

MINUTES of the MEETING of ESSENDON PARISH COUNCIL
Held in the Essendon Village Hall on Wednesday 14 July 2021 at 7.00pm

PRESENT:

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

In attendance: Clerk Nerine Chalmers. No members of the public were present.

21/51 Apologies

Apologies received from Cllr Jonathan Boulton and Cllr Stephen Boulton

21/52 Interests

No declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda

21/53 Minutes

To confirm the Minutes of Essendon Parish Council held on 23 June 2021 as an accurate record of proceedings

Resolved that these minutes be agreed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman

21/54 Matters arising

No matters arising

21/55 Public Issues

Members of the public and councillors can raise matters of concern

- a) Holes in the surface of the High Road opposite the Rose and Crown – clerk to report
- b) Residents concerned about hedges intruding on alleyways in the village. Clerk to write a generic letter to householders requesting that hedges be trimmed
- c) Request for information to be shared regarding Refuse and Recycling Centres. Cole Green Recycling Centre will remain closed until the Government have lifted all Social Distancing measures. Closest recycling centres to Essendon are Potters Bar and Turnford. Clerk to put a notice on the board to this effect and add a link on the website
- d) Resident concerned about parking on the verge, blocking access to homes and obstructing access for emergency vehicles. Clerk to report to County Council
- e) Request for the council to fund the repair of the strimmer belonging to the allotments. Unanimously agreed, provided an estimate is secured first to compare the cost of repair with the cost of a new strimmer

21/56 To receive updates on:

- a) Clerk to continue to attempt to secure details from Ringway of progress re the following issues,

21/26 a) Entrance to Spinney Development Ref number 401001679413.

21/26 b) Poor quality roadworks at the bottom of Essendon Hill

21/26 c) Blocked tunnel under the road at the bottom of Cum Cum hill

21/26 d) Drains on West End Lane

- b) Link to Essendon Playing Field Association is on the home page of the EPC website
- c) Notice that the ACV on the Rose & Crown will be escalated to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman has been posted on the EPC website

21/57 Planning

- a) Notification received and considered for planning applications between 23 June 2021 and 13 July 2021

9 July 2021

Application Reference: 6/2021/1436/FULL

Proposed development at: Great Oak House Essendon Place High Road Essendon Hatfield AL9 6GZ

Proposal: Erection of a natural pool and enhancements to the existing garden terrace
Further to our previous notification on the above application, this proposal was considered on 7 July 2021 when a decision was made to approve the application.

12 July 2021**Article 4 Direction**

Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council is proposing to introduce an Article 4 Direction across the whole of Hatfield. An Article 4 Direction removes permitted development rights thereby giving the Council greater control over new development or changes of use. In this instance the Council are intending to withdraw permitted development rights which allow the construction of up to two additional storeys of new dwelling houses immediately above the existing topmost residential storey on a building which is a purpose-built, detached block of flats, so any such proposed development would in future require planning permission to be sought. This is to safeguard heritage assets in the town, in particular the setting and character of a number of Grade I listed assets in the town which can be significantly impacted by taller buildings, including the nationally important Hatfield House and Park. This proposal is supported by the Essendon Parish Council.

21/58 Finance

- a) To authorise payments made in accordance with the budget
Payment to Moody Grounds Maintenance, CDA Herts and the clerk unanimously agreed. Additional amount invoiced by Gallagher and Brocklehurst for phone calls and emails was approved on receipt of a breakdown of the costs.
- b) Transition from Barclays to Unity Bank underway – forms completed; awaiting transfer of funds in Barclays Savings account to Current Account. IV agreed to approach Barclays
- c) Transfer of funds to the Hall Replacement Fund - dependent on online banking arrangements
- d) Village Hall – EPC has agreed to extend the period of the loan granted for payment to OT Construction for a period of 1 year. Hall Management Committee to transfer £1,498.93 to the EPC for unclaimed VAT.
- e) Clerk to investigate alternative accountants for the 21/22 internal audit and to seek advice on EPC buying goods and services on behalf of the Essendon Village Hall charity of which EPC is the registered trustee. Procurement document to be drawn up to clarify the correct process.
- f) Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2020/21 was submitted to PKF Littlejohn, the external auditor. The report has not yet been received.
- g) The Exercise of Public Rights Notice is displayed on the village noticeboards and on the website. These will remain until Wednesday 11 August.
- h) TDC TreeCare has trimmed the hedge to the playing fields along the High Road, and will present an invoice, including VAT
- i) A cheque for £500 has been issued as a loan for the Essendon Hartford Hundred Day - 4 September 2021.

21/59 Correspondence

- a) Letter from The Sustainable Hertfordshire team inviting parishes to join the Queen's Green Canopy tree planting initiative – there is no suitable public land in Essendon for this commendable project
- b) Email from Cllr Stephen Boulton regarding the Playground Bin. Cllr Boulton agreed to liaise with Urbaser to ensure the bin is cleared regularly. No progress has been made and the bin is not emptied regularly. Clerk to follow up with Cllr Boulton
- c) The resurfacing works on the Cole Green Way between St Mary's Lane, Hertingfordbury and Hertford Town FC will now be starting on Wednesday 14th July, due to a minor delay in completion of the first phase of resurfacing.
As previously advised, this will require closure of this section of the route for the duration of the works, approximately five weeks. The section to be closed is shown on the map which appears on the website
- d) Damaged Dog Fouling notice near the bus stop. Clerk has reported it but there has been no response yet. Highways fault report notification 401002108415

21/60 Next Essendon Parish Council Meetings:

September 13
October 11
November 8
December 13

The meeting closed at 20:10