further information board has been printed and mounted ready to be erected when the garden is a little drier – this board gives a brief history of the Parish Hall and its use over the century or so that it stood on the site.

Two parking spaces are currently available under licence to villagers at £500 per annum each, which can either be paid annually in advance, or in two payments of £250.

The Parish Hall Management Committee held an AGM on 24th May 2023, followed by a committee meeting. As previously reported, now that the Parish Hall is no longer present, the aims and purpose of the charity are no longer relevant and we have advised Charity Commission that the charity will close, with the future management of the site reverting to its beneficial owners – the Parish Council. This formal closure will be ratified at the next (and final) AGM in May or June (Date to be finalised and publicised as usual)

9 REPORT FOR THE ENFORD COMMUNITY FUND - Chris Rose was unable to attend the APM but sent in the following Report:

Update prepared for EPC meeting on 5 March and Annual Parish Meeting in April 2024.

The Enford Community Fund was reformed in January 2023, and since then has supported several initiatives across the parish, including the Coronation celebration and Christmas Fayre, as well as donations made to benefit the community.

The Fund is managed by a small group of local volunteers who are Katie Briscoe, Rob Hibberd, Richard Petitt, and Chris Rose. We brought back the Bonfire and Fireworks event in October 2023 which saw over 300 residents join an exciting evening at the Village Hall, with food, drink, an impressive bonfire, and of course a great firework display!

Over the past decade, the Community Fund has raised over £20,000, with 90% of that being granted back into the community. At the end of the 2023/24 financial year, the Fund has a balance of £6,437. There are requirements to retain a reserve for the various event expenses, and contingency for any unforeseen cancellations. We would like to recognise and thank Kim Riche who has reviewed and verified our end-of-year accounts, which will shortly be uploaded to the Enford Newsletter website.

The group is currently organising the return of the parish Fete, which takes place at the Village Hall and recreation ground on Saturday 22 June. More details to follow in the newsletter and on Facebook, posters and banners will also be displayed around the Parish.

We continue to take grant applications, with recent donations made to support several local projects as follows:

- *£200 towards a new bench in East Chisenbury*
- *£200 towards the church flagpole*
- *£200 towards improving the footpath from Water Lane towards Grants Road*
- *£200 donation to the Village Hall*
- *£180 funding for the Santa's Grotto Christmas gifts*

We're also pleased to announce that the Bonfire and Fireworks event will be taking place again on Saturday 26 October (provisional date). The fundraising events allow the Community Fund to give grants to specific village projects, by application. We will continue to keep all residents updated via the newsletter and new website which will be coming soon.

We need everyone in the community to continue supporting the Fund, and to keep our rural community vibrant, integrated and involved - if you're able to volunteer a few hours and support these upcoming events, or to submit a grant application, please email EnfordFund@gmail.com

Enford Community Fund
Statement of Accounts to Year End 31 December 2023

Income	In	In total	Out	Out total	Balance
Cash at bank b/f	-	-	-	-	6814.23
Fete event	-	-	-	-	-
Bonfire event	3241.69	3241.69	-	-	-
Floats	300	300	-	-	-
EPC - Coronation contribution	500	-	-	-	-
Pimms sales - Jubilee event	30.50	-	-	-	-
Other	-	830.50	-	-	-
Bank interest	42.00	42.00	-	-	11,208.42

Expenditure	In	In total	Out	Out total	Balance
Donations made	-	-	900	900	-
Capital items	-	-	-	-	-
General overheads	-	-	-	-	-
Floats	-	-	300	300	-
Fete event	-	-	-	-	-
Bonfire event	-	-	2991.38	2991.38	-
Other - Coronation event	-	-	623.18	623.18	-

Funding statement and allocations from Y/E 31/12/2023		
Cash at bank	-	6393.86
Less contingency	4101.99	-
Balance available for funding	-	2291.87
TOTAL	-	6393.86

Prepared by: Chris Rose, 7 February 2024
 Reviewed and verified by: Kim Riche, 4 March 2024

10 REPORT FOR THE ENFORD FOOTBALL CLUB – Steve Todd was unable to attend so his report was read out by Cllr Richard Roberts:

The Saturday morning coaching sessions continue to be well attended, with anywhere between 12-20 children turning up each week, of varying ages, and most pleasing we have now started to get a few girls attend (a result of the fab progress of the Lionesses in the recent World Cup & Euro's I'm sure).

Equipment wise we are in a good place, with new goals (the goals take a battering, so I have to replace them almost every year or two), footballs and targets for the kids to practice shooting,

which have all been funded by monies taken from the sessions and donations from the village organisations, so we are very thankful for those.

The actual coaching continues to be run by Josh Hodder, who I pay £30 to each week.

The pitch continues to be an issue, as I still have a weekly battle filling in numerous holes dug by the local wildlife, but I guess there isn't much we can do about that, but if anyone has any sand or topsoil going spare that they can deposit up there to aid with filling in the holes, it would be much appreciated.

On a personal note, I have been delivering this for well over 10 years now, firstly alongside Ollie Stagg, the last several years by myself, and I'm not sure how much longer I have the willpower to get up there in all weathers, but please be assured, when I do decide to 'retire', I will try and find someone to take it on, who has the time & energy to refresh it and move it forward and continue to provide this community service.

11 REPORT FOR THE ENFORD NEWSLETTER – Sue Cosgrove was unable to attend but sent the following Report read by the Clerk:

As previously, we have delivered 10 black and white, A5 printed magazines over the last year to all the homes in the Enford Parish Council area, just over 300 in all, thanks to our 14 distributors. The distributors also deliver flyers etc. for parish groups, as and when asked, which Jane Young, as Distribution Officer, willingly attaches to each newsletter.

We publish an online colour version, courtesy of Kim Riche, who manages our website and a Facebook page where we feature an advertiser of the month and post anything urgent or which needs publication before delivery of the next edition.

Normally funding is via advertising and a kind donation from the EPC. This year we also received help from the sale of Coronation mugs and a gift from The Enford Photography Club which sadly had to wind up, for all of which we are very grateful. Unfortunately, having paid for the Jubilee Commemoration booklet last year, but not received some other anticipated financial help, we have had to ask for donations from our readership. We have been astounded by their generosity; some of them have gone above and beyond. As a result, the accounts show a healthy balance, enabling us to meet our usual financial commitments for the year.

Space in the magazine is primarily devoted to Parish news, events, activities and items submitted by residents. We rely on residents to keep us informed and to supply content and we could wish for more, but we can only ask! We will also support events in neighbouring villages. The booklet has to be produced in multiples of 4 pages, so, if we need additional content, we do have a number of charitable and other sources which we will include, e.g. the Stars Appeal, Prospect, the Police and Crime Commissioner, to name a few.

We now have a thriving Committee of 10 full members and 2 new co-optees. Amongst those who joined us as full members in August 2023 are a new compiler, a new treasurer and a Social Media guru.

Our new treasurer, Gareth Rowe and I attended a very constructive meeting with members of the Netheravon PC in February, to help them set up a newsletter for their area. They plan to use the Enford Newsletter format because they feel it does exactly what is required.

I would personally like to thank all those who give their time to the Newsletter in whatever capacity. I have received some very complimentary feedback in the last year confirming the importance of the newsletter to this community.

12 COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH – Alan Day was unable to attend but sent in the following report read out by Richard Roberts:

"It has been another busy year for the CSW team, who now number 8 volunteers.

We have carried out 60 duties, monitoring the 30mph limits, during the last 12 months. During this time, we have recorded 596 motorists travelling at 36mph or more (24 of these at 45mph or more).

We also download speed data each month from the Speed Indicator Device (SID) opposite New Buildings and send these files to Wiltshire Police. Having been through a trial process, we are now able to submit this data directly and they can correlate it with other devices around the county. In addition to the CSW volunteers, there are now also 3 Speed Enforcement Officers (police officers) in the county, who set up speed cameras in various locations and these devices are equipped to issue fines, speed awareness courses or even court appearances. So be warned!"

13 MATTERS RAISED BY ATTENDEES

Emma Nutt asked if the Parish Steward would clear moss from footpaths – this is not apparently on his list of abilities however a resident suggested using baking soda and water.

Sue de Candole wanted to take the opportunity to invite everyone to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting on 22nd April at 7.30 pm in the Church.

14 DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – Tuesday 1st April 2025

There being no questions and no further reports or questions, Cllr Roberts closed the meeting at 8.45pm.

Items in normal text are minuted, items in italics are copied reports.

Elizabeth Harrison - Clerk, Enford Parish Council

Date: 2nd April 2024