

MINUTES of the MEETING of ESSENDON PARISH COUNCIL
Held in the Essendon Village Hall on Monday 9 May 2022 at 7.20 pm

PRESENT:

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

Clerk: Nerine Chalmers and 1 member of the public

22/41 Apologies

To receive and accept apologies for absence
 Apology received from Fran Christensen

22/42 Interests

To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda
 No declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda

22/43 Minutes

To confirm the Minutes of Essendon Parish Council held on 11 April 2022 as an accurate record of proceedings
 Resolved that these minutes be agreed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings. The minutes of the meeting of April 11 were duly signed by the Chairman

22/44 Matters arising
None**22/45 Public Issues**

A member of the public shared a letter and flyer from the Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service that, in partnership with Public Health, is offering free Safe and Well visits incorporating Home Fire Safety. The council thanked the member of the public and agreed that the information should be made available on the council website and submitted to the Parish Magazine.

22/46 To receive updates on:

- a) 21/26 c) Drains on West End Lane
Ringway is aware of this and has it in planning.
- b) 22/26 d) Damaged road surface on Essendon Hill
The bottom of the road has been attended to but water is still leaking onto the road adjacent to Bury Cottages. A pothole, currently 75mm in depth is developing, and if not repaired will become a hazard in icy weather. Clerk to follow up.

22/47 Planning

Update on notifications received and considered for planning applications between 11 April 2022 and 9 May 2022
 No notifications received

22/48 Finance

- a) To authorise payments made in accordance with the budget
- b) Hall hire for meetings £65, Hall hire for Essendon Connect £180, APM refreshments £24.70, Clerk's salary, Transport £13.30, Moody £225, War Memorial planting £28.84

- c) To consider Grant Awarding Policy and Grant Application form – Grant Awarding Policy and Grant Application form were approved and adopted. Proposed by Rex Jones, seconded by Keith Venables
- d) Change of Insurance provider from CAS to Ansvar
The policy changes were considered in detail. Clerk to investigate whether the current estimated value of council assets is accurate, and if not to research replacement costs in 2022. Expiry date of current policy is 31 May 2022
- e) Note that on 14 July 2021 (minute 21/58 d) Council agreed that repayment of the loan of £5,000 to the Hall Management committee for payment to OT Construction Ltd should be deferred for a period of one year.

22/49 Correspondence

- a) Invitation to the Wilder Future Conference at Rothamsted Research in Harpenden. The conference brings together decision-makers and thought leaders to hear about the Trust's strategy for the wider Herts and Middlesex.
- b) It's Never Too Late to be Active - a 12-week campaign launched by Hertfordshire County Council, designed to encourage those over 55 to get more active – website launched on 9 May 2022. Details are on the Council website.

- AOB**
- a) In respect of the loan for the Village Lockdown event in September 2021, the organisers will be asked to share a copy of the accounts, in order to satisfy the EPC auditors
 - b) A discussion was held with regard to the current cost of living crisis and its effect on people in the parish
 - c) There is much concern in the parish over the closure of the Candlestick Pub. An email will be sent on behalf of the Parish Council to Philip Brimley of Gascoyne-Cecil Estates enquiring as to the future of the pub.
 - d) The three skylights in the hall need to be replaced. The hall committee is considering either replacing the glass or boarding up the two which are above the bathrooms, and replacing the glass in the third.
 - e) The white gates at either end of the village have deteriorated further. Clerk to contact Cllr Stephen Boulton to inquire into progress on replacing them
 - f) Vote of thanks to Mike Brown for his commitment and hard work as chairman of the council.

22/50 Next Essendon Parish Council Meeting: June 13, 2022

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm