

DRAFT MINUTES

ENSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the Council was held in Enstone Parish Hall on
Thursday 25TH August 2016 at 7.15 pm

PRESENT: Parish Councillors N. Knott (Chair), C. Glendinning, P. Butler, R. Parker, A. Lee, P. Shaw, M. Ivings, D. Robottom, P. Johnson and County Cllr. Hibbert-Biles and one member of the public. Several residents had also attended with regard to the planning application at Land East of The Drive.

APOLOGIES Cllr. T. Gilbert

IN ATTENDANCE Mrs. B. Sinclair (clerk), Mr. Martin Cummings and two colleagues from Renault Motorsport

93. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:-**

- Cllr. D. Robottom declared an interest in Item 10 (2 The Spinneys).

Land East of The Drive, Enstone, 16/01776/OUT - Residential development of up to 10 dwellings, together with a new access onto The Drive (means of access only). An extension to the deadline had been granted for a further month. The application would be discussed at WODC Uplands Planning Committee on Monday 3rd October 2016. Several residents attended the meeting to discuss the planning application although it was stated on the agenda that the purpose for the item being on the agenda was to arrange a date and time for it to be discussed at a separate Planning Meeting. *The date for the Planning Meeting was duly arranged for Thursday 15th September at 7.15 pm in The Litchfield Room at The Parish Hall.* The clerk to advertise this in the Ensign magazine. The Chair had contacted the Planning Department regarding the lake as no planning application had been received for this. The response from the planning officer was that if the lake had been in situ for more than five years, that this would now be lawful. A Google map from 2011 shows no lake in situ – the Parish Council was to pursue this further as it had asked the District Councillors to investigate this last year and it was most unhappy with the response.

Damage to the crash barrier at Gagingwell

- Carol Geare explained that she had a meeting arranged with the Highways Department tomorrow and requested a meeting with Cllr. Butler with regards to the way forward for traffic calming measures in Gagingwell. A serious accident had occurred the previous week outside of and to her property by an employee from Renault Motorsport.

Update from Renault Motorsport

- Mr. Martin Cummings, Facilities Manager, together with two colleagues from Renault Motorsport attended the meeting to update the Council on its plans to compete in the World Championships. The chassis and ancillary parts would be made at Enstone. The engines will be made in France. There was a need to increase the head count and manufacturing capacity in order to be able to compete. Renault had already recruited an additional 40 employees since last December, a further 60 recruitments were planned for this year and a further 60 recruitments in 2017. The total number of employees by the end of 2017 was expected to be 650 compared to 470 in December 2015. There are 300 employees at the Renault plant in Paris.

- Renault had started its investment programme with an estimated £50 million. With this investment, the building needed to expand and Renault was seeking the continued support of the Parish Council with regards to this.

Questions:-

- Cllr. Parker asked whether the extension was proposed within the confines of the existing site – this was correct. Renault was proposing to reduce its level of outsourcing and proportion of vehicles.
- Cllr. Parker reported that he had been a Parish Council for circa 17 years and was aware of the traffic issues. He felt that if Renault ever wished to expand into the countryside, this would be a problem.
- Mr Cummings invited the Parish Council to a site visit and to offer this to residents too. The investment needed to have a positive impact on the local economy. The Parish Council wished to attend a site visit and this would be arranged.
- A transport monitoring survey had been planned for the coming eight weeks.
- Cllr. Ivings queried whether or not the expansion would create more heavy traffic but the aim was to reduce this.
- Cllr. Parker asked whether Renault might outgrow the site in the future – Mr. Cummings said that as there was a wind tunnel, it would be very difficult to relocate. Mercedes Benz employed 850 people on a smaller site and it stays because there is a wind tunnel.
- Cllr. Shaw raised the Council’s concerns regarding Renault’s employees driving at speed on the roads around the parish. An accident had occurred the previous weekend at Gagingwell (the car had turned over) and the Bicester police observed that they frequently stop drivers from Renault who are speeding – Cllr. Shaw asked how this could be addressed, particularly along the small narrow lanes within the parish? Mr. Cummings had spoken to the driver concerned and the police confirmed that it was an accident and that the car had not been speeding. Cllr. Shaw refuted this statement and thought that with the damage that had occurred, the car must have been speeding. Mr. Cummings agreed to address these concerns with the Human Resources Department and General Management to see what they could do.
- Cllr. Butler explained that the Parish Council was seeking ways to implement traffic calming measures in Gagingwell due to the adverse camber which was the cause of many accidents. The speeding of traffic through Gagingwell was of real concern and queried whether or not this was a cultural issue at Renault and if so, the management had a duty of care on its staff and the local environment to prevent this. Cllr. Butler reiterated that it would be most useful to see the Traffic Monitoring Report and to share this information with the Parish Council. Mr. Cummings agreed that this research would be shared with the Parish Council and that once received, Mr. Cummings would attend a Parish Council meeting with the report.
- To summarise, the planning application for extension of the site was being submitted to WODC at the end of August and the Traffic Management Survey was to be conducted over the next few weeks.
- Mr. Cummings and his colleagues were thanked for attending the meeting.

94. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:-**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 28th July 2016, having been previously circulated were taken as read, agreed and signed. There was one amendment – under the complaint regarding stationary traffic along Coxs Lane and Lidstone Road the word “tractors” was changed to “machinery”. Noted.

95. **MATTERS ARISING:-**

- **Parking at Cleveley** – the clerk to contact PCSO Chris Jones for an update.
- **Painting and cleaning of bus shelters** – The windows had been cleaned and the painting was in progress.
- **Banners at Artyard Café** – It was noted that District Cllr. A. Beaney had not responded to emails for several weeks. The clerk to contact WODC concerning this and to have an update regarding the banners as there were many of these in situ.
- **“Take Your Litter Home” signs** – Cllr. P. Shaw pursuing these further with the help of County Cllr. Hibbert-Biles.
- **Fairytale Farm/Cotswolds Hotel & Spa** – District Cllr. A. Beaney would discuss this with the planning department as to why the Parish Council did not receive a planning application with regards to the new layout of the drive. Still awaiting a response.
- **Japanese Knotweed** – ongoing.
- **Soho Farmhouse** – the clerk to pursue the outstanding planning applications.
- **“The Drive” sign** – this was being replaced.
- **Tew Crossroads signpost** – Highways was sorting out its repair as well as reviewing the road surface.
- **Enstone Good Neighbourhood Scheme** – no response had been received – the clerk to put this into the Ensign magazine once again.
- **Mirrors & traffic calming at Church Enstone** – Cllr. Butler reported that the Planning Department did not allow these to be installed. Noted. With regards to the chicane, a quote was still awaited from Mr David Eining – Cllr. Butler was chasing this up.
- **Relocation of the 30 mph signs along the Lidstone Road/Coxs Lane** – County Cllr. Hibbert-Biles confirmed that these works would be carried out but the timescale was not known.
- **Meeting with neighbouring Parish Councils** – this had been put on hold as not much response had been received – a meeting was going to be arranged with regards to the Highways’ work that the County Council were no longer undertaking due to financial cuts, to see whether Parish or Town Councils would undertake this work – eg. The grass cutting that the County Council used to do (only one cut has been undertaken this year rather than two), cleaning of signs etc. After discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council would not undertake this extra workload and the clerk had informed Highways of this.

96. **PUBLIC DISCUSSION:-**

- Cllr. Knott reported that there had been problems with parking outside the shop as a white van had been issued with a parking permit allowing it to park in the two hour slot. County Cllr. Hibbert-Biles was dealing with this and had spoken to WODC explaining that this was unacceptable.
- “Countryfile Live” had taken place at Blenheim Palace during August causing huge traffic tail backs – the County Council was reviewing this. Noted.
- There had been several complaints of low flying aircraft over Enstone. Noted.
- Overflowing sewerage had been reported from the wells at Church Enstone. Noted.
- Planning Department at WODC – Cllr. Knott felt that the Council should write to the Chief Executive at WODC with regard to concerns at the Planning Department – there had been issues with the planning applications with Willowbrook, Radford, The lake at land East of The Drive, not receiving applications e.g. Fairytale Farm which was within the parish and the ongoing issue that completion of the hall had still not taken place – had the S106 agreement been adhered to, this problem would not have arisen. There was also the issue of

retrospective planning applications at Soho House. The Council unanimously agreed to this. The Chair and clerk to write to the Chief Executive outlining its concerns.

- Cllr. Shaw reminded members that the Enstone Show was being held on Saturday 27th August and looked forward to the Council supporting this.
- Car washing at the Sports Club – Concern was raised regarding this and the clerk to obtain further information from the Sports Club as to the hours involved and what kind of business it was.

97. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

- The Parish Council expressed concern at the delay of the County's grass cutting programme as many verges were still to be cut back and many lanes were a hazard to pedestrians, cyclists and horses etc. – the clerk had spoken to the County Council and reported that the programme was two months behind schedule. County Cllr. Hibbert-Biles apologised and agreed that this was unacceptable – the County had not started the grass cutting until June and only one cut was being undertaken due to financial cuts. The Parish Council had agreed at the previous meeting not to undertake the work of the County Council due to its already heavy workload and concerns regarding the responsibility of this. Many neighbouring Councils were of the same opinion. The query arose as to who was liable should an accident occur and the Parish Council had or had not undertaken the work to carry out a second cut – the clerk to investigate this and report back at the next meeting.

98. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

- No report had been received.

99. PARISH HALL MATTERS:-

- Cllr. Knott had spent many hours on the telephone once more to Persimmon Homes as to why completion had not taken place. It was most frustrating that their Solicitor was due to finish work at Persimmon that day (25th August). After discussion it was agreed that the Chair would write to Dyakowski, Solicitors, asking them to inform Persimmon Homes that if completion had not taken place by 31st August 2016, that a further £20,000.00 would be taken off the final settlement due to the risk of the ground source heat pump grant not being received. It was also as a result of gross failure that the S106 agreement had not been adhered with the consequence that completion had still not taken place. County Cllr. Hibbert-Biles advised that a copy of this letter be sent to the Chief Executive at WODC.
- Cllr. Lee had sent his "Letter of Authorisation" to Ice Energy regarding the grant for the Ground Source Heat Pumps. Noted.
- The clerk reported that the only outstanding information required before the grant could be claimed was a copy of the non-domestic rates bill from the Parish Hall Management Committee. Cllr. Lee agreed to send this.
- The issue of storage was discussed once more and it was agreed that the Chair and clerk would look through the Parish Council's filing cabinets and reduce the cabinets from two to one. The piano in the Litchfield Room was also taking up invaluable space.
- The clerk reported that Lynne Newin from the ORCC was due to retire at the end of the year and that she had been instrumental in helping the Council with the build of the parish hall. It was agreed that the clerk would write to Mrs. Newin to thank her for her work involved with the hall.

100. CORRESPONDENCE:-

West Oxfordshire District Council:

- *New waste and recycling contractor announced* – Ubico Ltd had been awarded the contract. Noted
- *New system gives easy access to council tax and other benefits.* Noted
- *Tourism Newsletter* – an updated newsletter had been received. Noted
- *Eastern promise for Cotswolds Tourism* – Visitors from Saudi Arabia and Dubai had recently visited the Region which had proved to be most successful, thereby increasing tourism within Oxfordshire. Noted
- *West Oxfordshire District Council consultation on its Council Tax Support Scheme for 2017/2018* – Noted
- *Council pledges food waste reduction target* – Noted
- *Oxfordshire Unitary Government Study* – This had been circulated to all members. Noted
- *New system offers major improvement to social housing allocation* – Noted
- *West Oxfordshire Local Plan – Evidence Based Update* – This related to the housing needs for the future – the consultation period ends on 26th August - Noted

Oxfordshire County Council:-

- *Oxfordshire Comet Transport Service* – this was a new transport system taking place from September – information would be put onto the website, the Ensign magazine and posters would be displayed on the village noticeboards.
- *Parish Transport Representatives Meeting* – An email had been sent asking Parish Councils whether or not they wished to continue with these meetings. It was felt that Enstone PC did not need to attend these meetings any longer as they tended to centre around transport issues in Central Oxford.
- *Grant Thornton Study* – details of this was now on the County Council's website. Noted.

Other:-

- **Renault Sport Racing Limited** – this had been discussed at the beginning of the meeting.
- **Grass Cutting at Enstone Church** – An email had been received regarding the substandard grass cutting at the churchyard and graveyard. This was discussed in detail and it was agreed that the clerk would find out the costs involved with the cutting of the churchyard and graveyard and to review this for next year – volunteers used to undertake this work and it was felt that a joint approach would be necessary from next year. The clerk and Cllr. Glendinning would review the grass cutting areas before September's meeting as the contracts for tender were due in October with regards to the next season.
- **Green Gym** – An email had been received asking whether more work was required at the site of the B4022/B4030. This was agreed, to a maximum of £150.00.
- **Emergency Plan & Winter Planning Meeting** – Cllr. Johnson was updating the emergency plan – the deadline for applying for winter equipment such as more grit bins was 8th September. It was also agreed to hold a winter planning meeting at 6.45 pm on Thursday 20th October, before the monthly Parish Council meeting.

101. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:-

- **Bay Tree House, Cleveley, 16/02601/HHD** - Erection of single storey rear extension. No objection
- **Quarry Cottage, Tew Road, Enstone, 16/02645/FUL** - Demolition of existing building and erection of four dwellings with associated works and parking facilities. Alterations to existing access. No objection

- **The Barnes, Broadstone Estate, Enstone, 16/02602/FL** - Change of use of redundant bull pen and store to create office accommodation with associated facilities. No objection
- **2 The Spinneys, Enstone, 16/02648/HHD** - Alterations and erection of single and two storey extensions. No objection

Decisions Received:-

- **Faulkners Cottage, Cleveley.** Two storey rear extension to replace existing single storey extension, new single storey side extension and removal of Conservatory. *Approved*
- **Abbey Farm, Gagingwell.** Alterations and extensions to convert two dwellings to a single dwelling. *Withdrawn*

102. **FINANCE:-**

a) *To agree the following accounts for payment:-*

Santander:-

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|---------------------|-----------|
| • Mrs Beth Sinclair | £572.19 |
| • R & B Maintenance | £36.00 |
| • WODC | £1,189.64 |
| • WODC | £1,009.04 |

b) **Statement of Accounts April to June 2016** – These were audited and signed by Cllrs. Butler & Lee.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 9.00 pm

103. **Dates of Next Meetings:-**

- Thursday 15th September, Planning Meeting 7.15 pm, Enstone Parish Hall
- Thursday 29th September 2016 7.15 pm at Enstone Parish Hall