

# ENGLISHCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL (EPC)

(Serving Englishcombe, Inglesbatch, Haycombe, Kilkenny, Nailwell & Padleigh)

Meeting of The Council 9th January 2023: 1930 in The Old Schoolhouse, Englishcombe Village.

## Draft Minutes.

Members in attendance: Robert Law (Chairman)(RL); Will Pow(WP); Brian Scurlock(BS); Brian Huggett(BH)

Guest Speaker: Chantel Young – Village Agent, West of England Rural Network(WERN).

6 Parishioners.

The Chairman in opening Meeting, welcomed Visitors and Members.

He further reported on the resignation of The Clerk Jack Roach with effect from 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022. EPC had been aware that on joining that Jack had advised EPC of his ongoing application to join The Paras. The Chairman was asked to pass on congratulations and thanks for the sterling work during his short period in office.

**1.0 Apologies for absence:** Anne Corlett, Annie Watson & Matt McCabe (Ward Councillor). RL to canvas views on Council Meeting days that suits the majority of councillors.

**1.1. BH volunteered to take and produce Minutes, and was duly delegated to do so**

**2. Declarations of Interest & Dispensations** – None.

**3. Minutes of 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022 were approved** – proposed by WP seconded by BH, and duly signed by the Chairman.

**3.1 Matters arising & not covered in the Agenda:** BH raised the matter of The Furlong on Rectory Farm Lane which has now been empty for 4 years. RL confirmed he had spoken to the owners, The Duchy of Cornwall, who had confirmed their intention, at some time, to rectify the position by site development. **RL undertook to speak again with The Duchy about timescale and extent, and report back at the next PCM.**

**4.1. Parishioners Matters.** No points were raised by Guests or Members

**4.2. Correspondence** – None.

**4.3. Recruitment to EPC.** A vacancy that occurred by the resignation of Theresa King has allowed EPC to co-opt a replacement. Two expressions of interest have

been received from Lucy Scurlock resident of Kilkenny Lane and Nick Spicer 2 years an Inglesbatch resident. EPC Members were in favour of both being co-opted, but our permitted number of councillors is 7. BH offered to stand down, however Brian Scurlock indicated that he too wanted to stand down, and it was agreed that his resignation be accepted. With appropriate notification to Election Services at B&NES this meant that EPC could co-opt one member at the current PCM and a second at the next PCM. It was agreed that Nick Spicer (proposed by RL) be invited to join EPC with immediate effect, and for Lucy Scurlock to be co-opted at the 6th March meeting. Other applications, if received, would also be considered at that time.

**Action RL**

#### **4.4. The Chairman introduced and welcomed Chantel Young, our WERN Village Agent.**

Chantel outlined the many ways in which she and her colleagues have been able to help and support people living in the Rural Areas of B&NES. Typical of the issues where help has recently been provided:

1. Loneliness.
2. Care Needs.
3. Mental Health.
4. Financial Problems.
5. Practical Help in the Home.
6. Help and Advice re Benefit Entitlement.

In a wide ranging excellent presentation Chantel gave examples of recent help and advice given to her communities: Community Oil Buying; virtual wellbeing monitoring service; Route 60 – driving awareness and safety events for older drivers; guided walks & mobility issues.

**Chantel can be contacted on: 01275 333700 ; wern.org.uk/banes-village-agents or through your Parish or Ward Councillor.**

#### **5. Planning.**

**5.1. Planning Application for workshop at 2 Duchy Villas: B&NES planning** has raised concerns about this application which in their view was oversized and may affect the setting of the Wandsdyke AM. The Application has been withdrawn again by the applicant, but EPC with its recommendation for approval, will ask for clarification from Planning. BH registered his dissatisfaction with the provisions within the Parish Charter for referral to the Planning Committee where Parishes and Planning officers differ, and will raise these shortcomings at the Bathavon Forum. RL has also asked for a meeting with the planning dept to put discussions and views taken by both parties on a better footing. **Action RL**

**5.2. Haycombe Barn.** Members welcomed confirmation from Planners that replacement of metal to the timber frame of the Barn and other works on the Barn

and Grounds was entirely lawful. The owners have done much to improve the area with tree planting and the running of rare breed sheep.

**5.3. EPC noted the Sulis Down** proposal of a further 300 houses, and continues to support SOBA in their objections.

## **6. Financial report.**

### **6.1. balances up to 5th January 2023**

**Englishcombe Parish Council:     £10803**

**EPC Millstream & Wheelwrights   £3012**

**CIL:   £3193**

**7. HIGHWAY,PROW and ALLIED MATTERS** – Nothing further to report

**8. Update on Parish Charter:** See 5.1

**9. CIL Expenditure:** No further progress on the provision of two defibrillators. Brief discussion on repainting and relocation of signpost. When weather allows, Parish Notice Board will be removed for repairs and repainting, and paving installed at its base. A larger ‘overthrow’ with enlarged lettering to be affixed to the board and northern entrance to village to be furnished with a more suitable sign that is less likely to be damaged. **Action RL.**

**10. Millstream/Orchard/ Wheelwright’s Workshop:** 2022 review/ 2023 Plans. Zoom Meeting of sub-committee members Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023. **BH will report at the next PCM.**

**11.Parish Web Site:** RL reported that he had spoken with Anne Corlett and that redesign is progressing well. **Report at next PCM.**

## **12. Reports:**

**12.1 Clerk recruitment.** **RL to advertise vacancy** through ALCA, B&NES; Parish notice Board & WhatsApp. In the meantime Clerks responsibilities will be shared by Members. BH suggested that to reduce the workload on the Chairman, the accounts function should be outsourced until a new Clerk was in place. **RL undertook to speak with our current Auditor and others who might help,** but would as temporary clerk maintain the accounts which are now on an Excel spreadsheet. Progress would be conveyed to members at the next EPC meeting.

**12.2. In closing the meeting the chairman thanked Brian Scurlock for his contribution to EPC during the period that he was a member of EPC.**

**Date of next meeting Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 1900H at The Old Schoolhouse.**