

Minutes of meeting of Eaton Parish Council held in the Parish Hall on Tuesday 4th July at 7.00 pm

Present: Cllrs. Weedenburg, Waltho, Goodwin, Cook and Thorpe plus clerk D. Waite

Apologies: Cllrs. Lyne and Cohen (on line case over-running), Ward Cllr. Lesley Smetham

Residents: John Goodwin to discuss parking plus Directors to update on Plough matters

COUNCIL MEETING

1887 – Minutes

Both Parish and Annual Council minutes approved and signed.

1888 – Flooding and Drainage update

Cllr. Waltho has kept us up to date on this. Last meeting with Cheshire East was a random one when they were unexpectedly in the village. Andy Simpson is preparing a job sheet for the survey of the culvert. We have had an update from Cheshire East addressed to David Rutley. Cllr. Waltho had sight of an extensive e mail from Cheshire East via David Rutley as above, which reads as follows “ Thank you for your e mail dated 7th June which has been forwarded to us for a response by our Chief Executive, Lorraine O’Donnell. We have provided our response below in a format that can be shared with your constituent. We note Mr. Waltho’s request for an update on proposals to alleviate flooding in Eaton. This is one of the council’s ongoing projects working in collaboration with United Utilities and the Environment Agency. As Mr. Waltho has been informed previously during a meeting and correspondence with United Utilities, the proposed solution to prevent flooding in the village is for United Utilities to separate their combined sewers into foul and surface water sewers. Cheshire East Council is involved as the capacity of the culvert below the A536 needs to be increased. Both parties are working together to achieve this. The council has raised a programme of work to undertake jetting and a CCTV survey to investigate the condition of the culvert and the findings will be relayed to United Utilities and the Environment Agency once available. It is anticipated that the council’s investigations will be carried out by mid August 2023. The council’s Flood Investigation Officer, Guy Metcalfe met with Mr. Waltho a few weeks ago when the above information was passed on to him. Mr. Waltho will be updated in due course as the situation progresses. We hope the above information is of assistance to you “

It has taken almost a year to reach this point but we hope in August to see some action. David and Nina have just moved back into their property which was badly flooded.

1889 – Plough update

There had been a difficult incident recently but pointed out that unfortunately the Plough was not the only venue to have an occasional problem during a large event. It is helpful to have a senior member of staff there at such times and the directors would be contacted if such situations got out of hand and the police contacted if it reached that stage. The double glazing promised is in hand and will be installed this month. Any progress with air conditioning to counter windows being open would be in the summer. Only two windows in the barn actually open. They are getting planning permission for a porch for the barn doors and the double doors have been ordered. Getting quotes for the A.C. and this is a priority.

The car parking is more of a challenge and they will keep pursuing the acquisition of some additional land to accommodate this and they have offered a rental figure to the land owners for this. The land owners do not wish to do any of the work involved and may also require a higher rental offer. There are several staff cars using the park to plough – with permission – to alleviate the problem at the Plough and this will continue for the present time. There is contact details between the Plough and the Church for overspill in large events and they will contact the Church to discuss this further. Cllr. Cook asked if the council could be of assistance in getting land for parking and this would be helpful. They will require change of use for any land acquired.

The noise limiter is a complex issue and is not the solution. It is more a question of having a word with those involved when a noise problem arises. There is a rule that the front door has to be closed by 9 pm. The idea of planting on top of the wall was considered but a different solution would be a short conifer hedge internally. There is a need to make the Plough sign more visible under the trees as guests often do not see it and have to turn back so some of the tree branches will be lifted to cover this.

There is a problem with cars parking for a long time in front of the Plough and Cllr. Waltho has been speaking with those involved and is trying to sort this amicably. At present the cars parked close to the junction and the bus stop are against traffic laws. John Goodwin pointed out there is often double parking in front of the Plough and an accident when vehicles turn into School Lane from the A536 is highly likely in this situation. It may be that we will have to resort to Police action if no solution comes about.

1890 – Hillmoor

The residents on the lane down to Hillmoor had all complained about the planning application when it was for a stable down there for single and domestic use only. At the present time there is no way it can be used as a stable visqueen sheets (PVC damp course) have been laid as preparation for concrete pads. Hardcore has been tipped on it. Concrete pads, if laid, maybe leading to static caravans. Clerk to write to Cllr. Smetham to obtain the contact details for Cheshire East and the Enforcement Officer at the highest level asking for an urgent inspection and the withdrawal of the planning permission. There is now no grazing and concrete pads are down and we must insist on this action and firm reply to the council on the action taken. There has been much tipping of waste which has been raised by adjoining residents to the council. Following action by the Environment dept this was stopped but an inspection approved the tipping and did not bother to examine what was under the topsoil spread over the waste. They need to have an order to cease tipping and remove what has been tipped. Following the earlier order to cease tipping, a very small amount of it was removed and the rest covered up. The Environment officer should make a further inspection of the type of rubbish covered up and the fact that they have not complied with the order. Again we must request a formal follow up to the council on the action they have taken,

1891 – Hedge trimming and footpaths

The hedge on the slip road to the A536 is overgrown, narrowing footpath access but more important blocking the visibility of cars turn right at the junction. Also, the path behind the Crauford Road houses is badly overgrown. Need to remind owners that their responsibility covers both sides of the hedge and ask all residents to check that hedges are not causing any problem for visibility or walking on the footpath.

1892 – Tarmac

There is no immediate need at the moment to check into the original plan of sand quarrying and how it affects the long term restoration. We understand there is a new manager at the quarry and clerk to enquire contact details. A liaison meeting would be useful at this time to introduce us to the new manager and confirm what grass cutting can be covered for us by Tarmac. The field and the hall grass have been cut but rather later than usual but the grass in the play area has not been cut.

1893 – Bus shelters

Still ongoing

1894 – Millennium Park

The broken bench has been removed by Cllr.Waltho. We do still need some rubber surfacing in the area of the swings and slide and the clerk to send copy of the relative Rospa report to the new manager. Stephen Oakes has confirmed that he is continuing the maintenance of the park borders at the same rate.

1895 – Boundary signs

We have some idea of the total costs from North Rode. Need to contact Cllr. Smetham for her comments because without a major contribution we cannot afford these although they are needed. We might be able to manage with two signs – one on the A536 and one on the A34

1896 – Planning

The application for two modular classrooms at Eaton Bank School we have no objections

The second application covers variation of the condition that covers the lighting and noise from the sport field and the hours of operation. The old rules stated 9.00 am to 6.15 pm weekdays and the new application would permit operation each day from 9.00 to 10.00 pm Weekdays and 9.00 to 21.00 Saturday and to 20.00 hours Sunday. There were objections from residents to the original application so we need to oppose this variation most strongly as the affect on local residents remains the same. The acoustic surveys do not marry up when it was stated it would present a problem to local residents.

1897 – Donation to Parish Magazine

Cllr. Goodwin passed on the request for financial assistance in the printing of the Parish Magazine. We do use this regularly as our main connection to the residents and it was felt by the council that we should help out with a donation. It was fully agreed that we should send a cheque for £100 under Section 137.

1898 – Auditors Report

The report from the auditor has not approved one of the sections that dealt with possible risk and gave some items where we had not fully complied with these. In response the clerk had prepared a report to the council whereby two small oversights had occurred that did not affect risk, a meeting previously met with approval by previous auditor, and the omission of a purchase in 2021/22 which again had not been noted by the previous auditor. The clerk gave a copy of her report to each councillor and one will be included with the cheque to the auditor. The clerk will tighten up on each of the points raised in the report.

1899 – Bi-monthly financial report

The clerk had prepared excel statements and bank reconciliation for each councilor and these were fully approved against the bank statements.

1900 – Accounts for payment

Subscription to Cheshire Community Action - £20 – cheque No. 799

Payment to auditor - £150 – cheque No. 800

Payment to clerk of salary and allowance - £501.66 – cheque No 801

Payment to S.Oakes for park maintenance - £180 – cheque No. 802

Approved donation to Magazine for printing costs £100 – cheque No. 803

All were fully approved and the clerk will obtain a receipt from the magazine committee for the donation

1901 – Magazine Report

Clerk to prepare report from the details in the minutes – flooding update, hedge trimming, donation to magazine committee for printing costs, note of auditors report on the website Liaison with Plough on parking problems, objection to extended hours at Eaton Bank sports field and lighting.

1902 – Next meeting

The next meetings of the council will be on Tuesday 5th September in the Parish Hall at 7.00 pm

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SIGNED.....

DATED.....

ACTION LIST FOLLOWING MEETING

CLERK TO WRITE TO CLLR. SMETHAM FOR THE HIGHEST CONTACT DETAILS OF CHESHIRE EAST, ENVIRONMENT AND ENFORCEMENT ON CONDITIONS AT HILLMOOR FARM

CLERK TO NOTE IN MAGAZINE NEED TO KEEP HEDGES TRIMMED BOTH SIDES TO AVOID VISIBILITY ISSUES AND FOOTPATH NARROWING

CLERK TO CONTACT TARMAC FOR CONTACT DETAILS OF NEW MANAGER AND ARRANGE A LIAISON MEETING

CLERK TO SEND ROSPA REPORTS TO NEW MANAGER AT TARMAC

CLERK TO CONTACT CLLR. SMETHAM FOR SUGGESTIONS ON HOW WE ACQUIRE THE BOUNDARY SIGNS NEEDED

CLERK TO SEND STRONG OBJECTION TO PLANNING VARIATION ON HOURS AT EATON BANK SCHOOL ON THEIR SPORTS FIELD

CLERK TO SEND CHEQUE TO MAGAZINE COMMITTEE FOR DONATION TO INCREASED PRINTING COSTS

CLERK TO SEND HER OBSERVATIONS BACK TO AUDITOR WITH CHEQUE IN PAYMENT OF FEE

CLERK TO PREPARE REPORT FOR PARISH MAGAZINE AS NOTED IN MINUTES

