

# ENFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the meeting of 29<sup>th</sup> July 2015

Held in Enford Parish Hall

Present:	Cllr Nigel Murray	Vice Chairman
	Cllr Patricia Holdway, Cllr Jane Young	Councillors
	Cllr Keron Taylor, Cllr Michael Fay	Councillors
	Cllr David Harbottle, Cllr Bruce Waight	Councillors
	Cllr Anthony D'Arcy-Irvine, Cllr Richard Petitt	Councillors
	Cllr Gareth Holden	Councillor
	Mrs Elizabeth Harrison	Clerk
	PCSO Maria Downham	Police Liaison
	WO2 Tony Broadbent	MOD Liaison
	Lt Col Stuart Andrews	MOD

The meeting was opened at 7.27pm by Cllr Murray, Vice Chairman

## 15/370 Apologies

- Received from Cllr Richard Roberts and Wiltshire Cllr Charles Howard,

## 15/371 Public Questions

- No members of the public attended.

## 15/372 Verification of the Minutes

- The Minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> June were proposed as a true record by Cllr Harbottle and seconded by Cllr D'Arcy-Irvine.

## 15/373 Declarations of Interest

- There were no declarations of interest.

## 15/374 Matters Arising

### i. Transparency Code Compliance

The newly created Asset Register for the Parish Council is now available to view on the village website. This was the final piece of information required under the new legislation.

### ii. The Gate at Littlecott Cottages

The Clerk wrote to the owner about the safety issue of his gate being open and in the road, blocking visibility. The owner has since added an extra bolt to secure the gate.

### iii. P E A S Scheme

The Clerk was asked to order all available supplies for the winter from Wiltshire Council apart from salt. This has been done.

#### iv. RoSPA Inspection

The Clerk has organised the annual safety inspection for the Playpark. This will take place in September as usual.

#### **15/375 Finance**

The Clerk gave the Council's current financial situation starting with the June bank reconciliation, this gave a total of £6,638.76 at the end of June. As the bank statements do not arrive until early the following month the projected figure at the end of July is £5,283.76. There are still some £1,300+ of donation cheques not cleared.

#### **15/376 Police Matters**

PCSO Maria Downham was able to attend. She was unable to find any reported incidents relating to Enford since the last meeting! Cllr Fay asked about the Speedwatch gun which is still away being calibrated, Maria will chase this up. Cllr Young said that her grandson's scooter had been stolen from her garden, Maria said to report it to 101. Cllr Waight reported that 13 vehicle batteries had been stolen from various vehicles and subsequently found in Marlborough and that 4 bullet holes had been found in a bowser. Maria said the battery incident would have been reported to a different base, hence she found no reports and she will follow up the bullet hole incident.

#### **15/377 Army Matters**

Tony Broadbent was able to attend and was accompanied by Lt Col Stuart Andrews who has taken over from Lt Col Andy Sherburn. Col Andrews is commander for the Plain Training Area and will be in the post for the next 4 years. He is a local and knows the area well.

Cllr Murray had been speaking with Norman Beardsley and asked about rumours of a 25 acre site behind Coombe Lane where there is talk of a solar panel 'farm'. Tony Broadbent said this was just scoping, there was no paperwork that he knew of and that he would follow this up. This is down to Landmarc who are looking at diversifying for income. 'Taunton' had written to a farmer saying that planning permission was not required for this however, due to the potential output, Cllr Pettit said it would be.

Tony Broadbent went on to report that they had dealt with:

14 'incursions' – people crossing in to the training area, these were dog walkers, bikers etc

4 fires – mainly caused by the Army though one was of a car parked in a barn and set alight

2 cases of fly tipping – one being household waste and the other was 3 tipper loads of garden waste including tree trunks

Livestock pens being damaged and stock then roaming free on the Plain

All-terrain vehicles (ATVs) using the Plain without a licence and going off the tracks. With no Police on the Plain these people are hard to catch, could everyone please be aware and call in the incidents when seen.

Unsafe military debris – (please call the helpdesk or 101 for this).

He also brought information leaflets on the Plain, the numbers to call should you have anything to report, Greenlaning Good practice Guide, Imber information etc which he has asked if we would circulate locally.

The Plain closes in August although the Watchkeeper will be flying. In September the AS90s will be out over 5 weeks and there will be noise at night. Col Andrews said the Plain was not policed as it should be and there is an increase in unauthorised activity. He would like members of the public to register more complaints about this. It could help to get more safety personnel back on the Plain and counter the reductions brought in by Landmarc as

cost saving. Cllr Waight asked about hare coursing – there was a report from the Netheravon area of a vehicle travelling at night with no lights but just a spotlight on the roof.

A sign had been stolen but the vehicle details were taken and the person was caught. Off-road bikes have been found in the centre of the range whose riders were completely lost. They had come from Bristol thinking they could go anywhere! Cllr Fay mentioned a group of bikers who meet every Friday at A crossing, Tony will look into this.

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> July – Tony Broadbent emailed the Clerk to say:

1. **Regards the solar panel farm.** *Capita were conducting a scoping survey for selected sites over the whole of the South West region of the UK . This was produced around 3 months ago and we have not heard anything since.*
2. **Motorbikes around A crossing.** *WO1 Morris is going to patrol that area tomorrow to see if he can observe any illegal activity. Having spoken to WO1 Morris this morning he mentioned he spoke to a group of riders 2 weeks ago but they were on PROW so there was no follow up action. I will keep you updated if we have any issues with this situation.*

### **15/378 Unitary Council Matters**

Cllr Charles Howard was unable to attend the meeting and sent his apologies. He reported on three topics that the Parish Council should be aware of:

- 1 Changes to the Household Recycling Centre opening hours. *The Clerk will send a copy of these to the Newsletter/website.*
- 2 Mary Cullen, Tidworth Community Area Manager is moving from Tidworth to Trowbridge. Her replacement is Marc Read who will start in the middle of August and his job description is slightly different as Community Engagement Manager.
- 3 Tidworth Area Board Grants. There are ample funds available for capital grants under this scheme and the Area Board wants to ensure all funding is used in this financial year. The grant limits are up to £1,000 without match funding and £5,000 with match funding. If the Parish Council or any other village club or organisation would like to apply for a grant for a capital project then they should contact Marc Read when he starts in August or Charles Howard before that time.

### **15/379 Neighbourhood Watch**

Cllr Richard Roberts has been away and so there was nothing to report

### **15/380 Planning Applications**

15/06592/FUL for New Buildings, a two storey side extension and 15/07113/TCA Strongs Farm, tree removal. Cllr Pettit briefly ran through both of these applications for the Council. There were no objections and the applications were supported.

### **15/381 Parish Plan**

Cllr Murray said that the Draft was now on the website and that Steve Becker, Chairman of the Parish Plan Steering Committee, would be attending the next meeting to discuss this.

## 15/382 Roads and Highways

Cllr Harbottle reported that the next Community Day is on Wednesday August 5<sup>th</sup>. The tasks so far listed for attention are:

- 1 Side the hedge from the Church car park to Enford bridge.
- 2 Strimming the vegetation from the post and rail fence up to the bridge.
- 3 Remove the weeds on the verge of the A345 from the bus stop back to the T-junction.
- 4 Remove weeds from the verge running up Enford Hill to the T-junction.
- 5 Remove weeds on verge of Water Lane footpath.
- 6 Mend potholes in layby in Water Lane opposite No 6.
- 7 Trim vegetation around the road signs.
- 8 Re-mend potholes between New Buildings and West Chisenbury

Cllr Harbottle also attended a Transport meeting in Devizes on 16<sup>th</sup> July. From this he reported:

- 1 The Service 210 – Figheldean, Enford, Upavon, Devizes – Costs £2,634.52 to run each year i.e. £1.81 per passenger.
- 2 50% of all bus routes are subsidised with a per passenger subsidy rate of £1.97
- 3 98% of all rural households are covered by Link services. Link is an independent charity that runs itself.
- 4 Surplus income from Parking goes to the Transport budget
- 5 Wiltshire Council employ 35 people to run the Transport department
- 6 On the question of a Community Minibus operation, this is made difficult as it is impossible to insure volunteer drivers over the age of 70.
- 7 Possible ways to alleviate the transport problem are:
  - a. Car share with neighbours or a community car share scheme
  - b. Increase the precept to raise more money for the local bus service subsidy
  - c. Raise Council Tax to raise more money to continue subsidies
  - d. Reduce services – no night services however they recognise it is important to maintain rush hour services
- 8 Cllr Harbottle raised the point that if bus services were reduced, how would this work with the possible need in the future for new starter homes in villages where the potential inhabitants may not have their own transport. As a general discussion, this will be revisited.

Cllr Harbottle also reported that the ongoing wait for the replacement of the crash barriers on the A345 by Longacre (already 2 and half years) has now gone to the bottom of the list. Cllr Pettit asked about the crash and whether this repair had been claimed on the culprit's insurance, if so the repair must go ahead.

There is also the matter of the missing sign at the end of Coombe Lane. The sign had been put in the hands of the Wiltshire Council officer based in Melksham responsible for its reinstatement, but he has been transferred to Trowbridge and the sign has gone missing.

### **15/383 Public Rights of Way (PROWs)**

Cllr Taylor reported that she had been having difficulties getting any response out of Wiltshire Council regarding the cutting back of paths and bridleways etc. There appears to be one person in charge who cannot possibly cover the county! The more Requisitions that are put in by the public the better and it was suggested that a Parish map showing the PROWs and their numbers/names should be available on the Noticeboard and possibly the website – this would help people to identify which paths need work. A discussion was also had on a self-help day getting groups of volunteers to help keep paths open. This raised the questions of equipment available, insurance etc. A decision was reached to go ahead with this plan having firstly contacted 'the village' in the hopes of getting volunteers though a date has not been set.

Via email Cllr Charles Howard had sent a letter from Wilts Council regarding the Right of Way – Baden Down Farm to Coombe Hill. This goes back to 2004 where there was an attempted upgrade of the route. W Council was very slow to act and in the meantime the law changed. There is now a new application and how does the Parish Council consider it in light of the location etc. Possibly a talk with Norman Beardsley would be helpful as he covered PROWs at around this time.

Cllrs Pettit and Cllr Holden raised the matter of the village e mail data base. At the Annual Parish Meeting Steve Becker had agreed to forward the email list he has, so we might create a 'PC information' list, obviously requesting people's permission to include their contact details. *The clerk will contact Steve Becker.*

### **15/384 Correspondence**

There was none to discuss.

### **15/385 Any Other Business**

The Chairman asked all Councillors and no matters were raised.

### **15/386 Date of Next Meeting**

This will be **on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall .**

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 20.15hrs.

Elizabeth Harrison, Clerk – Enford Parish Council.