

DRAFT MINUTES

ENSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the Council was held in Enstone Parish Hall on Thursday 28th January 2016 following a meeting with residents concerning Traffic Calming at Church Enstone at 7.15 pm.

PRESENT: Parish Councillors N. Knott (Chair), A. Lee (Vice-Chair), P. Butler, R. Parker, T. Gilbert, P. Johnson, D. Robottom, P. Shaw Mrs. M. Ivings, Mrs. C. Glendinning, County Councillor H. Hibbert-Biles, District Councillor A. Beaney and 24 residents

APOLOGIES All Councillors present

IN ATTENDANCE Mrs. B. Sinclair (clerk)

13. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:-

- Cllrs. Mrs. N. Knott and Mrs. M. Ivings declared an interest in Item No. 4 (Markham Farms Planning Application).

14. MEETING WITH RESIDENTS TO DISCUSS TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES AT CHURCH ENSTONE

- Cllr. Knott welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Cllr. Butler and the residents of Church Enstone for all their hard work relating to the increased problems of speeding through Church Enstone. It was noted that Enstone had had many speeding and traffic problems which the Parish Council try to address.
- Cllr. Butler explained the current issues surrounding speeding and lorries ignoring the 7.5 mgw weight limit in Church Enstone – Cllr. Butler’s report, regarding what work had taken place since July 2015, was read out at the meeting and is attached to the minutes.
- Residents were then asked to raise their views concerning the installation of a chicane at Church Enstone. Comments were made regarding the danger of speeding at the opposite end of Church Enstone to the current proposal, where cars come off the A44 and travel at speed along the B4030 – the junction of The Drive/Heythrop Park was particularly hazardous. The road towards Stoney Bridge is very narrow and there had been many near misses. The query as to whether the signage could be changed was discussed and Cllr. Butler explained that the County Council is currently reviewing this.
- The A44/B4030 junction was extremely dangerous as it was seen to be used as a cut through for Bicester Village, the motorway and Enstone Airfield Industrial Estate. It had been suggested to Oxfordshire County Council that the junction be realigned but a casual estimate indicated this would up to £250 K to implement. The County Council, instead, was looking at new signage proposals to divert traffic to Tew Road but this junction was also hazardous. When asked whether or not a roundabout could be placed at this junction – County Cllr. Hibbert-Biles explained that there were no plans for this. The question of installing a roundabout at The Drive/Heythrop Park junction was raised or at least a “STOP” sign at that junction.
- A further suggestion was to have rumble strips installed at Clay Hill Close, as had been discussed a few years earlier which, due to funding, had not been implemented.
- *Cllr. Knott invited residents to take a vote and it was a unanimous vote to begin the consultation process for a chicane to be installed at Church Enstone.*
- The residents thanked Cllr. Butler for all his hard work with this project.

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

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th January 2016, having been previously circulated were taken as read, agreed and signed.

16. **MATTERS ARISING:-**

- *The Old Coal Yard, Gaginwell* - The Enforcement Officer at West Oxfordshire District Council was now investigating the mast that had been erected without planning permission.
- *Land East of The Drive* - District Cllr. A. Beaney confirmed that the Enforcement Officer was looking into the lake which was in situ without planning permission.
- *Bus Shelters* – ongoing
- *Cleaning of Sign Posts* – this would take place in the spring
- *Curtilage of the village* – the clerk had emailed Mr. Geoff Barrell from Oxfordshire County Council asking him to proceed with the relocation of the 30 mph sign posts, to be paid out of the S106 monies from The Paddocks' Development. Noted
- *Cllr. Robottom* had completed his Register of Interest forms and the clerk would forward these onto Mr. Keith Butler, Monitoring Officer at West Oxfordshire District Council. Noted
- *Markham Farm/Shooting School Application* – this was discussed further as there had been conflicting comments as to whether or not the lorries would be leaving the site empty or not. The Parish Council was told verbally by Einig Contracting Ltd, who would be undertaking the work on approval of the planning application, that the lorries would be leaving the site empty but other correspondence had conflicted with this. County Cllr. H. Hibbert-Biles would look into this further and two Parish Councillors agreed to attend the planning meeting to be held at the County Council in February. The clerk would also contact Einig Engineering to clarify whether or not the lorries would leave the site empty - there was also ongoing concern regarding the length of time it would take to build the bunds (circa four years) and the number of lorries travelling to the site on a daily basis.
- *Wood Carvers at Lidstone* – the Wood carvers had now left the site. Noted
- *Disused Barn at the site of The Quarry* – District Councillor Andrew Beaney confirmed that a site visit had been undertaken and a report was awaited.
- *Flooding along the Lidstone Road* – a response from Highways was awaited.
- *Clerk's Appraisal* – Cllr. Knott reminded Cllr. Lee to email the appraisal forms to her.
- *Parking at Cleveley* – Cllr. Parker reported that PCSO Chris Jones was investigating this further as 14 vehicles had parked there recently and an Enforcement Order would be put in place.
- *Pecuniary & Personal Interests* – discussion took place regarding when to disclose a personal interest as, being such a small community, the Councillors knew a lot of the residents. County Cllr. H. Hibbert-Biles and District Cllr. A. Beaney advised the Council to disclose a personal interest on all items where the Councillors knew the residents on a close personal basis. Although Councillors were allowed to discuss the item of business, it was strongly advised against doing this as, being such a small community, the Councillor could be seen as being biased, which could influence the vote from the other Councillors. A Councillor who disclosed a personal interest was not allowed to vote on the item being discussed.

17. **PUBLIC DISCUSSION:-**

- A member of the Green Gym had contacted the clerk with regard to the work that it had been undertaking on the B4030 with the hedge layering as Japanese Knotweed had been found at the site. County Cllr. Hibbert-Biles had duly reported this to the Area Steward. It was also known that the disused quarry site was also full of Japanese Knotweed. Cllr. Knott explained that it was difficult to establish who would take responsibility for this land as it

was owned by Crown Estates and was escheat land. It was agreed that the Parish Council would write to PM David Cameron concerning these issues.

- A resident was concerned that the owners of Heythrop Park were still putting up large advertising banners at the entrance to the Park without planning permission. District Cllr. Andrew Beaney agreed to contact Heythrop Park concerning this.
- It was noted that The Harrow had changed its name – District Cllr. Andrew Beaney confirmed that businesses were allowed to change names without planning permission but that planning permission would be required should the change of use be different.

18. **COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

- County Cllr. Hilary Hibbert-Biles reported that the news from County was not at all good.
- All of the 95 proposed cuts had been approved by Cabinet on Tuesday 26th January – these were to be ratified at Full Council in February. These included the cessation of the subsidised bus services and the closure of the Children's Centres both of which would have such a knock on effect with communities.
- Central Government had asked the County Council to save a further £23 million before 31st March and by law, the County Council must have a balanced budget as at 31st March.
- The Council would be looking at selling off land in the future.
- The nurses' contracts at Chipping Norton Hospital would transfer from NHS Contracts to the Order of St John – Cllr. Hibbert-Biles voted against this proposal.
- All the Shire Counties were affected by these huge cuts.
- The County Council's part of the Council Tax, if approved, would be 3.99 % of which 2 % would go towards adult social care.
- In 2005 the County Council's annual budget was just under £1 billion; in 2016 it was just £500 million.
- The different health sectors (community health, public health, social care and department of health) would, in the future, work from one building like the previous Health Authorities.
- It was an extremely difficult time for the County Council and all residents would be affected.

19. **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

- District Cllr. Andrew Beaney reported that the Local Plan had been put back for a further year as there was an insufficient number of houses identified in the Local Plan, which needed to be revised.
- The budget was in the process of being finalised and District Cllrs. had agreed a pay rise of 3 % which related to 1 % per year over the past three years.
- The contract for waste disposal would soon be reviewed.

20. **PARISH HALL MATTERS:-**

- S.J. Treloar & Associates apologised for not having finalised the Persimmon Contract due to a shortness of staff. However, it had circulated the documents in relation to the ground source heat pumps. The clerk to review these.
- A letter had been received from the Parish Hall Management Committee (PHMC) regarding the electricity bill which had been on an emergency tariff with an overcharge of £1,300.00. The Parish Council agreed to pay this to the PHMC at February's meeting and deduct this amount off Persimmon's final account.
- Costs for the Acknowledgement Board would be circa £600.00 and the Parish Council agreed to fund fifty per cent of this (£300.00) to the PHMC which would be paid at February's meeting.

21. CORRESPONDENCE:-

West Oxfordshire District Council:

- *Recycling Advisors take to the streets* – advisors were talking to residents with regards to what could be recycled. Noted.
- *Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations* – these included inviting residents to hold street parties on the weekend of the 11/12 June 2016, for Councils to hold Beacon Lighting Ceremonies on 21st April and "Clean for the Queen" – a campaign initiated by Keep Britain Tidy during the weekend 4-6 March 2016. The clerk to put this into the Ensign magazine.
- *Ditch Clearance Programme* – workers from Ubico, WODC's maintenance company, had completed a major programme of ditch clearance in the district – areas included Bampton, Carterton, Madley Brook and Judd's Close in Witney – this was following the 2007 floods. Noted
- *Motorists advised to steer clear of double yellow lines* – the clerk to put this into the Ensign magazine
- *Referendum on Chipping Norton's Neighbourhood Plan (CNNP)* - The CNNP had passed the examination stage and there would now be a referendum on Thursday 3rd March from 7.00 am to 10.00 pm. If more than 50 % vote "yes", the WODC would then use this plan to help decide planning applications in the Neighbourhood Area.

Oxfordshire County Council:-

- As detailed above

Other:-

- *Traffic Calming* – following the meeting with residents where it was voted unanimously to proceed with the consultation plan for a chicane at Church Enstone, it was noted that the ball park figure would be in the region of £6,000.00 - £8,000.00, to be paid by the Parish Council. The Parish Council would also be responsible for the ongoing costs and maintenance of the chicane. It was, therefore, important to receive the final costs before implementing the scheme. The Parish Council would vote on the scheme once the consultation period had been carried out and the full costs were known. County Cllr. Hilary Hibbert-Biles advised the Council to look into having CCTV installed which would be a much cheaper option and the Council would consider this once all the costs had been received.
- *Community Policing Awards* – it was agreed to nominate PSCO Chris Jones for an award. The clerk to complete the necessary paperwork.
- *Adult Mental Health Services in Oxfordshire* – the clerk had distributed details concerning this whereby a patient would now have just one care plan. A meeting was being held on 23rd February with regards to this new contract. Noted.
- *Street Lighting* – an incident had occurred whereby a resident had been taken ill during the night and the ambulance crew could not find the address due to there being no street lighting. Should the Parish Council wish the street lamps to be reset and working between the hours of midnight and 5.00 am it would have to pay for the costs of these. It was agreed unanimously not to go ahead with this. Cllr. Hibbert-Biles had contacted the resident concerned but had not received a response from the answer phone message that had been left.
- *OALC – Subsidised Commercial Bus Routes* – The OALC (Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils) had confirmed that Parish Councils were able to use Section 137 monies on making grants to the types of bus service providers who are not included in the Transport Act of 1985 e.g. commercial operators, whose customers are all members of the public, not just the elderly or disabled. Noted.

- *Sewage pumping well B4030* – this had recently overflowed with raw sewage leaking into the field opposite to the side of the stream from the lake which was under investigation by WODC. This tended to happen every 18 months and it was noted that it occurred close to the water course and if additional houses were to be built, the pumping well would cease to work properly. Thames Water had been contacted regarding this recent incident.

22. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS:-**

- **Quarry Cottage, Tew Road, Enstone.** Demolition of existing building and erection of four dwellings with associated works and parking facilities. Alterations to existing access. No objection
- **Faulkners Cottage, Cleveley.** Part two storey and part single storey extension, new driveway access and Change of Use of formerly agricultural land for garden use. No objection
- **Unit 18-20 Enstone Airfield, Enstone.** Change of use from production and distribution of compost and sand to storage of coal, charcoal, kindling and logs. No objection but the Parish Council would advise the Planning Department to check the fire safety precautions due to the low water pressure in that area.

Decisions Received:-

- **1 The Long Barn, Oxford Road, Old Chalford.** Erection of two storey detached office building with additional parking. Approved
- **Cuckolds Holt Farm, Gagingwell.** Internal alterations to enlarge existing kitchen and insertion of additional window and two roof lights. Approved

23. **FINANCE:-**

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

Santander:-

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|------------------------------|---------|
| • Mrs Beth Sinclair | £562.99 |
| • Katharine House Hospice | £100.00 |
| • Oxfordshire County Council | £500.00 |

b) *Statement of Affairs – April to December 2015*

Cllrs. Butler and Lee audited and signed the risk assessment form for the accounts ending 30th December 2015.

c) The clerk advised the Council that the current Internal Auditor, Mr David Monk, had now retired and a few names were suggested for the clerk to contact.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 9.10 pm

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

- Thursday 25th February 2016, 7.15 pm at Enstone Parish Hall
- Thursday 24th March 2016, 7.15 pm at Enstone Parish Hall