

Draft Minutes

MINUTES of the MEETING of ESSENDON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD in the Village Hall on MONDAY 20th November 2017 at 7.00pm

PRESENT:

Councillors:

Ian Screech (Chair), Mike Brown, Keith Venables, Rex Jones, Clerk Dee Daniell and three members of the public

- 1 Apologies of absence received from Ian Venables and Fran Christensen.
- 2 No declarations of personal or financial interest in the Agenda.
- 3 Minutes of the meeting of 9th October 2017 were read as amended, approved and duly signed.
- 4 **MATTERS ARISING:**
 - a. **WAR MEMORIAL**

The Chair has met with a representative from Hertfordshire County Council Highways Division to view the site of the proposed bollard. It was agreed that a half bell bollard would be more suitable and it was advised that it should be sited within the kerb. It was suggested that we contact Ringway direct if we require assistance in positioning the bollard. Thanks were expressed to Terry Venables for the recent wall repair.
 - b. **TESCO BAGS OF HELP**

Due to the absence of Ian Venables the drainage issue could not be discussed further at this meeting.
 - c. **PLAYING FIELD HEDGE CUTTING**

The councillors agreed that the hedge cutting had been carried out to an excellent standard and it was also agreed to contact Robert Craig for the consideration of raising a future contract for hedge cutting next year.
 - d. **RUBBISH AND RECYCLING SKIP EVENT**

No response as yet from the email to County Councillor Stephen Boulton regarding a future "Cage Day" for the village and as he was not in attendance could not as yet provide an answer.
 - e. **ESSENDON VILLAGE SIGN REPAIR**

Due to the absence of Ian Venables this issue could not be discussed further at this meeting.
 - f. **SID**

The clerk had followed up by email regarding the positioning of the SID and it was confirmed that it is still in the schedule of works, hopefully to be completed by the end of November?
 - g. **VILLAGE CHRISTMAS TREE**

This is under way and now planned for tree lighting on Thursday 14th December at 7.00pm with carols by the church choir and mince pies and mulled wine to be available. In future years a sub-committee will be formed early in the new year to organise a more elaborate event for the village.
 - h. **FAULT REPORTING**

The report of overgrown vegetation on footpath number 3 reported by a member of the public at a recent meeting was reported to Hertfordshire ROW. The response including a photograph showing no overgrown vegetation was shown to the Councillors. This footpath will be on the mowing and strimming list for spring 2018.

There was some discussion of the lamp light at the rear of Rectory Close garages. It was reported that the maintenance team had visited and inspected the lamp and now it is off all the time. The clerk will report it once again to the garages department at WHBC.
- 5 **ANY MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC.**
 - a. The Councillors were asked if the Christmas tree had yet been obtained and if not then it is possible that this can be supplied from a local farm. It was confirmed that

Draft Minutes

Gascoyne Estates had been contacted and the email had been passed to the park ranger but as yet there had been no response. The Dutch Nursery had also been approached to supply a tree but may not have the appropriate size of tree.

- b. The Councillors were informed that an Enforcement Action by Hertfordshire County ROW has been raised regarding a CCTV camera on Hornbeam Lane and a fence that has been moved. As this is a private land dispute it was not considered an item that the parish council could be involved in.
- c. The Councillors were informed of a community leaf clearing action in the churchyard on 2nd December at 12.30pm and it was agreed this could be advertised on the Facebook page and the parish council website. The clerk agreed to post this action.
- d. It was reported that "lamping" had been taking place and large numbers of birds had been beheaded with just their bodies left behind.

6 ALLOTMENTS

The Chair confirmed a successful meeting had been held with the allotment holders and it had been agreed that rents will be increased by £5 per plot next year to the still relatively inexpensive annual rent of £25 per plot. This increase to cover the purchase of a good quality strimmer that would be stored with the reconditioned lawn mower that had been donated by Councillor Rex Jones. This increase to also cover the expense of servicing the strimmer. It was suggested that allotment holders be trained in the use of the strimmer prior to installation and a notice regarding appropriate health and safety issues be posted. The clerk to contact HAPTC for advice on appropriate wording to cover the legal aspects of users of said equipment.

7 GRANTS TO CHURCHYARD AND VILLAGE HALL

As these grants were increased last year, it was agreed to maintain the same payments for this year 2017/2018.

8 FINANCE

Cheques were signed for the following expenditure.

Tree Heritage (new tree for playing field)	£180.00
Xmas tree stand Mill Green Forge	£60.00
TDC Tree Care Hedge Cutting	£540.00
Maintaining/Developing Website	£330.00
Clerk Duties 5/9/17-20/11/17	£413.36
Admin expenses to date	£34.60
HMRC November tax payment	£103.20

TOTAL **£1,661.16**

The clerk presented the budget for 2018/2019. The matter of setting up a reserve fund account for the village hall was discussed to be decided at the next meeting when the precept will also be considered.

9 PLANNING MATTERS

There was some discussion regarding the Birchall Garden Suburb local plan and the report received from the Welwyn Garden City Society opposing the plan. It was noted and progress will be observed.

Orme Court planning application has been approved for reallocation of parking spaces and bin placement.

33 Glebe Cottages planning application for rear extension has been refused.

Warrenwood Manor Stables planning application for first floor amendment refused.

Warrenwood Manor planning application for basement level amendment approved.

Camleigh Farm planning application single storey extension approved.

Essendonbury Farm variation and Wildewood extensions awaiting decisions.

10 CORRESPONDENCE

- a. SUNSET VIEW – discussion of email from prospective purchaser that Guinness Trust has increased the price at the last moment. As this development was specifically to assist local people to purchase affordable homes, Mike Brown will draft a letter to Guinness with our response to the increase.

Draft Minutes

b. HERTFORDSHIRE YEAR OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY 2018 – an email from HAPTC regarding funding options for parish councils to pursue and was discussed with a view to considering equipment for the playing field. The chair to present the funding options to the playing field committee at their next meeting. The email will be circulated to Councillors.

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was suggested that items of interest occurring as a result of works initiated by the parish council be published in the parish magazine.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 8th January 2018 at 7pm

This meeting was closed at 8.10pm