

**MINUTES of the MEETING of ESSENDON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Held in the Village Hall on MONDAY 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 7.00pm**

**PRESENT:**

Councillors:

Mike Brown (Chair), Keith Venables, Tracey Willetts, Ian Venables and Rex Jones  
Clerk Nerine Chalmers, and 25 members of the public.

1. Apologies from Fran Christensen, and from Stephen Boulton who was attending a cabinet panel meeting at WHBC on the same evening.
2. No declarations of personal or financial interest in the Agenda were made.
3. Minutes from 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2019 signed by the Chair.
4. The Chair welcomed members of the public to the meeting.

5. a) **Forge Cottages Bus Stop**

The Chair reassured residents that the council would continue to press for the people in Forge Cottages to have somewhere to park, for the bus stop to be in a place which is safe for all passengers, including the many school children who use the bus, as well as for the needs of the church and the people living near it to be accommodated.

Further points from the Chair:

- In cases of this nature, public consultation is essential to weigh conflicting evidence and arrive at a compromise. There has been no consultation with residents or with the Parish Council.
- Council has pressed for parking at the rear of Forge Cottages.
- Double yellow lines would prevent parking at all times, even at the times when there are no buses.

Residents present at the meeting thanked the Chair for his ongoing support. There was some further discussion, elaborating on the comments from the chair. Residents indicated that they would continue to lobby Welwyn Hatfield Councillors

6. **Birchall Garden Suburb**

Resolved that the clerk should arrange for a presentation on plans for Birchall Garden Suburb

7.. **Finance**

Cheque signing.

TDC Tree Care Ltd	£600
Friends of St Mary's (VE Day Celebrations)	£500
Essendon Village Hall	£10
Belinda Kent Lemon (Christmas Tree Lighting Expenses)	£94.95

8. **Planning**

- a) Application has been made for planning permission for the erection of outbuilding and installation of outdoor swimming pool at Hilltop Cucumber Lane Essendon Hatfield AL9 6JA
- b) Planning permission approved for proposed development at: 15 Rectory Close Essendon Hatfield AL9 6HG Proposal: Erection of first floor rear extension with alterations to openings.
- c) An appeal has been made to the Secretary of State against the decision of Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council to refuse planning permission Erection of poolhouse at West End Farm West End Lane, Essendon Hatfield AL96AZ
- d) Application refused for the 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

e) Proposed development at Essendon Church of England Primary School School Lane Essendon Hatfield AL9 6HD Proposal: Temporary permission of 55 weeks for the Erection of Portakabin

9. **Correspondence**

- a) 2020/21 Council Tax Base, Council Tax Bills and Special Expenses Resolved to request a 25% increase in the precept, looking ahead to long term maintenance and renovation of the hall. Proposed by KV, seconded by RJ.
- b) Buckingham Palace Garden Party Draw for invitation to Chair and guest. Completed form to be submitted by the Chair in time for the 20<sup>th</sup> January deadline.
- c) South Central Growth and Transport Plan (SCGTP) - consultations due March 30<sup>th</sup> – to be raised at next meeting
- d) Invitation from Rural Services Network (RSN) which is seeking to establish a Rural/Market Towns Grouping to sit within its network.  
Resolved that this is aimed at larger centres, so no further action required
- e) PROW update December 24<sup>th</sup> posted on council website
- f) Paul Grimsdick concerning Open Reach. Resolved that the Chair will respond.
- g) Offer by Osman Dervish , Crotus, Planning London and Home Counties to give a presentation on Birchall Green Suburb.

10. **Any Other Business**

- a) Query as to whether the defibrillator has had its annual maintenance check. It was resolved that this would be clarified with the Village Hall Committee.  
The Village Hall holds a balance of £215 which should be used for maintenance of the defibrillator.
- b) Necessity for the clerk to follow up on commitments to replace trees removed for additional parking, cost of second SID, and sign on CumCum Hill which is still down.  
Items need to remain on the agenda until the work is done.
- c) Damage to play equipment in the playground. The gate to the playground will be chained and locked until repairs have been done. Clerk to arrange repairs as quickly as possible.
- d) Notice given that the village hall will be closed for the whole month of August for renovations. This could have repercussions for the Village Day celebrations. Request for an invitation to village residents to suggest improvements to the hall to be placed on the EPC website.
- e) Hall store room needs to be cleared of surplus items so that it can be hired out.
- f) Request from the Hall for assistance with buying a floor cleaning kit so that the council will claim the VAT back, in line with Procurement Rules..
- g) Request from council for the Hall committee to present a package (list with costs) of all the maintenance and renovations that need to be done.
- h) Council resolved that the chair should commission a survey of the hall building, including its potential, a programme of repairs and ultimate cost of replacement with the intention of future proofing the hall. This would be done before the renovations begin in the summer.  
Proposed by IV, seconded by TW.
- l) Clerk to report street lights not working in the village:  
Lamp post 6 on School Lane  
Lamp post at the rear of House numbers 1 – 4 Rectory Close  
Lamp post which was damaged, and then summarily removed from West End Lane, outside Orme Court. AL9 6BP
- j) ACV on The Rose and Crown expires on 5 November 2020.

11. Date of next meeting – 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020

**Meeting closed at 8:20 p.m.**