

MINUTES of the MEETING of ESSENDON PARISH COUNCIL
Held via video link on MONDAY 4 May 2021 at 7.20pm

PRESENT:

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

In attendance: Clerk Nerine Chalmers,

21/31 Apologies

Apology from Fran Christensen

21/32 Interests

No declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda

21/33 Minutes

To confirm the Minutes of Essendon Parish Council meeting held on 8 March 2021 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.

21/34 Matters arising

No matters arising

21/35 Public Issues

- a) White posts and wooden fencing at the traffic calming areas on both ends of the village are in disrepair. Clerk to report
- b) Equipment left on the island on Glebe Cottages/East View must be removed. Clerk to follow up.
- c) Police were contacted regarding previous complaints of lorries travelling through the village, and cars racing through at weekends. (Minute 21/29)
Racing has been curtailed following police action.
Unless the identity of firms whose lorries are regularly travelling through Essendon is submitted, no action can be taken.

21/36 To receive updates on:

- a) Clerk to continue to follow up on:
 - 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

21/37 Planning

Notification received and considered for planning applications between 5 March 2021 and 23 April 2021

16 March 2021

Application Reference: 6/2021/0734/PN8

Proposed development at: Skyfield Manor West End Lane Essendon Hatfield AL9 6AX

Proposal: Prior approval for the erection of a single storey rear extension measuring 4m in height, 8m in depth, 4m to the eaves

16 March 2021

Application Reference: 6/2021/0699/HOUSE

Proposed development at: 6 Hanbury Cottages Hanbury Lane Essendon Hatfield AL9 6AY

Proposal: Erection of part single and part two storey side extension and revised parking layout

1 April 2021

Application Reference: 6/2021/0933/FULL

Proposed development at: Warrenwood Manor Stables and Stud Hornbeam Lane Brookmans Park Hatfield AL9 6JF

Proposal: Erection of a rear extension to stable block

19 April 2021

Application Reference: 6/2021/0734/PN8

Proposed development at: Skyfield Manor West End Lane Essendon Hatfield AL9 6AX

Proposal: Prior approval for the erection of a single storey rear extension measuring 4m in height, 8m in depth, 4m to the eaves

WHBC reported that, 'Further to our previous notification on the above application, this proposal was considered on 19 April 2021 where the decision was the development did not comply with the conditions and limitations within the above Order and prior approval was refused.'

21/38

Finance

- a) To authorise payments made in accordance with the budget. Unanimously agreed
- b) Online banking with Barclays. After futile attempts to contact Barclays, it was resolved that the clerk should begin the process of transferring the Parish Council accounts from Barclays to Unity Trust Bank. Resolution proposed by Ian Venables, seconded by Tracey Willetts. Signatories to the account will be Mike Brown, Ian Venables and Rex Jones.
- c) Transfer of funds to the Hall Replacement Fund - dependent on online banking. Will be done when arrangements for online banking with Unity Trust are complete.
- d) Roof of Village Hall.

The Parish Council was approached by the Village Management Committee for a loan of £6000 to cover the cost of repairing additional and unexpected damage to the roof, which became apparent when the initial repairs were begun. £2,250 will be paid back immediately; the rest as the Hall resumes hiring and is able to replenish funds. It was resolved to make this sum available. Proposed by Mike Brown, seconded by Ian Venables, the resolution was passed unanimously.

Concerns were raised about the quality of the work done by the roofers, the health and safety standards in evidence, and the accuracy of the sum on the invoice presented. As trustees of the Village Hall, the council asked Rex Jones to arrange with the Village Hall Management Committee for Ian Venables to meet the contractor to discuss these concerns.

The Parish Council expressed sincere appreciation of the work done by the Village Hall Management Committee, and the time and effort put in to serve the community.

- e) 2020 – 2021 accounts have been submitted to the Internal Auditor. The auditor will begin the process on 10th May.

21/39 Correspondence

- a) ACV on the Rose & Crown – no further developments
- b) Parking Services - the new restrictions will begin on Monday 17th May 2021, and lines will be painted in 50mm primrose to ensure it fits with the conservation area. Parking enforcement officers will patrol from that date, and a 6-month monitoring period will apply to Essendon in case of any unintended consequences from the parking restrictions. Noted.
- c) Request from Countryside and Rights of Way for information on path surfaces, stiles, gates, steps and signage damaged by extra use during lockdown, combined with bad weather. A project to repair these is to be launched. If possible, a plan and photos should be included. Noted
- d) Playground annual inspection will take place in May 2021. Noted
- e) Armed Forces Day 2021 - Celebrations begin on 21 June when the Armed Forces Day flag is raised at buildings across the country with Reserves Day and Armed Forces Day celebrated on 23 June and 26 June respectively. Any planned events should be registered on the Armed Forces Day website. The council is not aware of any events planned in the village.
- f) There is a call for evidence from the Department of Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) on improving broadband connectivity in rural and remote areas of the UK. In addition, DCMS would also like to receive information on both the known benefits of broadband services and the current barriers to deployment and take-up. Views and experiences of consumers' broadband are invited via an online survey. The consultation closes at 11:45pm on 11 June 2021. It is understood that the village will soon be offered fibre optic connections.
- g) Request from a resident for repairs to Footpath 5 – referred to Dawn Grocock from HCC Countryside and Rights of Way
- h) Request from a resident re gate to cricket field – referred to Cricket Club
- i) Request from a resident re access to the village tennis courts – referred to the Tennis Club
- j) Notification from a resident that there has been no progress on the drains on West End Lane

21/40 Next Essendon Parish Council Meetings:

June 14

July 12

September 13

Meeting ended at 20:13