

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting of Eaton Parish Council, held by zoom on Tuesday 4th May, 2021

Present: Cllrs. Evans, Goodwin, Waltho, Connon, Cohen

Apologies: Cllrs. Lyne and Weedenburg

Also present: Ward Cllr. Lesley Smetham and clerk Dorothy Waite

Resident: Sue Cook

Chair of the Council, Cllr. Evans thanked all for the tremendous workload which had been present during a very difficult year. Neighbourhood Plan had played a significant part in the last couple of years but is now nearing completion. The clerk was thanked for drafting the annual review which had been published in the parish magazine.

Sue Cook had no questions on the review but wished to remain for the council meeting on a planning question.

Nigel Evans had sent in two questions to the council. Firstly, complimenting Grahame Construction on the quality of the road surface on the link way but disappointed that the same quality had not been laid on the resurfacing in the village itself. The link road was very quiet but in the village we had received a cheaper version of road resurfacing and it would be interesting to see how it compares in the future with use. Clerk to ask Cheshire East why it was we did not get the better quality.

Nigel also raised the possibility of any interested resident allowing the council to have their e mail, set up a residents' address book, to facilitate easy transmission of information. As long as e mails were sent out 'blind copy' we would not contravene GDPR rules. Cllr. Cohen wondered if we ought to notify the Commissioner for Information of our proposed action and will check on this. Cllr. Smetham felt this should not be necessary as she had not come across this. It is essential that each resident gives permission for their details to be added to our e mail listing. We will commence by inviting residents via the parish magazine to contact the clerk if they wish to be part of this and beforehand will distribute a flyer on the subject. Clerk to prepare a draft for approval.

There being no further parish business, Cllr. Cohen closed this meeting and the council moved over to the Council AGM

SIGNED.....

DATE.....

Minutes of Annual Council meeting of Eaton Parish Council held by zoom on Tuesday 4th May, 2021

**Present: Cllrs. Evans, Goodwin, Waltho, Cohen, Connon, Weedenburg
Ward Cllr. Lesley Smetham and clerk Dorothy Waite**

Apologies: Cllr. Lyne

Resident Sue Cook remained to observe the meeting

1668 – Approval of minutes

The minutes of the March zoom meeting, having been circulated, were approved.

1669 – Appointment of Chair

Cllr. Evans offered to remain as Chair for one more year and this was gratefully accepted.

1670 – Appointment of Vice Chair

Cllr. Goodwin, similarly agreed to remain in the position of Vice Chair and will cover in any work absences Cllr. Evans has

1671 – Mitigations from Link Road

Despite sending three e mails, we still have no response on the remaining mitigations in the village which should have been completed prior to the opening of the link road, which took place on the 19th of April. Cllr. Smetham commented that the work load of Cheshire East, during the pandemic, has caused lots of pressure, hence the delays in responding. The clerk to e mail again to the various parties about this and also the road surface query raised in the parish meeting.

1672 – Speed Limits

Despite our protests there is still no further progress on the 50 mph proposed for the stretch of road from the new roundabout towards Moss Lane. It is here that the footpath is about 30cm and likewise the verge between this and the road. We have stressed the danger, particularly for children walking to school, and even the representative of Grahame Construction felt that 40mph would be more appropriate. Cllr. Smetham suggested that the criteria of the Dept. of Transport may have had to be followed on this and she will check. Also ask what are the criteria laid down where the situation such as the above exists. Cllr. Waltho felt that the Cheshire East Highways Safety Officer should take this dangerous situation into account. Cllr. Evans and Cllr. Weedenburg will re-photograph the area and send this to Cllr. Smetham to hopefully progress our point of view.

1673 – Speedwatch

It is asked, do we wish to continue with the speedwatch team. Now that we have the cameras on the A536 it is felt we are now covered and just to use the team for School Lane is not practical. Clerk to notify PCSO Julia Short of this and also ask if anyone she knows would like the speed gun we now have spare, as a gift.

1674 – Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr. Waltho commented on the vote on Thursday and his team had prepared posters and banners urging residents to turn up and vote for the plan. This action had produced a number of questions where residents had forgotten what the plan involved and seeking information. Hopefully having

had this they will support our views. Cllr. Waltho and Neil Thorpe have received their invitations to the count on Sunday. The council had agreed to meeting any expenses from the above publicity from reserves and when Cllr. Waltho has all the accounts in, he will collate these and let the clerk have an invoice for payment. It is estimated that the amount will be a maximum of £200.

1675 – Spatial Plan

Cllr. Connon advised that the plan had been submitted for examination by Cheshire East. There are policies in the plan that favour our stance on our boundary at Moss Lane and those included in the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr. Evans thought we ought to be able to use this in our submissions on the Community Governance review. Cllr. Waltho and Cllr. Connon commented there were many different boundaries and we may need to look at these.

1676 – Community Governance Review

We have sent in our submissions but at the moment the review is just proposals and nothing definite has been put forward. David Rutley has put something together to give support to the three parishes – Eaton, Marton, North Rode – remaining independent. Cllr. Waltho outlined the various matters affecting Havannah – remaining in Eaton or being amalgamated into Congleton. He regretted that we had agreed that in the future Havannah would become part of Congleton. David Rutley had suggested we canvass the residents of Havannah to obtain their views on the matter. Cllr. Waltho stated that the loss of Havannah would still leave us with a sufficient number to remain independent. The feeling against the review is gaining momentum and there is an upcoming press release which may result in some backing off by the review body. Sue Cook asked why the review was taking place and was advised that it is because it is a long time since the make up of the parishes has been looked at and there have been significant developments in the ensuing time. We must stress that Havannah cannot be reached by road from Congleton and only from Havannah Lane and this give added impact to it remaining part of Eaton. It is noted that the children from Havannah have access to Marton Primary School but in the event of change would have to attend Congleton schools. It is noted we have the full support of our neighbouring councils on our submission on the review and these councils have also submitted their views on the importance of remaining independent.

1677 – Planning

Hillmoor – the application from Macclesfield Trading to use Hillmoor has been withdrawn. However, there is an application in for a stable block at the farm and Cllr. Waltho agreed there needed to be some improvements for the horses on the site. The application is not in the name of the owners but the owner of Eaton Cottage off Moss Lane. In our comments we must stress that any such block should remain agricultural and in no way considered for residential future use. Sue Cook asked if there were any time restraints on the operations for tipping at Hillmoor as it was in the very early hours that these operations were taking place. The lane is already under pressure from the tractors and wagons using it and it was felt there should be a traffic impact investigation. Also, there ought to be some time limits to the hours of operation. In our comments query why the application is not in the name of the owner of the land.

Denevelyn – Garage replacement – The council have looked at this and have no issues to raise.

1678 – Ladera

In the light of a recent long e mail on this, brief reference was made to the present and possible future on this. There is no further news on the possible actions on enforcement and Cllr Smetham commented that this was a long and legal issue. We need to keep on top of this to avoid any surprising developments. Cllr. Smetham stated she had not received any contact recently from the residents on the site.

1679 – Tarmac

The Council feel that the trees promised for the woodland walk between the park and the link road should be in the ground soon. We did not receive any positive detail from the zoom meeting we had with Daniel Ives and hopefully we can make more progress when we hope to have a face to face meeting in July. Although it is thought that the traffic from the south entrance can turn right to the A34 this is not so and must go down to the roundabout and turn. Cllr. Waltho felt we should be making progress in talks to have the whole field down to the link road donated to the village, overseen by Woodland Trust and planted asap with trees for the woodland walk. Cllr. Waltho also felt that the residents should have a stronger voice on the closure of School Lane and what will be the benefits given to the village for this. Again, we should bring this up at a possible July meeting.

1680 – Village sign

The sign has been removed and the post wood treated. Cllr. Evans advised that the sign should be restored and replaced next week. It is emphasized that the council made two open enquiries for someone to take on the work on the sign, without result. Eventually, the council explored the connection with the art department at Congleton High School and were recommended to the services of the artist taking on the task. The council has had sight of his work and is happy for him to go ahead. The fee is £300 plus £50 for materials and in the circumstances the council is happy to accept and proceed. Cllr. Evans was present when the sign was taken down and did not realise just how bad a condition it had become. The clerk asked if a photo with our Chair and possibly other council members could be taken and put in the parish magazine and this can be done.

1681 – Highway Matters

Some work has been done on signage but the direction sign to North Rode on the Plough green is still down and needs to be re-erected. Clerk to deal with this. The bus shelters are looking in need of some painting and attention and the council will look into getting this done.

1682 – Millennium Park

The Rospa report was not a favourable one and quite a number of things need maintenance work. They were not satisfied that the work done by the swings was acceptable and this will need to be looked into with a view of taking up the turf, raising the level and relaying turf. It is asked that the clerk contact Daniel and Andrew with a view to meeting on site with Cllr. Evans and Waltho with the Rospa report and see what needs and can be done by both parties. The top of the rocker – missing for some time – has been delayed in the hands of the person carving a new top by the need to stop work through Covid. Cllr. Waltho will do some work on the item to keep it safe and out of use until the replacement can be made.

1683 – Accounts for payment

The following accounts have been submitted for approval and cheques raised.

Came & Co. – Insurance - £758.09 – cheque No. 752

Playsafety Ltd. – Rospa inspection - £99.00 – cheque No. 753

Chalc – Subs - £137.52 – cheque No. 754

Clerk – Salary and Allowance - £458.32 – cheque No. 755

1684 – Finance Report

The position at the end of April was forwarded with receipts – precept – and bank reconciliation checked against bank statement. All approved.

1685 – End of year accounts for audit

The clerk had forwarded to each member of the council account sheets for receipts, payments, Bank reconciliation at 31st March, summary, supporting notes, administration breakdown, asset register and variations. Also sent were the relevant sections of the annual return. All these were approved by the council and the Chair will meet with the RFO to sign as required. Unfortunately with Covid the usual arrangements for sending and collection are not there and the clerk is required to send all the account papers to the auditor by Post Office small parcels. The alternative of travelling to North Wales would be very expensive on mileage and not considered.

1686 – Website

Cllr Lyne continues to place all the necessary documents on to the website, including notifications of zoom meetings and the links on these. Following the ‘training session’ attended by Cllr. Lyne which was really a presentation of an accessibility plan, she has not received any further information on this and will be put on the agenda for July. With all the papers we are publishing by various means, we feel we are complying with the acts.

1687 – Magazine Report

Neighbourhood Plan result when we have this, appointment of Chair and Vice Chair, e mail residents contact address list. Community Governance review – attendance of Cllrs. Waltho and Cannon at a meeting with David Rutley and Lesley Smetham – joined by councillors from Marton and North Rode. Need to keep on top of this and will certainly do so. Spatial Plan – Cllr. Cannon will provide a short precis on this

1688 – Next Agenda

There was a discussion – but no actions proposed – on the amount of street parking caused by Covid catering conditions at The Plough. Hopefully when indoor dining is permitted there will be less impact on parking and Cllr. Waltho stated he knew the owners were doing all they could in the circumstances and were very aware of the situation. Monitor until the July meeting. Also to go on the agenda – after monitoring – the amount of light pollution in the village which is shining into adjacent properties from very strong lighting which remains on for a time.

1689 – Next meeting

This will be on Tuesday the 6th of July at 7.00 pm and it is hoped that following a successful conclusion to the road map it will be possible to hold a face to face meeting in the hall. Cllr. Goodwin will book the hall.

}
}
}

SIGNED.....

DATE.....

ACTION LIST FROM 4TH MAY COUNCIL MEETINGS

CLERK TO ENQUIRE OF CHESHIRE EAST WHY THE VILLAGE ROAD RESURFACING USED A LESSER QUALITY THAN THE LINK ROAD

CLERK TO PREPARE DRAFT FLYER TO ASK RESIDENTS IF THEY WISH TO BE PLACED ON AN E MAIL ADDRESS LIST FOR THE TRANSMISSION OF INFORMATION

CLERK TO E MAIL AGAIN TO CHESHIRE EAST ON THE REMAINING MITIGATIONS

CLLRS. EVANS AND WEEDENBURG TO RE PHOTO THE NARROW VERGE SECTION AND SEND PHOTOS TO LESLEY SMETHAM ASKING FOR A HIGHWAYS SAFETY OFFICER EXAMINATION AND ALSO TO FIND THE CRITERIA FOR SPEEDING IN AN AREA SUCH AS WE HAVE

CLERK TO CONTACT JULIA SHORT. STATE WE NO LONGER REQUIRE SPEEDWATCH AND OFFER OUR SPEED GUN

CLLR. WALTHO TO LET THE CLERK KNOW OF THE RESULT OF THE NP AND ALSO THE EXPENSES FOR PUBLICITY BEING MET BY THE COUNCIL

CLLR. CONNON TO KEEP WATCH ON SPATIAL PLAN DEVELOPMENTS

FULL COUNCIL TO MAINTAIN CLOSE WATCH ON COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE DEVELOPMENTS

CLERK TO REPLY ON STABLE BLOCK APPLICATION AS NOTED IN MINUTES AND ALSO TO GARAGE REPLACEMENT AT BACK LANE

CLERK TO CONTACT DANIEL IVES AND TRY TO ARRANGE SITE MEETING WITH HIMSELF AND ANDREW PLUS CLLRS. EVANS AND WALTHO WITH THE ROSPA REPORT

CLERK TO CONTACT DANIEL WITH A VIEW TO ARRANGING A FACE TO FACE LIAISON MEETING AT THE QUARRY IN JULY

CLLR. EVANS TO ARRANGE FOR PHOTO BY NEW VILLAGE SIGN WHEN IT IS IN PLACE

CLLR WALTHO/EVANS TO LOOK AT WHAT IS NEEDED TO IMPROVE THE LOOK OF THE BUS SHELTERS

CLLR. WALTHO TO MAKE SAFE THE ROCKER TOP UNTIL IT IS REPLACED

CLERK TO PREPARE MAGAZINE REPORT AS NOTED IN THE MINUTES

CLERK TO PLACE PLOUGH PARKING AND LIGHT POLLUTION ON THE NEXT AGENDA