

**MINUTES of the MEETING of ESSENDON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**HELD in the Village Hall on MONDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019 at 7.00pm**

**PRESENT:**

Councillors:

Mike Brown (Chair), Ian Venables (Vice Chair), Keith Venables, Rex Jones, Tracey Willetts, Stephen Boulton (County Councillor) Clerk Vikki Bloomfield and Nerine Chalmers, and twelve members of public

- 1 Fran Christensen not in attendance.
  - 2 No declarations of personal or financial interest in the Agenda were made.
  3. Minutes from 17<sup>th</sup> June 2019 signed by the chair.
  - 4a. IV reported that the supplier was presenting difficulties relating to the installation of the flagpole. **It was proposed by IV and seconded by MB that IV search for a local company to install the flagpole independent of the supply. SB in agreement.**
  - 4b. **Playground** - The clerk reported the that the swing leg has been replaced. Missing caps have been replaced and the baby swings have been secured by CPM playgrounds. Oakham Landscapes have cut the grass and tidied up the playground. Quotes from Kompan for a replacement bearing for the Spica received for £1592. The installation is £450 plus vat. A quote from TDC received for £600 for the tree and hedge reduction. **IV proposed to meet with Robert Craig to confirm the work to be carried out. If satisfactory IV to go ahead with the quote. Seconded by MB and all in agreement. It was agreed to review the Spica in the Spring and obtain local quotes from Kompan approved installers.**
  - 4c. **Clerk appointment** - MB reported that Vikki Bloomfield had resigned as Parish Clerk effective from the 13 September 2019. He thanked her for her hard work over the last few months. He further reported that the Parish Council had appointed Nerine Chalmers as its new Parish Clerk who had commenced employment that day, the 2 September 2019. He welcomed her to the meeting and wished her well in her new role.
  - 4d. **Game Fair Tickets** MB reported that he had received from Hatfield House a number of gratuity tickets to the Game Fair in July 2019, He had distributed the tickets within the area and he had retained and used 2 tickets for himself. They had a nominal value of £50.
  - 4e. **Village Hall Picnic on the Green event** that was sponsored by the Parish Council in the sum of £400. It was a huge success and the loan from the Parish Council for the event has now been returned.
  5. **Forge Cottages Parking.** A number of local residents have, for a number of years, been parking in the bus stop lay-by outside Forge Cottages. The Highways Authority have recently written to those residents requiring them to stop parking there so that busses can use the lay-by and not have to stop in the road to pick up and drop off passengers. A resident had raised this matter with the Parish Council and they had been referred to their County Councillor, SB. SB reported to the meeting that the Police had complained to the Highways Authority about the health and safety risk associated with the parking issue and the necessity of busses to stop in the road and that, consequently, the Highways Authority had issued the letter to the residents informing them that parking restrictions would be enforced.
- SB reported that he had spoken to both County and Borough officers and, following his intervention, he confirmed that the parking restrictions will not to be enforced for the time being and that residents can continue to park there. This is not a long-term solution and he is waiting for proposals from the Highways Authority later in the week.

The Chair, with the agreement of the other Councillors, closed this part of the meeting and moved to the next item to thereby allow the members of the public present to speak to the meeting.

6. **Matters raised by public.** Many of those present were the effected residents of Forge Cottages and expressed dissatisfaction at the letter from the Highways Authority and the imposition of the parking restrictions within the bus stop lay-by. A number pointed out that they are blue badge holders with very limited mobility and that alternative parking nearby was not convenient. They suggested that the bus stop should move to Church Street or School Lane so that they could continue to use the bus stop lay-by for their parking. SB repeated that Highway Authority engineers were considering options which SB expected to receive later that week. Residents raised the continuing high speed of traffic on Essendon Hill. SB has a budget for traffic calming and he will look at options.

KV reminded those present that parking at the rear off Rectory Close had previously been proposed as a solution but that had not been carried out by County or the Borough. MB noted that parking in the bus stop lay-by had been discussed at the Parish Council approximately two years previously and that the engineers had at that time suggested that the lay-by be extended a little to provide a dual-purpose bay which included some parking – notably disabled parking. He expressed the Parish Council's hope that a safe and workable solution could be arrived at.

The Chair then reopened the Parish Council meeting.

7. Cheque signing

The following payments were authorised.

TDC tree care	£630
CPM Playgrounds	£513.60
Moody Grounds	£240
HAPTC	£125
Moody Grounds	£180
Victoria Bloomfield 13/05-13/08 Wages	£924.56
Stationery/Ink	£60.56

8. **Planning applications decisions**

6/2019/1444/VAR Proposed Development at: West End Farm – WHBC had refused the variation.

9. **Correspondence** A Brochure was received from the charity shop in Royston with pictures of an old property in Essendon. The property no longer exists. KV to put in the scrap book.

10. **AOB** - Councillor training refresher course details to be sent to TW to see if she is available to attend.

#### **Dates of next meetings**

21 October 2019

25 November 2019

**Meeting closed at 7.45pm**