

ENFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the meeting of 26th February 2014

Present:	Mr Norman Beardsley	Acting Chairman
	Mrs Tessa Manser, Mrs Jane Young	Parish Councillors
	Mr David Harbottle, Mrs Patricia Holdway	Parish Councillors
	Mr A D'Arcy-Irvine, Mr Richard Petitt	Parish Councillors
	Mr Michael Fay, Mr Bruce Waight	Parish Councillors
	Mrs Elizabeth Harrison	Clerk to the Council
	CLlr Charles Howard	Wiltshire Council
	4 members of the Public	

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.32 p.m.

There was a minute's silence to open the meeting in memory of Ken Monk who sadly died on 4th February 2014. He had served on the Parish Council for 30 years – 13 years of which were as Chairman.

14/160 Apologies

CLlr Gareth Holden was unable to attend.

14/161 Public Question Time – Operational Flood Working Group

Mike Hewitt, Chairman Operational Flood Working Group (South), Daniel Everett and Lt Col Nigel Linge gave a talk on the works they are doing all around the county to assist with flooding problems.

They requested that the Clerk note all the properties and areas of land that have flooded/are known areas of flooding and left a large scale map of Enford for this purpose.

The north of the county is slightly better off than the south where it is still flooding. They suggested it would be 4-6 weeks before the water goes away. Until that time they can only really assist with prevention – sand bags, clearing gullies and culverts etc. They work with standing water, ground water, river flooding, sewerage etc. They also left a copy of their log of flood patrols which shows that they regularly visited Enford from December through to February, sometimes working 20 hour days.

Until things start to dry out they will not have any guarantee of the budgets available to them. There is already over £1 million of damage to the highways alone. Their working priorities are 1) high speed roads 2) properties 3) slower roads 4) agricultural and open land.

At present they are doing the research as to where the most needed work and attention should be which is why they are visiting individual parishes across the county, working with the villagers who obviously know the terrain better than they do. They also work closely with Landmarc, Southern, Wessex and Thames Water companies and very closely with the Environment Agency. They have worked with Planning Departments as well because some of the current problem areas are traceable back to bad planning decisions. Once central Government releases the funding they will be able to get to work to try and solve the problems listed by the various villages. The information they are gaining is shared only with the Environment Agency and not with insurance companies which could be detrimental to house owners. Their department is not classed as an emergency service, they have had no extra staffing and have been working flat out.

They have requested that Enford Parish Council appoint a Flood Warden. This does not have to be someone on the Parish Council, they could be anyone co-opted from the village who has a good knowledge of the area, would be given training jointly by them and the Environment Agency and would not be required to put themselves in any danger whilst checking/reporting on any particular situation.

Once they have received the completed maps indicating the particular areas of flooding, Daniel Everett plus his technical team are very happy to come and meet the Flood Warden and inspect the problem area to discuss the best way forward – obviously each situation is different.

Wiltshire Council has spent over £1 million on sand bags and emergency services since 22nd December 2013. They have applied for £2 million extra funding but this is not for Highways. Mike spoke of either compensation per property at £5,000 or 'tanking' as two different funding packages but stressed that one could not apply for both. They also stressed that they are Flood Prevention Scheme Operators and left some brochures entitled 'Living on the Edge'.

Having spoken for approximately 45 minutes – including taking questions from the dozen or so extra members of the public who had attended their briefing – they then left the Parish Hall at 20.20hrs, (as did the majority of the public attendance).

14/161i

Mike Germany from Fifield identified where the work should be done. He was very fed up. The remedial work done last year by the Unitary Council's new contractor had not been sufficient or completed. Cllr Harbottle said he continues to try and get this sorted.

14/162 **Verify the Minutes of the last Meeting**

These were proposed as an accurate record by Cllr D'Arcy-Irvine and seconded by Cllr Manser

14/163 **Declarations of Interest**

There were none.

14/164 **Matters Arising**

- i and ii. Appointment of new Chairman and Vice Chairman. The situation is now becoming serious as no one has come forward or been nominated. The Clerk has had Ken's details removed from the Councillor Listings and the Register of Interests. The Clerk has dealt with the Electoral Dept at Wilts Council. Advertising from Wilts Council has been placed in the notice boards (this must stay for a minimum of 14 days), requested advertising on the village website and in Newsletter. There are now three vacancies arising. If more than 3 people apply to Wilts Council then the village will have to hold elections on/around 21st May thus drawing out the process and putting more pressure/work onto other Councillors. If after the 14 day period no one has put themselves forward, the Parish Council make co-opt new councillors. The Clerk suggested that Cllrs 'get recruiting'. Richard Roberts, Clare Burge and Steve Brown were all mentioned as potential councillors.
- iii. Playpark – Update on Remedial Work – Cllr Michael Fay who is in charge of the repairs reported that he had the wood lined up and ready but not the paint. Again, the bad weather has halted progress as the wood will need at least a month to dry out properly. Cllr D'Arcy-Irvine has offered to assist when the time comes, as has Cllr Young.
- iv. Parish Hall Governance/ Audit – Cllr Richard Petitt who is chairman of the Management Committee for the Parish Hall ran through the Governance. They require an additional Trustee Councillor from the Parish Council to sit with the Management Committee – there should be 4 but there are only 3. The user groups are not fully represented as there is also availability for a representative from Busy Bees and the Gun Club however these organisations are no longer known to be in existence. The Treasurer keeps a monthly cash book and cash statement and produces accounts at the end of each year. These figures are given to the Parish Council Clerk who uploads them to the Charity Commission. The Committee meets at least 4 times a year and their next meeting (date to be advised) will be the AGM in April. Cllr Petitt also produced a Liquidity Statement up to 3rd February 2014. They are planning to re-clad and re-roof the Parish Hall this year in order to prolong the life of the building. Cllr Harbottle asked about losses. Cllr Petitt believed he knew what he was referring to, the yearly donations received from the Parish Council. These were to assist with the Hall's running costs. Since his time in governance these donations have been reduced dramatically and are in proportion with other village organisations. They have been set aside for capital expenditure (refurbishment) as the Parish Hall has consistently had a surplus of revenue over expenditure.

14/165 **Finance**

The Clerk reported on the Council's bank balance/reconciliation working from the last bank statement which covered up to the end of January 2014. At the end of January there was a balance of £3,356.10. The only payment currently known for February is the Clerk's salary so unofficially the balance at the end of February will be £3,151.10. This is 'unofficial' as there is not yet a bank statement available for February.

Lloyds Bank hold the Parish Council account. They have been informed of Ken Monk's recent death and have sent forms through for completion on having his name removed as a signatory. Cllrs. Beardsley and Manser are currently listed as signatories but as they are both retiring, their names also need to be removed. All cheques

require two signatories. The Clerk is one and Cllrs Waight and D'Arcy-Irvine have agreed to be added to the mandate. The Clerk will sort this out and get back to them in due course.

14/166 **Police Matters**

There was no one available to attend the meeting however Michael Bayliss sent in a report of a burglary on 19/20th February. " Offenders forced open a garage and stole a chainsaw, a Stihl petrol cutter, a Mikita cordless drill and 3 batteries. They have also received numerous reports of trees down, power lines down, traffic lights not working and flooding which have all been dealt with in a timely manner".

PCSO Maria Downham also sent in a report to say that Steve Becker would be standing down as Neighbourhood watch Area Co-ordinator for Enford and could we mention this as it would be a shame if this link between the Police and the community came to an end. Steve Becker says the information is already in the Newsletter.

14/167 **Army Matters**

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

14/168 **Unitary Matters**

Cllr Charles Howard reported that Wiltshire Council had approved its budget for the coming year. For the fourth year in a row there will be no increase in the Wiltshire Council element of the Council Tax with the amount payable by a Band D property remaining at £1,222.43. There are minor changes to the Police, Fire & Rescue and some Parish Council payments which will mean a small increase for all households. This is quite an achievement considering the Settlement Funding from central Government has been reduced by 9% this year and will be cut again next year. Despite the cuts the Council are still investing in more care for the elderly and vulnerable people and improving the housing stock. Wiltshire's Council tax is one of the lowest in the country.

The Flooding problems have meant that the Council has already spent over £1 million pounds and expect to spend a further £2 million on clearing up and repairs. This they hope will be repaid by central Government. He also emphasised the importance of a Flood Warden.

The Parish Council asked if he would be able to assist with the removal of a large tree that (took down the power lines to West Chisenbury some 2 weeks ago) and is currently left across/blocking a main pathway in the village. It is regularly used by people getting to the bus stops on the A345 and despite requests to Clarence, has still not been removed. It was reported that another tree was down blocking another path in East Chisenbury and this also needs to be dealt with. Cllr Beardsley has been chasing to have this work done but is unfortunately getting nowhere. Cllr Beardsley will copy Cllr Howard in on his correspondence on this and will also mention it at the Area Board meeting.

14/169 **Neighbourhood Watch**

Mr Steve Becker gave a brief run-down of recent incidents. He is standing down after 13 years and very much hopes that someone will come forward to take on the role. In order to keep the village communication open and operative he will ask the villagers on the mailing list if they have any objections to the database being handed over to the Parish Clerk. Providing this is acceptable to everyone concerned, the Clerk will take over 'the grapevine'.

14/170 **Tidworth TCAP**

Mr Tony Pickernell was unable to attend

14/171 **Planning**

14/00996/TCA and 14/01136/TCA were the only two applications, both to remove trees. All councillors had been informed of these and no objections were raised. However the Leylandii hedge in question had mostly been badly damaged by the recent gales and Wiltshire Council had stepped in to have them removed. Although the survivors will be reduced by 30% in height, a gap will appear and this will be filled with hedging rather than further trees. Both applications have been submitted with no objection.

14/172 Roads / Highways

Cllr David Harbottle reported as follows:

I have been talking to Andy Cole, our area roads engineer fairly frequently. We would point out that no repairs can be carried out until the springs have dried up. However I have arranged a provisional meeting with Andy and the Wiltshire Road Water Engineer to see what can be done to get the water away into the river from the area around the T junction in future. I am afraid that the floods have meant that all other repairs seem to be put on hold but I am applying pressure to get all outstanding work completed. Finally Mrs Dallimore has moved to another area and we have a new Organiser who I have yet to meet.

Regarding the second chance to get the speed limit reduced through the villages on the C32, Cllr Harbottle has written the following submission:

Enford Parish Council's Response to Wiltshire Council's "20 MPH Speed Limits and Zones"

1. Enford Parish Council is responsible for the following four villages :- West Chisenbury situated on the A345, East Chisenbury, Enford and Coombe all on the C32.
2. West Chisenbury is subject to the 50 MPH limit on the A345. East Chisenbury and Enford currently are subject to a 30 MPH limit, but Coombe has no restriction except the national 60 MPH limit.
3. The C32 through the Villages is a narrow and twisty thoroughfare with no footpaths except for a short length running from the centre of Enford over Enford Bridge to the Church car park. The road is too narrow to allow for the provision of further footpaths.
4. The C32 is a well-used road particularly during the morning and evening rush hour, when it is used as a short cut between the A345 and the A342. A large proportion of this traffic is connected to Upavon Camp.
5. During the busy time of the day school children are having to walk along the C32 in order to make the various School bus collection points. At the same time those Residents, who use the bus service on the A345 to get to and from work, have to dodge the traffic using Enford Hill.
6. As previously stated, the C32 is narrow particularly in the area of Long Street where there is considerable on street parking. As there is no alternative off street parking, this again causes confrontation between through traffic and pedestrians.
7. We have considered the installation of Traffic Calming measures, but are not in favour as it has been shown nationally that such measures can cause problems to the foundations and structure of adjacent buildings. A considerable number of houses adjacent to the C32 are pre 1900 so would be very vulnerable.
8. WE WOULD ASK THAT, IN ORDER TO PROVIDE A REASONABLE SAFE PASSAGE THROUGH THE THREE VILLAGES FOR ALL ROAD USERS, A 20 MPH LIMIT IS INSTALLED IN ALL THE VILLAGES.

Addendum

1. If Wiltshire Council are not prepared to consider our request we would ask that steps are taken to bring Coombe in line with the other two villages by installing a 30MPH limit through the village.
2. If Wiltshire Council would be prepared to discuss with the MOD the possibility of upgrading the gravel track at "Crossing A" between the A345 and the C32. This would enable the Upavon Camp traffic, currently using the C32 as a rat run, to access the A345 and A342 without going through the three villages.
3. "It should be noted that in the near future, with the return of troops from Germany, the reactivation of Netheravon Camp will result in increased traffic along the C32 between Upavon Camp and Netheravon. This is another strong point in favour of a 20 mph speed limit."

14/173 Rights of Way

Cllr Beardsley reported that the light on Littlecote Hill was not working. He had been given two dates when it was due to be fixed but on neither occasion has anything happened. He will continue to chase this. He will also deal with the conifers that have come down and are blocking the pathway in East Chisenbury

14/174 The Parish Plan - Footpaths

As was discussed last meeting, the cost of adding pavements to the roads would be too expensive and ideas turned to footpaths through the village. It was not known how to go about creating rights of way and research had not been done into this. The MOD allow people to walk across their land even where no paths are provided therefore, were they necessary? Steve Becker also mentioned a cycle path as the parish Plan were interested in how to go about this. Cllr Beardsley has looked into many different references and laws to find out how to get the process underway and will pass on the information when he receives it. Some land is private and some MOD.

It was generally agreed that adding new footpaths would be extremely difficult – just as it had been for getting the ‘tails’ cut off on the Plain.

14/175 Correspondence

There was one item from CPRE regarding the annual Best Kept Village Competition. There was little enthusiasm for this and the information was passed to the Gardening Club

14/176 Any Other Business

i. Clerk’s update on the defibrillator :

Despite sending the forms and cheque off (7th Jan) before the last meeting (15th Jan), there is unfortunately little news. Community Heartbeat did acknowledge safe arrival of the forms and cheque. The Clerk chased this matter on 18th February and again on 25th with no response as yet. Steve Becker who will do the installation needs to know what is required for this job and Cllr Beardsley asked the Clerk to chase again on Monday.

ii A request from Cllr Harbottle:

“There is a meeting of C A T G on the 10th March at 5.00pm at Castledown Business Centre, at which the the 20 mph limit request will be discussed. I have two hospital appointments that afternoon that I cannot miss. If anyone can go to the meeting to put our case I would be most grateful. I can let them have all the relevant papers”.

Cllr D’Arcy-Irvine will check his diary to see if he is available to attend in Cllr Harbottle’s stead.

iii Retirement:

It was officially announced that both Cllr Norman Beardsley and Cllr Tessa Manser would be retiring after many years of service on the Parish Council. They were thanked for their input and it is sad to be losing two very knowledgeable and hard-working members.

iv Donation:

It was proposed by Cllr Waight and seconded by Cllr Petit that the Parish Council might make a donation to Ken Monk’s two chosen charities, these being SAAFA and Ghurka Welfare. The sum of £50.00 was proposed by Cllr Manser and seconded by Cllr Fay.

v Flood Warden:

Cllr Young was asking about the Flood Warden to be elected. This can be a co-opted position and not just from within the Parish Council but any member of the village who knows the area well.

vi Flood map:

In following the wishes of the Flood Operations team, Cllr Young asked about ‘mapping’ the houses and land that are known to have flooded. The Clerk has been asked to take on this job.

It was suggested that Steve Becker uses the Village email list (grapevine) to ask all those who have suffered from flood damage to contact the Clerk to log the information. This was proposed by Cllr D’Arcy-Irvine and seconded by Cllr Young. Cllr Beardsley suggested a date be set to meet in the Parish Hall and do this – it would only be for a couple of hours one evening.

vii Thanks:

The Clerk was thanked for the extra work she has had to deal with during the last month.

14/177 Date of next meeting

Parish Council Annual General Meeting. This is set for Wednesday April 9th 2014 at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall

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

Elizabeth Harrison – Clerk to Enford Parish Council

Addendum:

At the end of the meeting the Clerk was approached by Clare Burge and Mike Germany both of whom are willing to stand as Parish Councillors. I shall get the forms to them next week.