

MINUTES of the MEETING of ESSENDON PARISH COUNCIL
Held in the Village Hall on MONDAY 17th February 2020 at 7.00pm

PRESENT:

Councillors:

Mike Brown (Chair), Keith Venables, Tracey Willetts, Ian Venables and Rex Jones

Clerk Nerine Chalmers, and 4 members of the public.

Apologies from Fran Christensen

1. No declarations of personal or financial interest in the Agenda were made.
2. Minutes from 13th January 2020 signed by the Chair.

The Chair welcomed members of the public to the meeting.

3. a) **Speed Indicator Device**

Clerk to follow up again on the cost of a second SID, and confirmation that the relocation of the existing one will take place in February/March.

b) **Forge Cottages Bus Stop**

The chair reported back on a meeting with WHBC held on February 14. The meeting was chaired by Cllr Stephen Boulton (Borough and County Councillor). In attendance were Rev. Theresa, Anne Mitcheson, Paul Wombwell, Vikki Hatfield (BC Parking Manager) and her Head of Service, Daniel Pearson from CC Highways and a colleague, and Mike Brown as Chair of the PC. After much discussion, Cllr Boulton requested that the Parking Manager and Highways Officer investigate his suggestion that the existing bus bay be extended to create two parking spaces at the front and that the grass sward at the rear could accommodate further spaces. He also requested that the yellow lines situation be reviewed. Cllr Boulton would then look at funding from his Locality budgets. This is to be done over the next week.

There was some discussion from members of the public, specifically on the inconvenience of relocating the bus stop to residents of Church Lane, and the question of double yellow lines. The double yellow lines at the junction of West End Lane and the High Road, and around the War Memorial were approved some time ago.

c) **Issues previously raised:**

Clerk to follow up again with Ringways as to when the order to repair/ replace the following will be carried out:

10 posts for signs, reattach 3 signs, replace several damaged kerbs. 5 new plastic hollow with timber stake Glasdon bollards, reset further, remove fallen tree in verge. tree / vegetation / siding out of the whole length.

d) **Defibrillator**

When the funds for maintenance of the defibrillator by the village hall run out, the parish Council will take over responsibility for annual checks and maintenance.

e) **Replacement trees for those that were uprooted to provide additional parking**

Clerk to follow up again

f) **Damage to play equipment in the playground**

The reach of the school CCTV cameras does not extend as far as the play equipment.

g) **Village hall:**

- Hall store room has been cleared, and the floor cleaning kit purchased. The Hall Committee is working on the list of required maintenance and renovation. The Chair is organising the survey of the hall building.
- Grave concerns were raised as to the state of the hall in terms of cleanliness in the hall itself, the toilets and the kitchen. Tables and chairs are not stacked correctly. In addition there are security concerns with window stays missing and the lock on the front door needing adjustment.

- Discussion as to whether the hours the caretaker is paid for are sufficient for the work to be done. The hall is often hired for back to back events, with 34 separate hirings in January. RJ explained that matters are being addressed, a new contract is being drawn up for the caretaker, and the management committee is working through the issues.
- IV will secure the hall, and the chair will write to the chairman of the Hall Committee.

h) **Street lights**

Problems have been resolved.

i) **ACV on The Rose and Crown**

The ACV expires on 5 November, and the Council will be looking at reviewing and renewing it.

j) **Birchall Garden Suburb**

Waiting until there is more progress on the Welwyn Hatfield Draft Local Plan Policy SP19 with Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council and East Herts District Council.

4. **Matters raised by the public**

- The Keep Left Bollard on the B158 on Essendon Hill has been knocked out. This is a safety issue as the tyres of 2 cars have been damaged
- The culvert at the bottom of Cumcum Hill needs clearing to avoid the road being flooded. . Clerk to report both.

5. **Finance**

Cheque signing.

HAPTC Training – end of year finance	£40
Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council Re-charge of costs for uncontested election 2 May 2019	£341.84
CPM Repairs to damaged playground equipment	£408
Fuel for allotments lawn mower – Dee Daniell	£11.97
Friends of St Mary’s (Loan for VE Day celebrations)	£500

6. **Planning**

Application Reference: 6/2020/0087/FULL Proposed development at: Wytmead, Essendon Hill, Essendon, Hatfield, AL9 6AW Proposal: Change of use of 2x barns to 2x dwellings, alterations to openings, erection of detached garage, and creation of new vehicular access.

Plans are substantially the same as previously submitted; Chair will resend comments from initial meeting.

7. **Correspondence**

- Emails from residents regarding relocation of the Forge Cottages Bus Stop, including letter of thanks to the Chair for his efforts on this issue. This was read out.
- South Central Growth and Transport Plan (SCGTP) details available on the Essendon Parish Council website- consultations due March 30th
- February 3 PROW update on website
- CPRE – inviting nominations for awards for anyone working to improve life in their community. Posters will be displayed on village boards.

8. **Any Other Business**

- VE Day Celebrations. Preparations going well, but further funds required. IV proposed a further loan from the council of £500, seconded by KV.
- The bin in the children’s playground is not being emptied by Parks department of WHDC. Clerk to write and request that it be included when other village bins are emptied.

9. **Date of next meeting:** 16th March 2020

Meeting closed at 8:15 p.m.