

EASTON ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held in the Village Hall

Thursday, 14th JULY 2022

at 19:00

MINUTES

Nine members of public were present.

1. **Apologies for absence**

Ben Cooper, Beverley Helps, James de Pass, Jerry Kunkler

2. **Member's declaration of interest**

None

3. **Approval of the Minutes** of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on Thursday, 19th May 2022

APPROVED

Matters arising

April meeting

Item 16.2 : Public issue with footpaths

Given the members of the public were present to hear about this point on the agenda, it was agreed that this item be discussed at the beginning of the meeting.

The three lead councillors for ROWs were absent from the meeting. The leads had been asked to prepare a proposal for the meeting. Each of these councillors responded individually by email but there was no clear plan of action or agreement on how to move forward and resolve the issues. This was most regrettable as no valid discussion could be had during the meeting.

Some improvement was noted to some paths and thanks were extended to those who had helped in this. However, despite meetings having taken place with the landowners, there were still notable problems, in particular with EROY 9,10 and 11. It was **RESOLVED** that the council would contact Steven Leonard (Wilts ROW officer) to clarify the PC's position and then send a letter to each landowner reminding them of their own responsibilities regarding overgrowth, locked gates and style maintenance throughout the year.

Everyone present felt it very regrettable that this situation was now requiring "official" measures as the footpaths had, until this year, been well maintained and enjoyed by so many people.

Once a plan of action has been made, it was agreed that groups of volunteers should be able to access and maintain any ROW paths on behalf of the Parish Council without obtaining landowners authorisation as it is the PC's responsibility to maintain the ready access of these paths to the public. It was confirmed that the maintenance of the kissing gates and the hunter gates is the responsibility of the PC.

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As Pewsey “Walkers are Welcome” has two walks which are mapped through the village, it is all the more important that the pathways be accessible.

One resident questioned whether the PC would be liable should anyone injure themselves on a public ROW. Community First insurance will be contacted to clarify this situation. **ACTION PP**

The PC was aware of the recent problem with a dog and livestock and this had been immediately addressed at the time by a message to the village reminding everyone of the rules regarding dogs and livestock/landowners’ fields.

Item 8 : Speed Monitoring Device

This is an ongoing issue. AP to contact WALC for advice and assistance on how to move forward. **ACTION AP**

Item 9 : Removal of old swings

The council agreed that these should be removed as soon as possible and no later than the end of August. **ACTION BC and JdP**

May meeting

Item 6 : Standing Orders

The proposed amendments to the Standing Orders were **APPROVED**. The latest version will be published on the website.

Item 10 : Tree maintenance Rec

Three companies were contacted and asked to give quotes for the removal of the damaged tree on the Rec. The council **APPROVED** the quote from Rowan Tree Surgery for the sum of £550 + VAT as it was the best value for money for a complete job.

Item 11 : Road signage around the village

TD has made a list of the signs requiring attention in the village and will contact Ken Oliver to arrange for them to be replaced. **ACTION TD**

4. **Report from Jerry Kunkler** (Wiltshire Council) – none

5. **Finance**

PP prepared a bank reconciliation end June and budget expenditure showing the position to date.

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6. Asset Register

The addition of two previously omitted items to the asset register was **APPROVED**. (Clerk computer and clerk printer). The revised register will be published on the website.

7. Clerk's Report

- Signatures for Lloyds bank now function correctly. The council **APPROVED** that online banking can be paperless from now on.

- CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) reporting to WCC has been carried out. The balance is now zero.

- The clerk expressed the need for a method of backing up all PC files. A decision will be made after researching whether an external hard drive or cloud is the most appropriate. **ACTION PP**

- Two further planning applications were discussed as they had been received since the Agenda was published and would require a response before the next meeting.

No objections were raised to applications PL/2022/04938 and PL/2022/04936

- All public bodies need to comply with the WCAG 2.1AA guidelines and be able to update and post documents themselves in a timely manner, be hosted in the UK, be backed up frequently and also own and control the website. The present PC tab on the village website is not deemed a compliant website. To replace it is both complicated, time consuming and costly.

Several options were put to the council and, given the excessive costs that most solutions entail, they have decided that a Hugo Fox website with Cloud Next hosting is the most reasonable solution for ERPC given the budget. **ACTION PP** to start the process and present an acceptable solution by the next meeting.

In the meantime, the PC is very grateful to Hew Helps for the maintenance and updating of the village website which includes the PC tab.

- It was proposed that an ongoing task of preparing policies for approval by the council be put in place. **ACTION PP**

8. Grant request Holy Trinity Church

A letter was received from the churchwarden requesting a grant towards the upkeep of the Churchyard and Cemetery. Before making a decision, it was resolved that a letter should be written asking for clarification as to the budget situation of the Churchyard Fund held by the treasurer of Holy Trinity Church.

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9. Playground (AP BC)

The PC **AGREED** that the ERPFG could apply for a National Lottery Awards for All grant in the hope of obtaining the final funds required to complete phase 2 of the playground project.

PP contacted ROSPA regarding the annual playground inspection. They confirmed that this will take place end September/early October. She also contacted Community First insurance to gain assurance that the PC is covered in the interim period July – September, given the Post Installation Inspection for the new playground had taken place in July 2021. The insurers confirmed that the PC would receive continued insurance this year until the programmed annual inspection in September.

AP continues to carry out weekly inspections and any incidents are logged.

The new waste bin is well used and is emptied regularly by PN. The PC wishes to thank him for this.

10. Pop up Pizza Van (TD)

The PC **APPROVED** the request for a monthly Pizza van on a Friday night on a trial basis as they are very supportive of village events. This will be reviewed at the next meeting.

11. Items from the General Public (MH)

- Overgrowing trees on Rec

A resident whose garden backs on to the Rec has reminded the PC of their concerns at the time of certain trees being planted that they would eventually require trimming to avoid blocking the sunlight to their garden. It was **RESOLVED** that the PC would ask the tree surgeon about this when he comes to fell the damaged tree.

- Conditions of footpaths – discussed above

12. Planning Applications - see below. Two further applications have been added (see above)

13. Date of next meetings

Thursday 8th September Parish Council Meeting (7pm)

Thursday 17th November Parish Council Meeting (7pm)

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PLANNING: Planning Applications since the last meeting:

2022/03831	Lambs Croft Pollard Beech Tree	Objection ERPC Approved WCC
2022/03840	6 Hillwinds, Burbage Road Erection of single-story rear extension & detached double garage	No objection ERPC Decision pending WCC
2022/04938	2 Conygre Farms Lawful Development Certificate for an existing use	No objection ERPC Decision pending WCC
2022/04936	1 Conygre Farms Lawful Development Certificate for an existing use	No objection ERPC Decision Pending WCC

FINANCE:

Payments made:

Clerk salary May	£235.77
Community First Insurance (yr2)	£350.47
Glasdon (Dog poo bin bags)	£60.23
P. Puyo (Ink supplies)	£37.06
P. Puyo (Ink supplies)	£44.42
Idverde (grass cutting)	£360.64
Clerk salary June	£235.77
P Narizzano (bin installation costs)	£126.24

Payments to Approve

None	
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Payments Received:

Lloyds Bank (complaints compensation)	£80.00
Donation Playground (ringfenced)	£500.00
VAT reclaim	£347.30

PLAYGROUND

Amount remaining and ringfenced for the Playground (basketball court) **£5154.81**