

ENFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the meeting of 15th January 2014

Present:	Mr Ken Monk	Chairman
	Mrs Tessa Manser, Mrs Jane Young	Parish Councillors
	Mr David Harbottle, Mrs Patricia Holdway	Parish Councillors
	Mr A D'Arcy-Irvine, Mr Norman Beardsley	Parish Councillors
	Mr Michael Fay, Mr Gareth Holden	Parish Councillors
	Mrs Elizabeth Harrison	Clerk to the Council
	3 members of the Public	

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.33 p.m.

13/142 Apologies

Were received from Wiltshire - Cllr Charles Howard, Neighbourhood Watch – Mr Steve Becker. Parish Cllrs Richard Petitt and Bruce Waight were unable to attend.

13/143 Public Question Time

Two members of the public had come a little late to the meeting so missed the Agenda item however they did have questions later in the meeting.

13/144 Verify the Minutes of the last Meeting

Cllr D'Arcy-Irvine questioned whether these were the most up to date Minutes. This being confirmed by the Clerk they were proposed as an accurate record by Cllr Pat Holdway and seconded by Cllr David Harbottle.

13/145 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

13/146 Matters Arising

- i. Appointment of new Vice Chairman – no nominations were forthcoming.
- ii. Playpark – Update on Remedial Work – Cllr Michael Fay who is in charge of the repairs needed had in fact visited the park this morning. He has measured for the wood required for the seat and checked the basketball hoop and other necessary items listed on the ROSPA report. The weather has been such that he has been unable to do any work to date but will continue whenever he can.
- iii. Parish Hall Governance/ Audit – Cllr Richard Petitt who is chairman of the Management Committee for the Parish Hall was not available to report.

13/147 Finance

The Clerk reported on the Council's bank balance/reconciliation working from the last bank statement which covered up to the end of December 2013. The £2,000.00 donation had been received from the Samuel William Farmers Trust and that had brought the balance up to £5,653.60.

The cheque for the defibrillator had been raised and sent to Community Heartbeat who had only just acknowledged safe receipt and queried delivery dates this afternoon.

The Clerk also reported that all the figures/paperwork for the 2014/15 Precept had been sent to Wiltshire Council. The figure requested was reduced from previous years and stands at £4,730.40 with a reduced top up grant from Wiltshire council of £393.61 giving a total of £5,124.01.

13/148 Police Matters

The local CPSO was not available at this point in the meeting though arrived shortly after. The main incident she reported was a Road traffic Accident where a lorry had allegedly run over a dog and drove off. No dog has been

reported missing and there is no further news on this. It was suggested that it may well have been a Muntjac rather than a dog as this has been seen/reported before.

She reported that PC Ivor Noyce had left the job at the beginning of the month. Tim Bunt (Community Beat manager) is to start in February and that she is operating on her own until that time. On 24th February there will be another new person to replace Philippa Royston. After training they may swap with Aaron Heath who is joining the Police Force in June.

The main priority they are focussing on at present is the speeding problem on the A338. They are also looking to rejuvenate the Community Speed Watch program in CollingbourneDucis. The CPSO asked if Cllr Norman Beardsley would be able to assist with this.

After her report, the CPSO left the meeting.

13/149 **Army Matters**

Lt Col Nigel Linge was unable to attend the meeting and had not sent in a report. Should anyone have any questions for him, he is always happy to respond.

13/150 **Unitary Matters**

Cllr Charles Howard was unable to attend the meeting however he sent in the following report:

Wiltshire's New Housing Allocation Policy.

A new allocation policy for Wiltshire's affordable housing has been approved by the Cabinet of Wiltshire Council, and will come into force next April, subject to approval by members at a full Council meeting. Following extensive consultation, the Council is making some fundamental changes to its policy to ensure that it makes best use of its limited stock of affordable housing administered by Wiltshire Council and Housing Associations.

A frequent criticism of the present system has been that insufficient weight has been given to prospective tenants having a local connection. Under the new system, if an applicant does not meet the local connection criteria to live in Wiltshire, they will not qualify to register as an applicant for affordable housing.

However, certain groups of vulnerable and other people who need to have their interests safeguarded will still be able to join the register.

The new policy is expected to be a great improvement on the present system, and I hope that it will ensure that in future local people will get local housing.

Full information on the proposed new Housing Allocation Policy is available online. Visit www.wiltshire.gov.uk, enter Cabinet Meetings in the search box, go to the details of the meeting on 21st November 2013, then item 106.

Charles Howard, Wiltshire Councillor. 13th January 2014.

13/151 **Neighbourhood Watch**

Mr Steve Becker had sent his apologies as he was unable to attend the meeting.

13/152 **Tidworth TCAP**

Mr Tony Pickernell was unable to attend

13/153 **Planning**

There were no Planning Applications outstanding. Cllr David Harbottle asked who made up the Planning Committee. Cllr Tessa Manser heads this though in effect, all members of the Parish Council are involved and all applications are circulated to Councillors. The simple applications like reducing/thinning trees tends to go through 'on the nod'. More complex or 'radical' applications do require more careful consideration and possibly a site visit would be organised – again, all Parish Councillors can be involved.

13/154 Roads / Highways

Cllr David Harbottle reported as follows:

- 1 *Since the last meeting the replacement bridge light has had power connected and is working. Unfortunately the electricians couldn't repair the Church car park light at the same time, so another team was sent out 2 days later to do the work. Result – extra expenditure.*
- 2 *Since the last meeting a considerable number of emails had been sent to Mrs Dallimore requesting repair work to potholes etc, pointing out that some of the work is outstanding since June 2013. The latest excuse for work in Fifield is that there is only one JCB available in Wiltshire and that this was busy dealing with the flooding problems. Cllr Harbottle feels that the Council must be on another planet if they think we will believe that!*
- 3 *All the current flood damage to the roads has been reported but the repairs will have to wait until the springs subside. He will continue to chase the Council on this matter.*
- 4 *The new one tonne bulk bag of road salt has been delivered to Cllr Jane Young's barn for storage until needed.*
- 5 *Cllr Harbottle asked all councillors to let him know of any new damage to the roads as the water subsides so that he can add this to the current list and report to the 'powers that be'.*

Cllr Harbottle is concerned that the system is actually worse under the new Council policy than it was before it became 'streamlined'. Cllr Michael Fay said there had been 18 redundancies in the Roads department alone.

Cllr Monk said he had taken a call from Littlecote Cottages who wanted to know what plans were being put in place for the future to try and prevent the flooding problems. He suggested that in due course a meeting is arranged with Wiltshire Council's experts on flooding issues to include a site visit and try to work out some preventative measures for the future.

Cllr D'Arcy-Irvine raised the matter of sand and sandbags – they don't automatically come together and one is useless without the other. Private householders are apparently responsible for their own sandbags. Cllr Jane Young offered/suggested storage of sand in her barn alongside the road salt/grit. Cllr Harbottle and Cllr Beardsley discussed the matter of some street lights not working. Cllr Holdway said the lights in Water Lane were too high which casts greater shadow and has reduced effectiveness.

13/155 Rights of Way

Cllr Norman Beardsley had nothing to report.

13/156 The Parish Plan

Road Safety, Pavements, Street Lighting and Parking

As mentioned earlier, Mr Steve Becker (Chair of the Parish Planning Committee and well as Neighbourhood Watch representative) was unable to attend. He had though sent round the relevant section of the Parish Plan for Discussion.

Road Safety

The desire to reduce the speed on the C32 to 20 mph has unfortunately been rejected by the Wiltshire Roads Review despite specific requests from Enford Parish Council

The suggestion of speed ramps as a measure to slow the traffic is unlikely to be successful as there is no money in the budget for this and pothole repair takes priority.

The suggestion of flashing speed limit signs was also unlikely to happen due to lack of available money. We are entitled to have these on loan for 2 weeks of the year however it was pointed out that familiarity breeds contempt!

Pavements

It is suggested in the Parish Plan that there should be more pavements in the village – in particular, going up Enford Hill to the bus stop on the A345. Shortly after the new bridge was put in the Parish

Council was quoted £8,000.00 for this hence the only paving put in place was from the Church to the village at a reduced cost of £600.00.

Street Lighting

The plan suggests 3 places could be better for extra street lighting – Field View to the end of Water Lane, by the bus stop on the A345 (especially for crossing the road) and at the start of the Bridleway at the bottom of Water Lane. Cllr Harbottle thinks the lighting up to the A345 is just about adequate but the length of the footpath from the east of the bridge to the junction has no light and needed one. This is unlikely to happen as it again comes down to lack of the Council's budget.

Road Alterations

Upgrading of 'A' crossing to create a rat-run to Trenchard Lines from the south. This is already in hand according to Lt Col Nigel Linge though he cannot say exactly when this will be done or whether it will be a tarmac or concrete surface.

Exit on to the A345 from New Buildings. This is a hazardous junction and it has been suggested that a mini roundabout be installed. As before, this is unlikely to happen due to the cost.

Coombe Hill improvements to try and reduce accidents. Speed limits have been suggested as this is a blind bend on the hill. One cyclist was killed at this point. Cllr Charles Howard has looked at the problem and there is nothing he can do. The land is owned by the MOD. Cllr Harbottle says it is unfortunate but a simple 20mph speed limit isn't going to happen.

Signage and Road markings

It was thought that the A345 would benefit from nearside white lines. Sadly this would disappear under the mud. The Survey suggested there could be more road signs for 'Children at play'. There is also a suggestion that we live in a rural area and that there is already too much 'urbanisation' creeping in. Obviously a balance needs to be struck.

Parking

The survey suggested that more parking was needed in Enford as the street parking is a problem. The Parish Council have already discussed the possibility of yellow lines on the road but even Wiltshire Council says this is a step too far. There is nowhere else for the cars to go.

Miscellaneous

It has been suggested that the road noise from the A345 can be excessive – particularly in the summer. One suggestion being to plant hedgerows. This would again come down to a lack of funding from the Council. Suggestion – cyclists need to wear reflective clothing. For those from within the village it could be raised as an article in the Newsletter. 'Travelling' cyclists however would still pose a danger if they were not properly clad. Problems: Casual farming using over-sized modern tractors on the C road are breaking down the verges. Large trailers shedding straw on the roads blocking drains and hedge trimmings being left on the roads and byways, particularly blackthorn which is a hazard for punctures. These are all related issues and can make cycling in the village difficult and uncomfortable.

Bus shelters in West Chisenbury were also mentioned – one needed on the northbound A345 and an 'Armco' barrier for the southbound shelter. A rapid tram service between Salisbury and Swindon, Amesbury and Pewsey was also suggested though these are again unlikely to be looked at by the Council as there is no funding or subsidy for such services.

The use of large school buses going through the small roads of the C32 was raised as unnecessary with the suggestion that smaller buses would be better. This however raises the problem that more buses would be needed to do the same job thus raising the cost of the service. The large buses maybe almost empty at Enford however by the time they go down to Netheravon, Durrington and on to Amesbury, they are full.

Finally, there was a suggestion that the amount of traffic on the A345 should be discouraged as the heavy traffic and noise levels create a major impact. Unfortunately there is nothing one can do to re-direct traffic to other roads. The A345 is the most direct route for many large vehicles even if the roads are 'rural' in places.

The answers to many of the issues raised on this subject all come down to the amount of funds available from Wiltshire Council and they don't have any spare.

13/158

Any Other Business

With the latest news of the arrival of the defibrillator, Cllr Young has said she would ask Mr Steve Becker (nicely) if he would prepare the site for the defibrillator on the wall of Susie brown's property. She will also write to the Community Fund to try and raise a contribution to the ongoing running costs.

Community Heartbeat will be in touch with a delivery date and have said that they are happy to give training to anyone who wants to learn how the system works. They will also assist with the final paperwork and inform the Ambulance service 'loop' of the type of defibrillator, location etc. Michael Bayliss of Wiltshire Constabulary had contacted the Clerk before Christmas so as to be able to add the Enford defibrillator to the Police records as well. Once it is in place, Mr Bayliss will be notified.

The members of the Public who had arrived late and listened to the meeting had come specifically to find out about the flooding and preventative measures. It was assumed that this was the worst it had ever been but a brief discussion was had and there were two occasions where it had been worse than now - 50 years ago and 12 years ago. The natural watercourses have also changed which doesn't help. Cllr Monk reiterated his suggestion to arrange a site visit for Wiltshire Council's leading flood experts to advise on preventative steps.

13/159

Date of next meeting

This is set for Wednesday February 26th 2014 at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30pm.

Elizabeth Harrison – Clerk to Enford Parish Council