

MINUTES of the MEETING of ESSENDON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD in the Village Hall on MONDAY 8th January 2018 at 7.00pm

PRESENT:

Councillors: Ian Screech (Chair), Mike Brown, Ian Venables, Keith Venables, Fran Christensen, Rex Jones, Clerk Dee Daniell and three members of the public

- 1 No apologies for absence received.
- 2 There were declarations of personal interest in items C and 8 of the Agenda by Ian Screech, Keith Venables and Ian Venables owing to the Councillors being members of the Playing Field Committee. No declarations of financial interest were declared.
- 3 Minutes of the meeting of 20th November 2017 were read, approved and duly signed.
- 4 **MATTERS ARISING:**
 - a. WAR MEMORIAL - Final installation of a half bell bollard was discussed. Ian Venables to contact Ringway for a quotation.
 - b. TESCO BAGS OF HELP - Ian Venables viewed the drainage at the playground and is apparently working.
 - c. PLAYING FIELD HEDGE CUTTING - It was decided to discuss this under item 8.
 - d. RUBBISH AND RECYCLING SKIP EVENT - No response from Stephen Boulton.
 - e. ESSENDON VILLAGE SIGN REPAIR - This will hopefully be effected this month, weather permitting.
 - f. SID - It would appear some work had begun on the site of Essendon Hill.
 - g. VILLAGE CHRISTMAS TREE - An enjoyable evening was reported. It was decided to put this on the agenda of the next meeting to further discuss setting up a sub-committee to organise a more elaborate event for 2018.
- 5 **ANY MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC.**

The matter of Sunset View was raised and it was decided to discuss item 7 of the agenda at this point in the meeting. The letter to Guinness Trust regarding the sale of 4 Sunset View that was written by Mike Brown on behalf of the Council was read. The response from Guinness was also read. After a great deal of discussion regarding "affordable housing" for local residents it was decided to contact Grant Shapps on this issue.
- 6 **ALLOTMENTS**

The advice from HAPTC regarding Health and Safety issues on the purchase of a strimmer was that Essendon Parish Council would be held responsible. In light of this advice it was decided that a strimmer would not be purchased. The agreed rental increase would not be implemented and the chair would call another meeting of the allotment holders.
- 7 **SUNSET VIEW** - Discussed during Public open session.
- 8 **TENNIS COURT**

Vanessa Spragg spoke on behalf of the Tennis Court Committee regarding finances for the maintenance of the tennis court and the surrounding hedges confirming their resources would not cover the cut back required of the surrounding hedges. A form for application for funding from the Hertfordshire Year of Physical Activity 2018 was handed to Mrs Spragg. The chair read a short history of financial support to the playing field association from Essendon Parish Council and the fete committee. It was agreed that the Parish Council would pay for the initial cutting back of the hedge surrounding the tennis court and these hedges be included in any future hedge cutting in the playing field. Proposer: Mike Brown and seconded by Fran Christensen.
- 9 **VILLAGE LED LIGHTING**

The clerk has received various complaints that the LED street lighting is inadequate and it was agreed a letter would be written to Highways to adjust the amount of light emitted from the lamps.

10 FINANCE

Cheques were signed for the following expenditure.

G. Williams – socket fittings for Christmas tree – no labour charge	£67.37
I. Venables – Christmas tree lights/batteries, star – no labour charge	£158.96
Essendon Village Hall Meetings Rent 18/10, 24/10, 14/12	£40.00
TOTAL	£266.33

The budget for 2018/2019 was agreed. A reserve account for a contingency fund would be set up and an initial amount of £4,000 be set aside until the end of the financial year. Depending on the amount remaining in the current account, a further payment would be made to the reserve account. It was agreed to apply for an increase in precept to £16,500 Proposer: Mike Brown and seconded by Fran Christensen.

9 PLANNING MATTERS

The planning application 6/2017/2957/HOUSE – Wildewood, Kentish Lane, was discussed. This is a basement development, it was decided no comment was necessary. Regarding 6/2017/2911/HOUSE – The Birches, School Lane, it was decided to hold a planning meeting on Monday 15th January at 6pm to discuss the application. The plans were put on circulation.

10 CORRESPONDENCE

- a. BUCKINGHAM PALACE GARDEN PARTY – The clerk announced that the chair has again been put into the draw for an invitation.
- b. FOOTPATHS/ROW MAINTENANCE – update was handed to the chair.
- c. TOWN COUNCILS MAGAZINE – subscription payment agreed and latest edition handed to Keith Venables.
- d. PARISH MAGAZINE – deadline 12th January. It was decided to enter a short report on the Christmas tree event. Ian Venables agreed to provide a report.

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a. The Clerk to write to Essendon School to request all event signs be taken down.
- b. Highways to be contacted to complain about the flooding on the B158.
- c. Essendon Mill – fence repair required.
- d. Any developments on the trees needing to be cut back by garages behind Glebe Cottages.
- e. Garages in Glebe Close – gutters and moss require clearing.
- f. Tree outside the boundary at The Old Rectory, Essendon Hill, is falling and needs cutting down.
- g. Meeting date of 18th June needs to be changed as it clashes with World Cup England game. It was decided to change the date to the following Monday 25th June 2018.
- h. Contact WHBC Planning regarding access to Essendonbury Farm development.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 12th February 2018 at 7pm

This meeting was closed at 8.40pm