

Minutes of meeting of Eaton Parish Council held in the Parish Hall on Tuesday 1st November, 2022

Present: Cllrs. Evans, Goodwin, Waltho and Lyne; Ward Cllr. Lesley Smetham and Clerk Mrs. D. Waite

Apologies: Cllrs. Connon, Cohen and Weedenburg

Residents present: Kate Hart, Sue Cook and Neville Slater – to meet and discuss with the council the recent serious flooding

COUNCIL MEETING

1826 – Minutes

The minutes of the September meeting, having been circulated, were approved and signed.

1827 – SADPD

There is a supplementary document entitled Developers Contributions and both Cllrs. Waltho and Connon have looked at this and the Council should support this to CE. The final report will be brought to the CE council in December. Cllr. Waltho will also enquire the position on drainage on large developments

1828 – Neighbourhood Plan

No further updates. When it is, it will be regarding Havannah.

1829 – Planning

Brick Bank Farm – Change of use to become cattery. Cllr. Waltho reported that the entrance has been moved further back and should not present any access problem. No adverse comments.

Hillmoor Land Auction – There were 4 acres up for auction but we are not aware whether the land has been auctioned and if so whether it was sold. Cllr. Waltho was concerned that the land had been cleared up and that the Environment Agency were happy with it. Cllr. Smetham will check into this. Clerk to enquire if the auction has taken place.

1830 – Millennium Park

The clerk had contacted Tarmac and they have agreed to our request to have the remains of the sun dial removed and the area put back to grass and we thank them for this. Clerk to prepare request to Mr. Syson regarding the bench in the park which is now in an unsafe condition. Some repairs have been made to equipment in the park but we are aware that any of it could suddenly require major expense at some time in the future.

1831 – Bus Shelters

The shelter opposite the Plough is very much in need of attention and Cllr. Goodwin will ask her contact if he can work on this at his earliest opportunity. Although the labour will be provided without charge we will be responsible for materials.

1832 – Highway Matters

The new grant will be available for highway improvements in 2023. We have some funding available of around £1000 in 2022 and Cllr. Waltho felt that we should ask for this to be spent on signage on the village boundaries, starting with the boundary at Moss Lane. We would ideally like each boundary to be marked but initially the one above should be first. Clerk to contact the clerks of Marton and North Rode, who have carried out this, to enquire the procedure they followed and the cost per sign.

1833 – Flooding

A reply by e mail has been received from John Denwood, Local Highways Officer, indicating that there will be a meeting between him and the flood risk team on Thursday. Clerk to reply asking for a report of this meeting and stressing the need for an urgent meeting on site with the council, affected residents, Cheshire East and United utilities. The flooding was a surge of water down School Lane and off the surrounding fields when several properties were flooded – one having to move out. Neville Slater has a number of maps of the drainage and land in the area available. He felt there was an urgent need for some drainage work on the surrounding fields. Cllr. Lyne felt there was a continuing issue with the culvert on the A536 unable to take the pressure of the surface water that occurred. Cllr. Waltho advised that United Utilities were doing a full report. Cllr. Lyne enquired if UU and CE should enforce the land agent to carry out drainage work in the fields. The upshot is that the clerk should contact John Denwood as above and advise that our MP David Rutley has been advised of the problems and he feels it should be addressed as a matter of urgency and will give any supportive action. Neville Slater had provided the council with a photo of one of the fields and had added the following comments “View of the field entrance between Nos 18 and 22 School Lane, Eaton. During very heavy water, pours from this field and floods the village – latest flood 23.10.22. Reforming of the ground contour by moving earth from right to left would help towards slowing flow”. Finally, it is stressed that the Council will be in close and urgent contact with Highways to arrange a meeting and discuss possible outcomes.

1834 – Fly tipping

There are a number of bags outside a property in Back Lane and Cllr. Lyne will enquire who these belong to.

1835 – Defib

Following use of the defib by the Plough Inn, they had kindly financed a replacement set of pads. However, being aware of supply problems, it was the decision of the council that we should purchase a spare set and these are being retained by Cllr. Waltho who has responsibility for the defib. His account is noted below.

1836 – Bi-monthly accounts report

As usual, the clerk had supplied each councillor with a statement of receipts, payments and bank reconciliation checked at the meeting against the bank statements. All fully approved

1837 – Accounts for payment

Cllr.J. Lyne – for website maintenance - £35.94 – cheque No. 786

Cllr.S.Waltho – for defib pads - £124.80 – cheque No.787

D.Waite – salary, allowance and expenses - £521.16 – cheque No. 788

Eaton Church – hall hire - £150 – cheque No. 789

Royal British Legion – poppy wreath - £30 – cheque No. 790

The expected account for final maintenance from S.Oakes was not received.

1838 - Budget and Precept

The clerk/RFO had sent a copy of her budget and suggested precept to each councillor and at the meeting each item was discussed. We had spent some £368 over the precept – accounted for by the January increase in hourly rate to the clerk, larger account from Chalc, purchase of additional defib pads and small increase on internal audit. We had spent less on insurance and repairs showing the overspend of £368. After discussion, no items could be reduced and it was felt the precept of £5596 was reasonable and it was fully approved for submission. This represents just under 10% increase on the previous year.

1839 – Magazine report

Flooding – the sympathy of the council goes out to the households affected and we can report that we are in communication with the Highways Officer and Flooding Risk Team, Cheshire East, United Utilities and David Rutley MP. We are asking for an urgent meeting with the various authorities in the village to resolve the issues. We are awaiting reports from the various authorities. Our thanks to the fire service for the prompt attendance and action and also to the various residents who assisted those in need at the time. The clerk to wait before submitting the magazine report as more information may change this. The precept for 2023/24 has been discussed and agreed at £5596 and a breakdown and statement will be posted on the notice board and on the website. The next meeting of the council will be on Tuesday 3rd January at 7.00 pm.

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SIGNED..... DATED.....

ACTION LIST FROM MEETING 1ST NOVEMBER, 2022

CLLR. WALTHO TO CHECK ON LARGE DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION AND ALSO ON DRAINS ON LARGE SITES

CLERK TO ENQUIRE IF THE LAND AUCTION AT HILLMOOR TOOK PLACE AND DID IT SELL.

CLERK TO CONTACT DAVID SYSON RE THEIR BENCH IN THE PARK

CLLR. GOODWIN TO TRY TO FORWARD WORK ON THE BUS SHELTER OPPOSITE THE PLOUGH

CLERK TO CONTACT MARTON AND NORTH RODE TO ENQUIRE PROCEDURE FOR ACQUIRING BOUNDARY SIGNAGE

CLERK TO REPLY TO JOHN DENWOOD ASKING FOR A COPY OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING THIS THURSDAY AND ALSO AN URGENT MEETING IN THE VILLAGE WITH THE VARIOUS AUTHORITIES, COUNCIL AND RESIDENTS

CLLR. LYNE TO INVESTIGATE BAGS ON BACK LANE

CLERK TO SUBMIT THE AGREED PRECEPT OF £5596 TO CHESHIRE EAST

CLERK TO SUBMIT MAGAZINE REPORT WHEN FULL INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE