

**MINUTES of the MEETING of ESSENDON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**HELD in the Village Hall on MONDAY 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 7.00pm**

**PRESENT:**

Councillors:

Ian Screech (Chair), Mike Brown, Ian Venables, Keith Venables, Fran Christensen, Borough Councillor Jonathan Boulton and County Councillor Stephen Boulton Clerk Dee Daniell and five members of the public

- 1 No apologies of absence received.
- 2 No declarations of personal or financial interest in the Agenda.
- 3 Minutes of the meetings of 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017 were read, approved and duly signed.
- 4 **MATTERS ARISING:**
  - a. **WAR MEMORIAL**

It was agreed to install a ¾ bell bollard in front of the wall surrounding the war memorial at a total cost of £1,500. It was suggested the clerk contact Landhold Developments to ascertain if any contribution towards this cost would be forthcoming as this would be greatly appreciated.
  - b. **TESCO BAGS OF HELP**

Footpath number 3 tarmacking was complete and the trip hazard removed. The trip hazard identified by ROSPA at the entrance into the playground had also been tarmacked and removed. One of the overhanging trees has been removed and the hedging cut back to the perimeter of the property adjoining the footpath.

It was decided a quote for almost £2000 from Kompan for the installation of a picnic bench be refused. It was agreed to purchase a picnic bench from B&Q together with a fixing kit to anchor the bench to the grass.

Regarding the playground drainage an email from Bruce Judge at HCC was read. There is no drainage problem and no drainage plans are available. It was agreed the clerk follow up as O & M installed drawings are a necessity in planning developments to request a copy of the plans showing the location of the soakaway.
- 5 **ANY MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC.**

A member of the public expressed disappointment that footpath number 3 had not been tarmacked to the beginning of the golf course and that overhanging vegetation in that section had not been cut back. It was explained that the tarmacking was to eliminate the previously identified trip hazard and the overhanging vegetation had been reported.
- 6 **FINANCE**

Final accounts had been signed off and sent to BDO the external auditors. An error in the Council Support Grant was identified resulting in a delay, incurring a fine to the Parish Council. This has now been rescinded and we are awaiting the receipt of the final audit papers for display. This is the last time accounts will be externally audited owing to the fact that we are a Parish Council with an income less than £25,000.

*Cheques were signed for the following expenditure.*

D. Daniell Clerk Salary 19/6/17-4/9/17	£413.16
HMRC June/September	£103.40
Edge Gardens Hedge/Grass Cutting 2016/17	£320.00
A. Robinson Playground Grass Cutting 2017	£50.00
Poppy Appeal Wreath ordered	£26.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£912.56</b>
- 7 **PLANNING MATTERS**

Mike Brown updated the Council on applications that had been approved including Warrenwood Manor stable block accommodation and Ivory House addition of a gymnasium. An application from 33 Glebe Close for an extension was briefly discussed

but it was felt no comment is necessary. Essendonbury Farm application for an Office/Reception building would be considered later.

8 PLAYING FIELD HEDGE CUTTING

As this was no longer able to be carried out by Edge Gardens it had been cut by Simon Killick. It needs a further cut and Mr Killick could not be contacted and Simon Christensen kindly offered to cut it prior to the bank holiday fete. It is now in need of a radical cut back prior to winter and Ian Venables will contact Mr M Hill with a view to offering him a contract for maintaining the hedge and possibly the hedges around the tennis court.

At this point the cutting of the grass in the communal areas of the allotments was raised. Several options were suggested. It was decided to hold a meeting of all allotment holders to discuss the issue.

9 PARISH COUNCIL POST BOX

The clerk had raised the issue of the post box being used by the 200 Club and felt it inappropriate in view of privacy of certain parish council matters. One letter addressed to the clerk had already been opened in error. It was decided only two keyholders would have access in future. The caretaker and the clerk. Any post for the village hall and the 200 club would be passed to the treasurer of the village hall committee.

10 CASUAL VACANCY

Owing to the sad loss of Parish Councillor Alan Steele a Casual Vacancy had been advertised in June and owing to the lack of applications a co-option is necessary. Mr Rex Jones had been attending parish meetings and expressed a firm interest to join the Parish Council. With no other interested parties it was decided to co-opt Mr Jones. Proposer Ian Venables, seconded Keith Venables.

11 CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from Herts&Essex air ambulance seeking contributions. It was suggested contacting them with a view to a future demonstration for the fete. Borough Councillor Jonathan Boulton suggested approaching them with a view to a training exercise. Ian Venables (chair of the fete committee) will contact them.

COLE GREEN WAY Greenspace Action Plan 2018-2023 was displayed. It was agreed to put the document on the website

WEEKLY LICENSING email listing grant approved for the garage at Morrisons supermarket to sell alcohol and light refreshments between 11pm and 5am.

12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The drain outside the village hall is blocked and will be reported.

16 Glebe Cottages overhanging vegetation. The chair will write to the owners.

A414 Cole Green Rubbish and Recycling traffic flow problem. County Councillor Stephen Boulton informed the council that CCTV cameras may be installed to allow internet access to view the entrance. The clerk suggested another village skip event for the villagers that was previously successful. County Councillor Stephen Boulton offered to investigate the possibility of arranging another skip day.

Overhanging vegetation on the walkway between Glebe Cottages and Rectory Close will be reported.

Essendon Village Sign – lumps of cornice reported fallen off. Ian Venables will repair.

LOCAL PLAN – Still under consideration by the inspectors. There should be a decision by early next year.

SID – Any decision on when this will be installed.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at 7pm**

**This meeting was closed at 8.05pm**