

EASTON ROYAL ANNUAL COMMUNITY MEETING
Chaired by Easton Royal Parish Council

Thursday 18th April 2023
Easton Royal Village Hall
at 6.00 pm

MINUTES

Present : Anna Patterson (Chair), Peta Puyo (Clerk), Jerry Kunkler (Wiltshire Council) Chris Needham-Bennett, Fay & Tom Doyle, Paul Narizzano, Bev & Hew Helps, Liz Johnson, Tricia & Allen Duncan, Liz & Brian Norman, Amanda & Mark Baines, Carole & Ivan Gale, Sarah Townsend-Rose, Colin Sibun, Sheiler Grainger, Judy Grange, Jennifer Turton, Hilary & Cedric Hollinsworth, Jan & Richard Howard, Ben Cooper, Katie Stamford-Hill, Mark Edwards, Carole & Ray Choules, Ant Upton, Jane Lightfoot, Daniel Puyo, Maggie Elliot, Polly & Colin Yates, Sarah & Colin Edwards, Barb Martin, Bev Turton (18h20), David Patterson (18h30).

1. Opening comments and welcome – Chair

Anna Patterson welcomed everyone to the first, newly named, Annual Community Meeting. It was reiterated that this meeting is not a Parish Council meeting and therefore no official PC business was to be carried out. This meeting was to highlight and celebrate the achievements of the village over the past 12 months.

A change of format had been decided in that all reports from the village groups and representatives were printed out and made available to the public. These persons were available during and after the meeting to respond directly to any particular questions that may arise.

2. Apologies for absence

James de Pass , Karen and Bill Nimmo-Scott, Rev Mark Windsor, Fiona & Mark de Pass, Bertie & Frances Stevenson, Emma & James Dickie, Shirley & Chris Machin, Dawn & Jim Hamblin, Ann Dancer.

3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 19th May 2022

APPROVED

4. Report from Wiltshire Council – Jerry Kunkler

Jerry was very pleased to see an exceptional number of residents at our meeting. After a brief introduction outlining his role and tenure within Wilts CC, Jerry highlighted that WCC, unlike many councils, was within budget with a large percentage of the annual budget going on adult and child care. Before being questioned, he knew that potholes and the speeding were going to be issues raised. Everyone is encouraged to report potholes on the MyWilts app. and photos taken. At the moment, 600 new ones are being reported weekly 900 are being repaired weekly to endeavour to catch up on the backlog.

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When those present were asked if there were any questions for Cllr Kunkler, the following issues were raised :

Danger of potholes beyond Conygre Farm and on the road to Burbage.

Response: WCC very aware of the situation and Jerry will contact the Councillor for Burbage to try and advance the resurfacing of that area.

The role of the Parish Steward and the difficulty of getting any jobs done, especially when they are taken away from regular tasks to fill potholes and do gritting in the bad weather.

Response: They are well aware of the issues with our particular Parish Steward and a meeting is to be held on Wednesday, 10th May with Matt Perrot and Malcolm Bevan (Highways) to which Tom Doyle was invited (councillor ER).

Should the Parish Steward not respond well to the PC's request for works to be done, Jerry should be contacted.

Unacceptable smell from sheep in a village field. Who should be contacted and what can be done?

This is an issue for the Environment Agency and should be reported to them.

5. 2022/2023 Parish Council Report – Anna Patterson (Chair)

Thanks were extended to Margaret Holden for over 20 years of dedication to the PC. She has been sorely missed. Her position as Chair was filled by Anna Patterson and Vice Chair by Ben Cooper. Bev Turton was welcomed following her co-option as a councillor.

Central roles of the Council this year :

Communication

A new website and distinct email addresses for the councillors have been created so as to better comply with various legal regulations. Everyone is encouraged to check out the website where all agendas, minutes, planning applications and alerts etc can be found.

Highways & Footpaths

A great deal of time is taken up with ROW however very positive changes this year have included:

- White Gates on entry to the village (thanks to Margaret Holden for pushing for these)
- BT box refurbished and painted (thanks to Tom and Faye for cleaning it.
- Success in defending a claim for the invoice of the Speed Indicator Device order which, on delivery, was obviously not appropriate for the needs of the village. The PC will start a new process for SIDS, liaising with Highways and the residents.

On a less positive side, the village is experiencing major issues with the Parish Steward and general maintenance of the village gullies and roads.

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Tom Doyle is in frequent contact with Matt Perrott. Milestone Infrastructure has now been contracted by WCC for all maintenance work (previously Ringway). It is hoped the situation will improve.

- A sweep of the entire village has been requested but no date has been confirmed.
- A request for the gullies to be cleared has also been made – in particular with regards to the one outside of the church.
- Resurfacing of the section of the B3087 beyond ER, given its very bad state, is high on the priority list but WCC are waiting for the new budget before giving an update.
- A new soak away for the junction north of ER, off Ram Alley/Wootton Rivers has been approved but will probably not be carried out this year as not a priority, despite being frequently flooded.

ROW

Beverley Helps, Ben Cooper and James de Pass are the leads on this very time-consuming role. The PC is responsible for maintaining the footpaths and we are very fortunate to have a good group of volunteers to help do this. In particular thanks were extended to Chris Needham-Bennett, Colin Sibun, Hew and Beverley Helps and Paul Narizzano and his team of helpers.

There were a number of issues last year and the PC has worked hard to ensure that these do not repeat themselves. On Sunday the whole PC met to carry out an audit of the paths, highlighting issues and looking at ways to resolve them.

Should you have any concerns with a ROW, please contact the Clerk directly so that the PC can be aware of this and it is very helpful with transparency.

OPEN SPACES

Paul Narizzano is our lead. It was felt that IDVerde carried out good work on the Rec and other public areas. The two dog poo bins are well used and are now contracted to be emptied by IDVerde. Our thanks to Bev and Hew Helps who have emptied the bin at the end of Harris Lane up until now – a rather thankless task. All dog owners are reminded that they must clear up after their dogs.

Ash die-back has meant that some trees have had to be felled on the Rec for safety reasons. The PC now ringfence part of the budget for tree maintenance as this will be an ongoing issue and at a significant cost.

The playground continues to be a great asset and well used. Fundraising and grant requests have been exhausted, so the intention is to provide as big a hardcourt area as possible for the basketball goal with the money ringfenced for this use.

PLANNING

A quiet year. The PC work to try and support applications where they can and where appropriate. They endeavour to ensure that neighbours are aware of any applications that may affect them.

Finally, the Chair wished to thank all of the community groups and volunteers for everything they do to make the village what it is. (The individual reports can be found on the website)

- Particular thanks went to the **Village Hall Committee** who offer many events

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throughout the year, as well as the regular Bar Night (thanks to Allan Duncan who works so hard for this) and Greasy Spoon.

- Thanks also to those who organise the regular **Coffee mornings and Craft afternoons** – much appreciated and a great way for getting people together.

- The **School** and PC have renewed communications and are very happy to see the school newsletter shared with the residents. The school thrives in the village and their use of the woodland is wonderful for the children. We can all look forward to the Coronation Tea that they are hosting for the residents.

- **The Heritage Group** thrives and offers so much interest for the village. Thanks to Liz Johnson for her tireless efforts.

- **The Poppy Appeal**, Remembrance Service and Curry lunch are a much-enjoyed annual event. A large sum was raised and thanks were given to the Nimmo-Scotts for organising this.

- The **Church** under the helm of the PCC is another valued resource. They held a wonderful Flower Festival for the Jubilee last year as well as the Christmas and Easter services that were so well attended. Thanks in particular to Hilary Hollinsworth and Judith McLain for keeping everyone so well informed of the church events.

- Thanks to the **Orchard group** for the ongoing maintenance of the trees, the lovely bulbs as well as all of the volunteers who helped remove the tyres from the Rec. Thanks also to Jan Howard for all her work on the troughs at the top of the street.

- Finally, thanks to the unsung heroes – the **Speed Watch** team and their ongoing dedication to help reduce the traffic speed on the main road.

6. CORONATION

A committee has been formed to organise events over the Coronation weekend. The PC have purchased a CRIII flag. Thanks to a donation of £155 raised at the coffee mornings, a plaque has been ordered to be unveiled by the tree that the de Pass family have very kindly donated (and planted) to mark this occasion. This is to be found at the bottom of the village on the small triangle, overlooking the Clump. A further donation from the PC is being given to cover incidental costs.

IDVerde have been asked to mow the Rec for the occasion.

7. FINANCE - Figures for the year ending 31.03.2023 to be placed on the Village Website as per Audit Requirements. The internal audit was carried out by Phil Bates – our thanks to him.

An explanation was given as to why the PC needed to increase the precept this year (Grass cutting, statutory increase to clerk salary, tree works, potential election costs, sufficient reserves). Sadly more and more budgets are being squeezed at WCC and more self-funding is required.

8. Matters of Interest

On April 23rd, the new Government Emergency Alerts service is being tested. Be aware that you should receive a call on your mobile phone at 3pm.

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It was requested that the residents have their say on the type of Speed Indicator Device (size and model) if one is purchased in the future.

Issues with speed through the village and non-respect of 20mph. Speed Watch team is not allowed to monitor The Street as it is deemed to be a "Cul de Sac". The Clerk will send a message out the village reminding them of this speed limit.

Concern has been raised as people have been seen measuring around the field behind Pathways. The PC confirmed that they had not been informed of any planning in this area.

The PC were questioned as to why they had contracted IDVerde to carry out two annual cuttings of Cross Lane when there had been an offer to do this at no cost. The PC confirmed that this had been discussed at length during a previous PC meeting and, so as to avoid the issues in the past and the maintaining of certain ROW, it sadly had been agreed that it was better to contract out this work.

This Annual Community Meeting closed at 7pm and everyone was invited to stay on as the bar was opening.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm. The Village Hall bar was opened and many stayed to end the evening.