

MINUTES of the MEETING of ESSENDON PARISH COUNCIL
Held in the Essendon Village Hall on Monday 14 March 2022 at 7.00pm

PRESENT:

Councillors: Mike Brown (Chair), Keith Venables, Ian Venables, Tracey Willetts, Rex Jones.

Clerk: Nerine Chalmers sent apologies for absence due to having tested positive for Covid 19 and self-isolating.

22/21 Apologies

To receive and accept apologies for absence: Fran Christensen

22/22 Interests

To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda

No declarations of interest from councilors on items on the agenda

22/23 Minutes

To confirm the Minutes of Essendon Parish Council held on 15 February 2022 as an accurate record of proceedings

Resolved that these minutes be agreed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings. The minutes will be signed at the April 11 2022 meeting

22/24 Matters arising

None

22/25 Public Issues

Members of the public and councillors can raise matters of concern

No issues raised

22/26 To receive updates on:

- a) 21/26 a) Entrance to Spinney Development Ref number 401001679413.
The northerly entrance has been restored. The southern entrance is still in use by the developers.
- b) 21/26 c) Drains on West End Lane
Two of the three drains have been cleared; the cleansing wagon was too full to clear the third drain. Continue to monitor
- c) Grass verge in Rectory Close - No response to date from the Council
- d) Damaged road surface on Essendon Hill - No action to date. Further pot holes have now opened up on the north-bound carriageway outside Bury cottages
- e) Improvement works on Footpath 13 - HCC has been informed that Option 1 was preferred. This is to build some wooden dug-in steps in the two steepest sections of the path, downhill to the brook, with no metalled surfacing material.

22/27 Planning

Update on notifications received and considered for planning applications between 14 February 2022 and 14 March 2022

- a) Application Reference: 6/2022/0008/HOUSE Proposed development at: 6 East View Essendon Hatfield AL9 6HJ Proposal: Erection of part single storey part two storey rear extension and internal alterations to an existing side extension – approved
- b) **Application Reference:** 6/2022/0472/HOUSE
Proposed development at: Farmleigh, Berkhamsted Lane, Essendon Hatfield AL9 6JS

Email: essendonparishcouncil@gmail.com

Proposal: Erection of first floor side extension over part of the existing garage, replacement of existing utility door with a window to match existing and change to white painted render external materials, demolish existing conservatory. MB to prepare and submit to WHBC the PC's objection to this poor design.

22/28 Finance

- a) To authorise payments made in accordance with the budget Clerk's salary; AVG Antivirus Protection £67.49
- b) Investment of funds for the Hall Replacement Fund
RJ reported on soundings he had taken on current market uncertainties and risks. RJ to ascertain the name of a further independent financial advisor for the PC's consideration. After discussion it was concluded that the war in Ukraine had substantially increased market risks and that the PC should not invest monies at this time. The PC will continue to monitor matters for the time being pending more favorable times.
- c) Note that on 14 July 2021 (minute 21/58 d) Council agreed that repayment of the loan of £5,000 to the Hall Management committee for payment to OT Construction Ltd should be deferred for a period of one year.

22/29 Correspondence

- a) Invitation to nominate people for the CPRE Hertfordshire Awards, closing date 31st May 2022. Noted. No names were put forward
- b) Annual playground safety inspection booked for May. Self-assessment checklist template declined.

Matters raised by Councillors

IV reported that as there had not been a fund-raising Village Fete for 2 years due to the pandemic the Women's Institute was in need of financial support. After discussion it was agreed that the WI would not be charged for use of the village hall until August 2023, when a village fete was planned and the previous funding stream restored. Proposed by IV, seconded by TW and passed nem con. RJ to discuss with the Village Hall committee.

TW reported on progress by the Jubilee committee towards local events for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The committee requested a second loan of £500 towards set up costs subject to the PC being a preferred creditor. Proposed by TW, seconded by MB and passed nem con.

KV reported on the poor condition of the wooden fencing along the east side of the High Road heading south.

KV reported on the poor condition of the 'Ice House' further to the south. The clerk to ask the Essendon Country Club to also carry out repairs to this structure.

22/30 Next Essendon Parish Council Meeting:

Monday April 11th 2022

Tuesday April 26th 2022 Annual Parish Meeting

The Clerk to issue invitations to the regular representatives by April 1st 2022.

May 9th 2022 Annual Meeting of the Full Council (Election of Chair and Vice Chair).