

EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL

Telephone/Fax: 01525 221464 - Email: clerk@ebpc.co.uk - Website: www.ebpc.co.uk

Minutes of Meeting of Eaton Bray Parish Council

Held on 6th January 2014 at The Coffee Tavern

PRESENT	Cllr. G. Johns (<i>Chairman</i>) Cllr. J. Conner Cllr. B. Coulter Cllr. B. Piggott	Cllr. M. Simkins Cllr. L. Tribbick Cllr. R. Windmill
IN ATTENDANCE	Heidi Head (<i>Parish Clerk</i>)	
ALSO PRESENT	General Public x3; Cllr. Marion Mustoe	

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. Doughty and Cllr. Wigley sent their apologies for absence.

2. SPECIFIC DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declarations of interests were declared at this stage of the meeting.

3. PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

Points brought to the attention of the Parish Council (PC)

- Pavilion/The Rye Ground: a section of the roof panelling has been blown off during recent wind/storms; Clerk to look into this matter and action accordingly.
- Flooding-Dyers Road: wanted to make council aware of the flooding issues, the matter is currently being looked into by Environmental services; council asked residents to keep PC informed of this matter.

4. SIGNING OF THE MINUTES FOR EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, 02/12/13

Amendments were made to the following: page 1522, Item 6(1)(1.4) 'as a group' replaced with 'of a group' and 'In you are' replaced with 'If you are'; page 1522, Item 7(bullet point 3, line 3) 'it's' replaced with 'its'; page 1523, Item 9(1) '20155' replaced with '2015'; page 1523, Item 9(6) 'Philippine appeal' replaced with 'Philippine Typhoon Haiyan appeal'. It was then agreed unanimously to accept the minutes of the Meeting of Eaton Bray Parish Council held on 2nd December 2013; the Chairman signed the minutes.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES (for information)

- (1) Community Asset-Local Pub – 02/12/13; Clerk/Cllr. Windmill to action.
- (2) Pavilion/Tender – 02/12/13; Cllrs. Wigley/Windmill/Clerk to confirm final wording.
- (3) Junction of Harling Rd/Bower Lane/Dunstable Road – speed limit; 02/12/13; no response received from CBC, Cllr. Mustoe to chase.
- (4) Raised planter-Knights Close – 02/12/13; position of planter to move to opposite grass due to pipe work at initial site.

6. REPRESENTATIVES

- (1) Central Beds Council (CBC): www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Cllr. Mustoe addressed the council.

- (1.1) CBC draft Budget; spending plans have been published for next year and CBC are now asking residents/others for their views on the proposals. The budget proposals can be viewed online with a short questionnaire to submit feedback. Paper copies are available at CBC offices in Chicksands or Dunstable. Alternatively you can email your comments to consultations@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk or write to CBC at FREEPOST RSJS GBB2 SRZT, Budget Consultation, Central

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Bedfordshire Council, Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands SG17 5TQ. The consultation is open until 31 January 2013. Councillors will then use feedback to review the draft budget options, before full Council announces the final budget in February 2014.

- (1.2) Breach of planning concerns; Wellhead – Cllr. Mustoe to speak to CBC to look into the matter further. Cllr. Mustoe
- (1.3) Town & Parish Council report; the PC raised with Cllr. Mustoe concerns regarding the quality of the work in the filling/mending of pot holes within the parish and response time. Cllr. Mustoe agreed to speak to CBC regarding this matter. In addition the PC asked Cllr. Mustoe to supply contact details for CBC departments and then the Clerk can update the PC website with these details, providing a link to the CBC website page. Agreed Cllr. Mustoe/
Clerk

- (2) Bedfordshire Police: There were no representatives of Bedfordshire Police in attendance.

Crime Type	04/12/12 To 05/01/13	04/12/13 To 05/01/14
Violence against the person	1	0
Sexual Offences	0	0
Domestic Burglary	0	0
Burglary – other	1	0
Vehicle Crime	2	0
Other Theft	1	1
Criminal Damage	1	0
Drugs	3	0
Other Notifiable Offences	0	0
Total	9	1

Crime report from 04/12/13 to 05/01/14.

ASB - There was 1 **reported** incident of anti-social behaviour between the dates of 04/12/2013 and 05/01/2014. Classified as below:

1. A male refusing to leave The White Horse Public House was ejected by officers due to him being abusive to staff.

If you have any information regarding the mentioned incident or wish to contact any Leighton Buzzard PCSO, then please call 01582 473411 or email at

LPT.LeightonBuzzardLinslade&Rural@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk

7. EB LIONS/FOOTBALL CLUB

- (7.1) **EB Lions released a Club Statement regarding the all-weather training pitch:** it was proposed that the statement be included in the council minutes; all agreed.

“... As you know, the committee and team of EB Lions has worked tirelessly over the last 3 years to enlist Parish Council support in Eaton Bray to obtain planning and then build our own all-weather 3G training pitch. This was an ambitious project, costing over £275,000 but with the support and skill of the Club, the project was viable and achievable.

For EB Lions to continue to thrive we must have training facilities that are fit for purpose. We have tried training on the local grass pitches with portable floodlights - aside of the burdens of storage, charging, moving and erecting them, they provide illumination to a mud bath for most of the winter that is not a suitable surface and which also leaves the grass pitches unfit for matches. Most teams now have to hire facilities in distant places such as Barnfield, Dunstable, Houghton Regis, Leighton Buzzard and Tring. These pitches are expensive to hire and are much in demand - particularly the prime midweek evening slots. It also presents a logistical nightmare for the coach, often having to leave work early and families arranging transport to deliver and collect.

EB Lions need for this facility in the village seems to be widely acknowledged. At no time have we heard anything but praise and appreciation for what EB Lions is achieving in the locality. Even the fiercest critics of siting the all weather pitch at The Rye or Holmans Field have acknowledged this.

We have worked very hard, very professionally and persistently over a long period of time to bring the opportunity of a modern, fit-for-purpose all-weather pitch to Eaton Bray. We have the support of Beds FA and believe that with our fundraising we could have secured sufficient grant aid so that this investment in the village can be achieved AT NO COST TO THE PARISH COUNCIL. We were also committed to run the facility in a responsible and reasonable way to minimise any inconvenience to neighbours and to always be good neighbours and it was self-financing on an operational basis.

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We are therefore very saddened to report that the Parish Council, in the face of a small but vocal group of 'Nimbies' have wavered on supporting the entire project and have effectively 'kicked the project into the long grass'. As you will be aware planning permission was granted for the facility at the Rye. All that remained was to agree the terms of the lease with the Parish Council. Threats of legal action by the objectors gave the PC cold feet and has now culminated in them voting at the December parish council meeting not to proceed any further with the Rye project.

At the same meeting a vote was taken on the motion to consider our proposal to locate the pitch on Holman's Field. An amended motion was passed, but only with the casting vote of the Chair. It was clear that a motion to merely consider, prolong the project suggesting that we do a great deal of further work to justify the already proven feasibility of the project struggled to pass, there is effectively no reasonable prospect of securing their support, which we need to both submit a planning application and also have an operating agreement which would work.

All of these decisions were taken in the face of the public consultation, which the PC insisted upon, producing a majority in favour of BOTH sites. So having made us jump through hoops they then ignore the inconvenient results. Therefore, despite being granted planning permission at the Rye and winning a majority in the public consultation neither of the proposed projects will now go ahead.

We feel that there is no realistic prospect of finding a new site and starting the whole process again. With a heavy heart we have therefore decided to close the project and reluctantly accepted that this now will not happen. A minority of the Parish Council have been hugely supportive of what we were proposing and to them, especially Chair Cllr. Gordon Johns and Cllr. Brian Piggott we are appreciative, however with the change of composition of the Parish Council the majority have been against this and without their clear support it is now dead as a viable project.

We have been hugely successful with fund raising and have a considerable separate, ring fenced fund, made possible by the superb efforts of coaches, parents and teams. We will discuss and decide how to best use this, but will do so with common sense and for the good of the Club. Your ideas would also be welcome. One example would be to seek/buy a few acres of agricultural land and convert to grass pitches, which we also desperately need.

The practical result of this decision for the club may mean a reduction in the number of teams due to a lack of playing surfaces, which means less children in our villages playing sport and the loss of a fantastic facility for future generations.

We are so sorry to have to report this devastating news but have to accept that if the unelected Village representatives don't want such a facility then that is 'what the people want'. We remain committed to the Club and its future and with your support will overcome this big blow and continue to make this the most successful and well run Club in the County.

We understand that many of you may have questions relating to this matter and Paul, Tim or Richard will be happy to answer them. Huge thanks again to all of our fantastic managers, players, parents and sponsors who have supported us. We wish you all a happy 2014.

B Lions AFC Astro team, December 2013"
(Item copied from the EB Lions website)

(7.2) Further to the EB Lions statement, it was proposed that the Parish Council takes no further action at present. All agreed.

8. PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

(8.1) Correspondence received from resident in Wellhead raising planning concerns; placed in read file.

(8.2) Response received from CBC Planning on response times; read to Councillors and placed in read file.

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(8.3) Planning Applications, December 2013

Application	Planning Location/application	Comment
CB/13/03809	Land adjacent to 66 Totterhoe Rd, Eaton Bray / erection of 1xfour bed dwelling & 2xfive bed dwellings	No objection
CB/13/04391	Steptoos, Bottom Drive, Eaton Bray, LU6 2JS / enlargement of raised patio at rear of dwelling house	No objection
CB/13/04368	Toddbury Farm, Slapton Rd, Little Billington, LU7 9BP / change of use of land to mixed use of mobile home/vehicle repairs & sales	No comment

9. BUSINESS MATTERS

- (1) Affordable Housing: The Clerk presented the results from the Affordable Housing consultation Sep/Oct 2013. It was proposed to forward a copy of the findings to Grand Union Housing and invite them to attend a PC meeting to discuss next steps. All agreed.

EATON BRAY PARISH AFFORDABLE HOUSING RESULTS		
NUMBER OF ELECTORS 2,149 (Full Register 2012-2013)		
RESPONSES	FOR	AGAINST
SITE 1	3	9
SITE 2	0	14
SITE 3	0	14
SITE 4	2	11
SITE 5	3	8
NO DEVELOPMENT	6	
OTHER LOCATION	5	
TOTAL RESPONSES	18	

- (2) Pavilion/Social Club: see Matters Arising, Page 1525, Item 5(2).

- (3) Cricket Club Lease: due to matters raised by CC Trustees, it was proposed that PC representatives meet with CC representatives to discuss further. Cllrs. Windmill/Tribbick to action. All agreed.

- (4) Allotment Agreement: The changes to the allotment tenancy agreement were presented to the PC. It was proposed to adopt the amendments and to send out to all current allotment holders the amended tenancy agreement for signature. All agreed. Clerk to action.

Allotment fence-Holmans Field: The clerk organised for an assessment of the fence and from the findings it was proposed to obtain two quotes for *Post & Rail Wire netting/with access gate (i) height of 4ft (ii) height of 5ft*. All agreed. Clerk to action.

- (5) St. Mary's Church-Churchyard: The formal inspection of St. Mary's churchyard was presented to the Parish Council; from the findings it was proposed/agreed that the clerk obtain quotations for the following work:

(5.1) North boundary chain link – *an area of damaged brickwork where the brick wall adjoins the post & rail fence, requires re-pointing.*

(5.2) War Memorial – *metal railing and gate require re-decorating; it was also suggested the PC look into the possibility of obtaining funding towards the maintenance of the war memorial.*

(5.3) South boundary wall – *pedestrian gate posts have developed shakes which appear to have worsened and should be filled.*

The PC also noted to monitor the cracking in the walling by the dogleg in the south wall and an inspection on the chestnut trees is carried out. Agreed.

- (6) Cemetery Land: The Clerk presented the response from the land owner's legal representative to the PC. It was proposed that the PC obtain the size of the land being considered, Cllr. Conner agreed to measure the section of land and forward to the Clerk her findings, and for the Clerk to obtain from land agents the current market price for agricultural land per acre. Agreed. Once all relevant information has been obtained, Clerk

Clerk

Cllrs.Windmill/
Tribbick

Clerk

Clerk

Clerk

Cllr.Conner/
Clerk

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to write to land owner with initial offer for land at pro-rata cost. All agreed.

- (7) **OVERHANGING TREES:** Cllr. Simkins visited the resident to assess the trees. The resident would like the height of the trees reduced. It was proposed the PC organise for the trees to be assessed by a tree surgeon, to obtain their opinion on the trees/height reduction, and costs to carry out the work. All agreed. Clerk to action.

Clerk

10. REPORTS

(1) Chairman's Correspondence:

- (1.1) Email from CBC; survey on VCS Engagement with Local Partnerships; read to all Councillors.
- (1.2) Invitation to Buckingham Palace Garden Party (standing Chairman only); read to Councillors. Disqualified due to a previous attendance.
- (1.3) Letter of resignation; Cllr. Linda Doughty – noted. Clerk to action. Agreed.

Clerk

(2) Clerk:

- (2.1) Circulation/read file: Handed out to all Councillors
- (2.1) Clerk's Supplemental Agreement; amended salary/grade. All Councillors in agreement; the Chairman and Clerk then signed the document.
- (2.3) War Memorial: See page 1528, item 9(5)(5.2).
- (2.4) Overhanging trees–Eaton Bray/Edlesborough: Recommended a Councillor visit the resident to view the problem trees and then meet with landowner to look at options available. Cllr. Simkins agreed to carry out the visit. All agreed.
- (2.5) Memorial; the LATE J. Meakings: Agreed.
- (2.6) The old Five Bells: Vehicles parking on verges/grass, proposed Clerk write to the houses (Cllr. Johns to check wording of letter prior to being sent out) adjacent to this land reminding the owners/residents the land is common land and it is prohibited for vehicles to park/drive over this section of land. All agreed.
- (2.7) The No Cold Calling sign at the T-junction of Stanbridge Road and Totternhoe/Eaton Bray Road is in the Hedge. It was proposed that the clerk get the Handyman to remove sign and place into council garage. Agreed.

Cllr.Simkins

Cllr.Johns/
Clerk

Clerk

(3) Coffee Tavern/Cottage: No items to report.

(4) Cemetery: See page 1528, item 9(6).

(5) Finance: See item 11 for report.

(6) Working Groups:

- (6.1) See page 1525, item 5(4).
- (6.2) The staining of the benches in the parish has now been completed.
- (6.3) Concerns have been raised with regarding to dog walkers using the parish litter bins to dispose of dog waste. The PC wants to remind dog walkers to not put dog waste in general litter bins but to use the dog hygiene bins provided throughout the parish. It was proposed the Clerk organise for stickers to be placed on the parish general litter bins and in Focus reminding dog walkers of the correct bins to use. All agreed.

Clerk

11. FINANCE; Budget/ 2014-2015

2014/15 Budget: The council looked through spends for the year and put forward recommendations. The Councillors agreed fully on the proposed increase in the council's precept to £70,000. However, councillors were reminded to ensure that budget spend is monitored carefully in 2014/2015 due to the potential shortfall in funds. All agreed.

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12. ACCOUNTS: TO RESOLVE TO PAY DECEMBER 2013; Presented to council - all agreed.

MONTHLY PAYMENTS: DECEMBER 2013	
Ground Maintenance	£1,235.10
BATPC; affiliation fees 2014	£533.00
Donation; the Salvation Army Typhoon Haiyan appeal	£136.00
Christmas Brass Band, December 2013	£125.00
Loan repayment: PWLB	£3,578.27
Salaries (Clerk & Handyman)	1,178.07
HM Revenue & Customs (PAYE/NIC)	£264.93
TOTAL Monthly Outgoings	£7,050.37

13. NEXT AGENDA

- Items for the next Parish Council Meeting Agenda MUST BE SUBMITTED to the Clerk NO LATER THAN Thursday 23rd January 2014. All Councillors please note that items submitted after this date will not be included in the February agenda and will have to be deferred to the Parish Council Meeting scheduled in March 2014.

All Councillors

The meeting closed at 9:55pm.

Next meeting to be held:

Parish Council Meeting: Monday 3rd February 2014: 7:30pm at The Coffee Tavern