

ENFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the meeting of 17th November 2015

Held in EnfordVillage Hall

Present:	Cllr Richard Roberts	Chairman
	Cllr Patricia Holdway, Cllr Jane Young	Councillors
	Cllr Keron Taylor, Cllr Michael Fay	Councillors
	Cllr David Harbottle, Cllr Richard Petitt	Councillors
	Mrs Elizabeth Harrison	Clerk
	Cllr Charles Howard	Wiltshire Council
	PCSC Maria Downham	Police Liaison

Approximately 60 members of the public attended the meeting including Mr Ian Blair-Pilling (Chairman of Netheravon Parish Council) and Mr Greg Shenkman.

Cllr Roberts gave a brief explanation of the evening's Agenda due to the topic of the Private Gypsy & Traveller development site (App. No: 15/055029/FUL) so all present would understand how the evening would progress. Those members of the public who wished to leave after the above Planning Application had taken place were free to do so.

The meeting was opened at 7.30pm by Cllr Roberts, Chairman

15/422 Apologies

- Received from Cllr Nigel Murray, Cllr Bruce Waight, Cllr Gareth Holden, Cllr Anthony D'Arcy-Irvine and Tony Broadbent the MOD Liaison.

15/423 Public Questions

This was attended by approximately 70 members of the public. Cllr Roberts opened the Public Meeting by first giving the background of the application (with its deadline of 10th December) and then actions/meetings to date. The latest meeting being at Phoenix Hall, Netheravon on the night of Sunday 15th November. At that meeting almost 150 residents from all local parishes turned out to listen and give their views. It was led by Cllr Charles Howard of Wiltshire Council, along with Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling (Chairman of Netheravon Parish Council), Cllr Richard Roberts (Chairman of Enford Parish Council). The issue was discussed and resulted in one person being the voice for all, this is Mr Greg Shenkman. Cllr Roberts went on to explain that any opposition or complaint against this application will only be looked at on the grounds of 'material considerations' – i.e. facts concerning the site/location, design, access etc rather than 'emotional' concerns. He then introduced Mr Greg Shenkman who spoke in more detail. By the end of the meeting on Sunday 15th he had come away with a petition that was signed by 128 people. Any further signatories are welcome and should contact Bethan or there is a copy in the Swan Public House. All those who signed were against the planning application for various reasons, amongst them were:

The Avon is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), the sewerage plan for the development is wrong for the location, the site is at risk of flooding, 'conventional' housing would not be allowed to be developed there so why allow a permanent Gypsy and Traveller site, it is surrounded by MOD land and very close to Bravo Crossing – closer than conventional housing is allowed, 6 pitches are too many for the site. There was also concern that there is unitary ownership of the site (one person responsible), concern about the running of businesses and concern about policing. PCSO Maris Downham did say that of the two sites in Salisbury (one transient, one permanent) the dwellers on the permanent site didn't give the Police any trouble, however the transient site was different. A member of the public asked about the abandoned site between Marlborough and Swindon, would renovation of this not be better?

Cllr Roberts then spoke of the safety aspect of the access to the site. This is directly on to the A345 with very little visibility on either side. The resident/owner of Hillview (already on the site) says this is difficult enough in a car but with a large touring caravan or even a transit van this would be a greater risk and put all road users in danger. On 17th November in the afternoon there was a car accident a few yards from the site which resulted in a fatality by the evening – this is not the only incident of the access being dangerous. Cllr Harbottle raised the results of a recent Metrocount survey on vehicles using that road in the space of 7 days – it was a total of 21,216 vehicles, that breakdown to 3,030 vehicles per day. Cllr Fay said that on figures collated from the Community Speedwatch programme the ‘rush hour’ period (08.30 to 09.30 and 15.30 to 16.30) showed 400 vehicles.

On Wiltshire Council’s website there are 26 letters so far regarding this application with only 3 of them being ‘for’ the site (2 of those coming from members of the owner’s family who do not live in the county!) It was also questioned whether the names and addresses of the writers should be shown, Cllr Howard said this was correct and those who write should be happy to stand by what they had written. Cllr Petitt said that the content of any letter should reflect the ‘material consideration’ only as that is what Wiltshire Council will be looking at. Cllr Howard explained Wiltshire Council’s approach to this planning application and the quota of provision which must be made by law for Gypsies and Travellers. He went on to say that although this application does have a lot going for it, he too is concerned that the access to and from the site could be deemed dangerous by the Highways Officer and therefore turned down. He felt the Highways Officer who will be writing the report should be fully appraised of this particular situation before he completes his task. The owner of ‘Hillview’ whose house already exists on the site also owns some land to the north of the house. She was approached by the owners of the application site to sell this but did not wish to do so. Even if an entrance was to be made there instead, there is still bad visibility on that stretch of the A345 and also a considerable slope leading to the proposed site which would be an added danger to traffic entering or leaving. All other surrounding land is owned by the MOD and as they do not appear to wish to get involved, it is unlikely that they would sell it – Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) have not been approached on this. Cllr Roberts also mentioned the need for emergency access – fire engines, ambulances etc – to the site, this too could be a problem.

Cllr Howard explained that there is existing building permission on the site but this is a fall-back position as it was not granted for Gypsies and Travellers. The use of the ‘Day Room’ was questioned as this could possibly increase the numbers people on site (including the caravans etc) however there is a planning rule in place that ‘extras’ may only stay for 28 days, any more people on site would by law require a further planning application. Any further development of the site would put them into the floodplain area or even the river! Wiltshire Council’s quota of pitches made available to Gypsies and Travellers was questioned. Cllr Howard responded that East Wiltshire should have four pitches and there are in fact 6, the site at Bromham has gone to appeal. The matter of appeal was raised – if this application was accepted by Wiltshire Council, could the Parish Councils or individuals appeal against the decision? Cllr Howard said ‘No’. This was felt to be wrong in principle as the Applicant is allowed to appeal if their application is rejected. It was asked if lobbying the DIO and Claire Perry MP would assist however Cllr Blair-Pilling said it would be better to focus on the arguments that would be considered. To date there is no Ecological Report but this will happen and the application could be deemed to threaten the fishponds and natural landscape. Cllr Roberts suggested we should invite the applicants to come and talk directly to us about their plan. He had only seen the offer today and so had not had time to do so for this evening. Mr Greg Shenkman feels we should apply for an extension of the deadline on replying to this. He says as the application has had 10 months in the planning it is unreasonable to allow the local parishes only 3 weeks to respond.

Cllr Blair-Pilling said there would be constraints or conditions imposed on this site. The Planning Officer has said there are to be no businesses on site and the old milk farm sheds are to be removed. There is to be no storage. He also said that Netheravon Parish Council were in the process of employing a Planning Consultant, ultimately we could ‘share’ information but it should not be duplicated. Cllr Roberts then asked everyone to consider all the points they had heard this evening and to make up their own minds and opinions before thanking them for attending. All members of the public left the meeting at 20.35hrs.

At 20.40hrs Cllr Roberts reconvened the meeting in order for the Parish Council to debate the matter themselves. Further points against the application were made including an alternative entrance possibly being more dangerous than the existing one, the extra intake of children in school could set back the current students as the Gypsy/Traveller children would need the extra attention to ascertain their abilities etc. Cllr Pettitt suggested this was a 'bare-bones' application and Enford should consider employing their own consultant. He feels this is an inappropriate site and we should reject the application. Consultants fees would start at around £380 but more would be needed. Fund raising would have to be done. When put to the vote all 7 Councillors present voted unanimously against the application.

Cllr Pettitt asked if submitting two reports would assist Wiltshire Council in their decision making process. Cllr Howard replied that it would. Possibly a Highways Consultant could be used alongside the report from Wiltshire's Highways Officer. Cllr Howard does not know when this will be done but hopes it is before 10th December. Cllr Pettitt proposed that he would ascertain the costs of other consultants and if the Parish Council could not afford it then we would offer to 'share' with Netheravon. This was seconded by Cllr Holdway and unanimously agreed. He will inform the Council by email as the next PC meeting is on 12th December, 2 days after the current deadline. Cllr young was surprised at the lack of communication from the MOD.

Solar Park Update.– This has gone very quiet of late. There is a letter from Claire Perry MP to say that the Minister of State is debating 3 main points on the validity of the unregistered application. Until we hear back on this matter, there is nothing further to report.

15/424 Verification of the Minutes

- The Minutes of the meeting held on 20th October were proposed as a true record by Cllr Harbottle and seconded by Cllr Holdway.

15/425 Declarations of Interest

- There were no declarations of interest.

15/426 Finance

The Clerk gave the Council's current financial situation as at the end of October. There is £4,740.72 in the account with no major expenses envisaged for November. Cllr Pettitt said the uncleared donation cheque of £200 to the Parish Hall would be returned as he believed their financial situation was strong enough at present.

15/427 Police Matters

Maria Downham reported one Road Traffic Accident in Enford where two cars had 'brushed' and one of the drivers did not stop. On 7th November there was an incident of Hare Coursing. She also reported on the whole 'saga' of the Community Speedwatch Camera which has been found though not yet returned. Leanne Holmwood is saying that no data has been sent in from Enford since March 2014 and Enford will have to share the camera with Manningford, Rushall and Upavon. Cllr Harbottle will speak with Norman Beardsley who used to send in the reports and compose a letter. This will be sent to Cllr Charles Howard for forwarding. The current CSW group consists of Cllr Michael Fay, Cllr David Harbottle (part-time), Alan Day and Steve Becker.

Cllr Roberts linked Neighbourhood Watch at this point, reporting that Class B drugs had been found in East Chisenbury. Maria Downham confirmed the concern about the increase in drugs being found on teenagers locally. Cllr Roberts also reported a rave at Baden Farm but the Police were notified too late on this occasion.

15/428 Army Matters

Tony Broadbent was unable to attend the meeting.

15/429 Unitary Council Matters

The only item mentioned was the fact that Everleigh Recycling Centre is reportedly being looked at again for closure. Cllr Howard will look into this matter and report back. At this point he left the meeting.

15/430 Neighbourhood Watch

See the Police report above (15/427)

15/431 Planning Applications

The Application for Fir Tree Cottage in East Chisenbury to replace the 1 and a ½ storey extension elevation with associated alterations was given the Council's support as was the Listed Building Consent. The application by East Chisenbury Manor House to build a garage at the rear of their property is being looked into separately by Cllr Pettitt as he felt there was not enough detail to be able to decide properly. He will speak to the architects for more information and report back to the Council.

15/432 Parish Plan

Cllr Murray was not present to update the Council however Cllr Roberts informed everyone that the Emergency Planning Group were going through the forms/templates. He also informed the Council that Cllr Waight had received the quantities of sand and bags, tabards, road signs etc that had been ordered through the P E A S scheme in August.

15/433 Roads and Highways

Cllr Harbottle reported that:

- He had again raised the matter of the Speedwatch camera at the recent Community Area Traffic Group meeting.
- Speed Indicator Devices – there are 36 in total available for Parish Councils to take over however each Parish Council would be responsible for all the running costs. It was suggested that 4 or 5 Parish Councils got together to share one however you have to employ a trained and qualified individual to run the 'move and install' process and said individual also has to be qualified to work on the Highways.
- The re-surfacing work on the stretch of the A345 from Enford Hill to West Chisenbury is still scheduled to happen between 27th November and 3rd December.
- Areas for patching on the A345 between Longacre and the mink farm have been marked on the road but it is not known when this work will be done.
- Wiltshire Council are not pursuing a policy over 'rocks on verges' however they are in negotiations with Mr Mackie whose rocks have previously been an issue for the Parish Council. It would appear that the first one metre of verge is not necessarily owned by Wiltshire Council.
- To date there has been no news from Landmarc regarding the hedge in Water Lane. They will however look at it when they are next in the area and check their records to see if they have ever cut it in the past.

15/434 Public Rights of Way (PROWs)

The Clerk received an email just before the meeting regarding voluntary work on the PROWs. Along the lines of the self-help suggestions previously mentioned. This will be looked at in greater detail at a later date (December meeting).

15/435 Correspondence

There was no correspondence not already circulated. Cllr Roberts asked for an update on the matter of collapsing garages at Grants Road. The Clerk has written to Aster Housing but has had no response so far. She will chase this.

15/436 Any Other Business

i. Location of meetings – The current arrangement of meeting halls for the Parish Council was questioned. Some prefer the Village Hall and would like to move permanently to this location. Others feel we should continue to use the Parish Hall. It was agreed to stick with the current Winter(Village Hall)/Summer (Parish Hall) split. It was also suggested that the Parish Council AGM and the Annual Parish Meeting be re-located to the Village Hall due to comfort and parking facilities. The Clerk will arrange this and confirm in due course.

ii. Branches in Coombe Lane – Tanya Becker had written to the Chairman regarding the problem of the overhanging branches in Coombe Lane which have been disrupting telephone and broadband signals. These have since been dealt with and all is now alright.

iii. Cllr Roberts raised the matter of the allotment site at the bottom of Water Lane. Both he and the Clerk have been reading through YEARS of minutes to try and find mention of the land being gifted to the Parish Council by Mr Grant. Nothing has yet come to light. He also asked if the Council were happy for him and Cllr Taylor to draft a letter for Mario (the current ‘tenant’) to explain what he can and cannot do on the land and charge him a nominal peppercorn rent - £5.00 per annum – just to keep some formality to the situation. The Council agreed this was a good way forward.

15/437 Date of Next Meeting

This will be on **Thursday 10th December at 6.00pm in the Village Hall to discuss the PRECEPT for 2016/2017 ONLY.** Following this meeting the Enford Parish Council are adjourning to the Swan for a Christmas Supper. Menus have previously been circulated but please let the Clerk know if you need a reminder. All choices to be given to the Clerk *no later than one week before* as Pete needs to know what and how much food to order!

The **next Parish Council Meeting** will be on **Tuesday 15th December** in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 22.00hrs.

Elizabeth Harrison, Clerk – Enford Parish Council