

ENGLISHCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

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

**Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday the 28th of
April 2022 at the Acorn Barn, Englishcombe at 7:30pm**

MINUTES

1	<p>Apologies for absence</p> <p>Apologies for absence: Brian Huggett, Annie Watson, Cllr Matthew McCabe, Cllr Neil Butters</p> <p>Councillors attending: Robert Law (Chairman), , Will Pow, Anne Corlett and Brian Scurlock and the Clerk Jack Roach. There were six other attendees.</p>
2	<p>Chairman's Address</p> <p>Introduction of new parish clerk. Outline of events following departure of Kathryn Manchee as Parish Clerk at the end of March 2021.</p> <p>Upcoming Year: RL Would like to thank councillors of EPC for advice given during his Chairmanship. There are many objectives to be achieved this year including spending of CIL. This will include repainting/repairing the parish notice board, the signpost and the laying of a pavement adjacent. EPC aim to facilitate a picnic on Sunday 5th June at the Millstream in celebration of Platinum Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II, and will investigate the sharing of the picnic with refugees from Ukraine and others lands. A church service will also take place at St. Peters to commemorate this occasion.</p> <p>Speeding: EPC acknowledges that speeding though the village remains an issue. RL raised awareness of a mobile app that can record speeding in the village. Questions were raised regarding the effectiveness of the app as it depends on being in the 'right time/right place' to actually capture footage of speeding incidents. Accumulated evidence of speeding would be brought to the attention of the police and B&NES. It was also suggested that granite-sett rumble strips might be a potential deterrent. A suggestion was mooted about the placing of flashing warning signs to deter speeding. Flashing lights and other preventive measures might be at variance with the character of the village, a Conservation Area. This matter will be discussed by the Parish Council in future meetings.</p> <p>Footpath between Rectory Farm Lane and Englishcombe Road: The sign has yet to be re-installed. RL to re-submit Fix-My-Street request to B&NES.</p> <p>Public transport: EPC acknowledges that public transport is an essential service for residents in quieter rural areas such as Englishcombe. There have been problems in sustaining local bus services due to Covid and Central Government funding. There's also a certain lack of awareness in the community over local transport availability. Up-to-date information will be added to the parish noticeboard and the new parish website, which is under development. Questions were raised about subsidised taxis, which RL will look into. Bus companies are reporting a lack of drivers (due to Covid) and funding to sustain</p>

	<p>routes.</p> <p>Planning: Overall, EPC supports residents that wish to build in the village subject to the planning policy legislation. AirBNBs have become more popular, and will need to be the subject of debate in the light of current views by residents.</p>
3	<p>Open Discussion/Parishioners Matters</p> <p>Rubbish disposal has become a problem in the village. AC questioned as to who was responsible for the clearing of rubbish (including fly-tipping) on Bridleways.</p> <p>Concerns were raised that important information was missing from the online Parish Noticeboard. The new website is currently being progressed by AC and the Clerk and will transfer the old domain name onto the new site, once completed.</p> <p>The Chapel will be organising celebrations for the Queen's Jubilee at the Old Schoolhouse, open to all in the parish.</p>
4	<p>Discussion of Parish Finances</p> <p>Win Hugett informed the meeting that a resident of the village Jenny Walker, recently deceased, has bequeathed £1500 to the village. The executors have stated that the bequest should be spent to the benefit of the village at large. Possible suggestions were the installation of a picnic table at the millstream.</p> <p>Clerks Financial Report:</p> <p>As of 5th of April , £14,416.95 is in the main Parish Account. This month we've received the first instalment of the precept from B&NES of £4,333.50. Expenses through standing orders with main account are clerk's fee of £338, and the sweepers fee which has been increased this month by 1.9% to £238.45. This is in line with B&NES rate of increase for contractors.</p> <p>One other larger sum that has been paid this month is to the Dutchy for £313.64. In comparison to last year, before the precept was received in 2021 the balance at the 5th of April was £9,355.34, whereas this year it was at £10,112.21</p> <p>The millstream/wheelwrights Account is at £2,597.40. Similarly last year the balance was at £2,167.84 The community infrastructure Levy stands at £3,188.58. This has remained mostly static from last year due to no expenditure. It's the clerk's view that EPC is currently in line with the budget expenditure this year of £10,202.</p>
5.	<p>Richard Blake-Lobb CEO of the Life Project which uses the Acorn Barn.</p> <p>The LP has been in the village for 9 years. It began due to uncertainty about the future care of young people with learning disabilities as their parents enter later years of their life. Some key services they provide are a day service in Englishcombe village and an allotment at Monk hill road.</p> <p>Sarah Couchman, who was responsible for the running of the project at the Barn, will be leaving at the end of June. Richard would support her replacement Esme, and would</p>

	<p>continue to build up relationships with the parish. Richard will share details about the leaving celebrations on 18th June, for Sarah Couchman.</p> <p>Key values of the Life Project is to recognise and promote the value that people with learning difficulties. It can offer spending time on the allotment, producing art work and other similar constructive activities.</p> <p>The max number of people the project can care for currently are 8 due to limited space. LP aims to see the facilities in Englishcombe in more use throughout the week. The LP currently operates two-days per-week.</p> <p>Jane Hulme is running the Bath Half Marathon in support of the Life Project this year.</p> <p>The LP specifically provides for people with learning difficulties. After the age of 25 support for education from the state stops. The LP does not receive funding from the local council, and it aims to be self-sufficient through contributions from the participants' PIP. For the LP, the downside of receiving local funding is that the council has many complex legal and other requirements. There is also uncertain long-term security of the funding provided due to it being cancelled easily by the council.</p> <p>Richard emphasised that the LP welcomes visitors from the village.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Richard for attending the meeting, explaining the work of the Life Project and allowing us the use of Acorn Barn for our APM.</p>
6	The meeting ended at 9.30pm

Smiff 03/05/22

Jack Roach, Clerk