

MINUTES of the MEETING of ESSENDON PARISH COUNCIL
Held via video link on MONDAY 14th December 2020 at 7.00pm

PRESENT:

Councillors: Mike Brown (Chair), Keith Venables, Ian Venables, Fran Christensen, Rex Jones.

In attendance: Clerk Nerine Chalmers

- 20/42 Apologies**
To receive and accept apologies for absence
Apologies received from Cllrs Stephen and Jonathan Boulton and Cllr Tracey Willetts
- 20/43 Interests**
To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the Agenda
No declarations received
- 20/44 Minutes**
To confirm the Minutes of Essendon Parish Council held on 19 October 2020 as an accurate record of proceedings
Resolved that these minutes be agreed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings and be duly signed by the Chairman at the earliest opportunity.
Unanimously agreed.
- 20/45 Matters arising**
a) Ringways - the signage works are programmed for 6th – 8th January 2021.
Noted
- 20/46 Public Issues**
Members of the public and councillors can raise matters of concern
a) The suggestion that the village finds a way to commemorate the VE75 day or alternatively to commemorate the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020, was discussed, but no suggestions were forthcoming.
- 20/47 To receive updates on:**
a) Playground fence quote – matter deferred until the spring
b) War memorial - readings to check angle of lean – matter deferred until the spring
c) Lamp post #17 outside Sunnyside Cottage, on the west side of the High Road, obscured by foliage. Reported. Specialist equipment will be required to fix this issue. No timescale was provided, not any possibility of updates. In due course if nothing is done, the matter will be referred to WHBC.
d) Holwell Lane bus stop sign – agreed to await further action
e) The area outside the entrance to the Spinney development, and blocked drain were reported, and was attended to, but subsequently the drain has again become blocked causing flooded. Reported by IV.

- f) Poor quality roadworks at the bottom of Essendon Hill, outside 1 Holwell Manor Cottages, Essendon Hill, AL9 6AE. Clerk to report to Thames Water
- g) The blocked tunnel under the road at the bottom of Cum Cum Hill has been reported; awaiting action.
- h) Path on the right-hand side of 10 Glebe cottages – work carried out on 11 December

20/48 Planning

- a) Notification received and considered for planning applications between 12 November and 7 December 2020
No objections raised on any planning applications.

20/49 Finance

- a) To authorise payments made in accordance with the budget
Unanimously agreed.
- b) Update on moving EPC accounts from Barclays Bank to Unity Trust Bank
IV will approach Barclays Bank to receive missing bank statements. Once all accounts are verified, they will be moved to Unity Trust Bank
- c) Confirm budget for 2021_22, including precept demand
Resolved to accept the budget and to make a precept demand of £27,500 – an increase of 25% on last year's. Proposed by IV, seconded by KV. MB will investigate whether better interest rates can be achieved for the Contingency Fund, and the Hall Replacement Fund.

20/50 Correspondence

- a) Welwyn Hatfield Draft Climate Change Strategy open for public consultation - noted
- b) Copy of correspondence from Longmores Solicitors on behalf of Martin Reith of Essendon House, Essendon to WHBC in connection with trees topped or felled in Backhouse Woods - noted

20/51 Next Essendon Parish Council Meetings:

11 January 2021
8 February 2021

The meeting closed at 19.40