

**MINUTES of the MEETING of ESSENDON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**HELD in the Village Hall on MONDAY 15<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at 7.00pm**

**PRESENT:**

Councillors:

Mike Brown (Chair), Ian Venables, Ian Screech, Keith Venables, Fran Christensen, Rex Jones. Clerk Dee Daniell and two members of public

- 1 Apologies of absence have been received from Stephen and Jonathan Boulton.
- 2 No declarations of personal or financial interest in the Agenda.
- 3 Minutes of Meeting of Essendon Parish Council held on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018 were approved and duly signed.
- 4 **MATTERS ARISING:**
  - a. **LED LIGHTING**

Meeting of Highways Liaison Meeting for the following day Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October was announced when LED lighting is on the agenda for discussion and councillors were invited to attend. None of the councillors were available at short notice to attend. The chair will follow up.
  - b. **ALLOTMENTS**

Councillor Jones reported on the course he had attended regarding allotments and explained the changes to be introduced in the new tenancy agreement for allotment holders. It was suggested this is half way through the term but it was explained that this is in order that new allotment holders can be signed and in place in readiness for spring planting. Councillor Jones informed the parish council that it is allowable for poly tunnels to be erected on allotments and that allotments can be split. He also informed the parish council that tenants over the age of 65 receive a 50% discount. However, councillors considered that the rent of £25 per plot should be kept irrespective of the age of the tenant. Other allotment rents in Hertfordshire range from as little as £14 per plot to £40.

Councillor Jones also requested permission to buy a new communal shed for the allotments in order to store the new grass cutting equipment since the metal shed donated by the clerk had been broken and is no longer secure. There is still approximately £200 left from the locality budget grant and this can be utilised towards the purchase. The chair suggested initially asking the forge if it is able to be repaired, but it was explained that the plastic hinges had completely snapped off and they are no longer available for purchase. It was decided to purchase a new shed and the chair suggested ensuring the shed does not need planning permission.
  - c. **SID**

No developments on cutting back overhanging vegetation. The clerk explained this is in the schedule of works to be carried out although now the leaves are dropping the SID is more visible. Councillor Christensen suggested the SID be moved to the Essendon Hill site and the chair offered to check that the socket is in place. The clerk informed that this is an additional charge of £75 to move the SID to the alternative site.
  - d. **LOCAL PLAN**

The clerk reported that Councillor Stephen Boulton will come to speak to the parish council if invited. The email regarding the Green Belt Review hearing session on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> November was presented and discussed. The chair suggested that very little can be learned at hearing sessions since all objectors are invited to speak and these are lengthy sessions. Jane Oram, one of the members of the public attending, was invited to speak and explained that contact had been initiated with those responsible for the Green Belt Review and it was suggested that Essendon Parish Council should have an input. It was decided that Ian Screech and Jane Oram would attend the hearing sessions.

- e. **VILLAGE HALL RESERVE FUND**  
The cheque for £5000 had not been drawn up as the clerk was unsure on the name of the account. It was decided the clerk would meet with Councillor Screech to establish the transference of funds regulations.
- f. **DEFIBRILLATOR**  
There was a great deal of discussion about the usefulness of a defibrillator in the village. The church was approached to site a defibrillator but the church diocese would not allow it as the church is a historic building. Councillor Screech stated there are 3 minutes in which a defibrillator needs to be activated. The parish council is a public body and a defibrillator would need to be maintained and people trained. The chair thanked Mr Rees for his suggestion and this issued has generated a great amount of interest and passion. It would be useful in an emergency but where does the liability lie. Councillor Ian Venables suggested the parish council perhaps make a donation towards a defibrillator but not take responsibility. It was suggested the parish council is open to an approach for a grant towards a defibrillator if Mr Rees can find a body in the village with a group of people to take responsibility. Proposal : Essendon Parish Council is open to an approach by a body or group of individuals to make a grant towards the purchase of a defibrillator. Proposer: Councillor Ian Venables. Seconder: Councillor Screech. The number of the British Heart Foundation 0131 561 3363 was given out for any members wishing to find more information about defibrillators.
- g. **FOOTPATH BOARD**  
The clerk had been sent a further price for a larger sized board after replying in the negative about the A3 footpath noticeboard. For an A2 footpath noticeboard the price quoted was £895. Once again the parish council responded negatively about such an installation in the village.
- h. **GRIT**  
It was decided to store the delivery down the side of the village hall and if it is left on a pallett Councillor Ian Venables offered to unload it.
- i. **ROSE & CROWN**  
It was reported that the ACV on the Rose & Crown is in place until May 2020 and it will be necessary to reapply six months prior to that date.
- j. **CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS**  
We have the lights from last year and the tree stand. A tree lighting date of Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December was suggested and Councillor Ian Venables requested parish council funds of approximately £350 towards the event for the tree and mince pies/mulled wine. He confirmed he had been in contact with Essendon Primary School who will again be involved in the event.

5 **ANY MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC**

- a) Any plans for the centenary of WW1 at the War Memorial on November 11<sup>th</sup> at 9.30am. The church is having a service. Jane Oram offered to put lights around the war memorial.

6 **FINANCE**

Cheques were signed for the following expenditure:

Moody Grounds Maintenance Playing Field 2017	£1,260.00
Moody Grounds Maintenance Playing Field 2018	£1,260.00
E Bryceland Playground Grass Cutting	£50.00
CDA Herts Membership 2018	£35.00
HAPTC Elections Handout	£20.00
HAPTC Allotment Management Training	£50.00
Essendon Village Hall Meeting Room Rent	£25.00
D Daniell Printer Ink and Stamps	£81.05
Royal British Legion Poppy Wreath Appeal	£50.00

**TOTAL**

**£2,831.05**

7 PLANNING MATTERS

No planning applications received this month.

8 CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Parish Council 2019 Elections. The Chair will read and provide a briefing at the next meeting
- b) Letter from Chancellors School informing the parish council of their decision to apply to become an Academy with St Clements Dane School

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) Councillor Jones, as parish council representative sitting on the Village Hall Committee, requested the parish council fund the purchase of a filing cabinet for the use of the Village Hall Committee. Agreed.
- b) Councillor Jones, again representing the Village Hall Committee, referred to the need for new curtains in the hall. The existing curtains need replacing and the quote for their replacement is £5,000. The Village Hall Committee is working towards overall improvement of facilities in the hall. There was some discussion about increased uptake of bookings of the hall but not enough to finance any improvements. It was agreed to discuss this matter at the next meeting.
- c) Permission was requested to erect a Union Jack flag at the war memorial for the centenary of WW1. It was stated that regulations governing this were relaxed two years ago. Permission was granted.
- d) Rats – it was reported that there has been a greater incidence of rats in the vicinity of gardens in the village. It was requested that this be reported to WHBC. However, there is no longer any avenue for such pest control and individuals should report these incidents and pay a residents' fee of £30 for which there is a reduction for over 60s.
- e) Dogs – it was reported that there have been incidents of attacks by a local dog of an unknown breed. It was suggested that these attacks are reported to the police and possibly contact the dog warden.
- f) War Memorial – further damage to the wall surrounding the war memorial. Councillor Keith Venables will ask his brother Terry to effect an early repair. The damage to the wall and the bell bollard has been caused by the UNO bus taking the turning into Church Street too hard. Councillor Ian Venables agreed to contact Ringways to effect a repair to the bollard and the chair agreed to write to the bus company regarding accepting liability for the damage.

11 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS:

2019: 7th January; 11th February; 11th March; 8th April (Annual Parish Meeting);  
13th May (Annual Meeting)

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at 7pm**

**This meeting was closed at 8.30pm**