

Minutes of meeting of Eaton Parish Council held in the Parish Hall on Tuesday 14th November, 2023

Present: Cllrs. Weedenburg, Waltho, Goodwin, Lyne, Cook, Thorpe: Clerk Mrs D. Waite

Apologies: Ward Cllr. Smetham and representatives of Plough Inn

No residents present

MEETING

1919 – Minutes

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

1920 – The Plough

There is still evidence of the disco music being too loud and ongoing parking problems. ie. Opposite The Plough - causing limited visibility at junctions, and along School Lane. Although the wedding season is slowing down, it is likely that Christmas parties will continue to contribute to the existing noise and parking issues. Clerk to contact our PCSO in connection with the continued parking in front of The Plough, as it is felt that the reduced access to School Lane contravenes the highway code and is a safety issue. It is understood that whilst not all the parking issues can be attributed to The Plough, most of them are.

Regarding the disco music being too loud, the PCC felt that double glazing and other mitigation measures discussed at previous PCC meetings were not the answer, and it is a simple case of turning the music down to acceptable noise levels. We also felt that The Plough should emphasize when taking the bookings that respect for the residents must be shown and that music must not be played too loud. The business model of The Plough has changed to one of major events and their business plan must allow for this. Clerk to e mail the Plough, advise further noise problems and to meet with them again when we can ask them their plans for the Christmas season.

1921 – Flooding

Cllr. Waltho could not add to his previous report. There should be a report due following the inspections that have been done by CE and from CE highway planning (a full inspection of the drain route under the A536 and beyond). Once all the information is to hand, we need a plan to ensure that future flooding does not occur. The problem occurs mainly due to the varying width of drainage pipes and to replace all these with wider ones will be expensive to undertake. Cllr. Waltho is now awaiting a report from CE. The gushing pressure water in Beechwood Drive is coming from the fields behind and maybe there is a blocked drain in the field that needs to be investigated.

1922 – Hillmoor

The Environmental Agency have ongoing investigations but we have not heard anything from them to date.

1923 – Boundary Signs

Cllr. Waltho had sent information to Cllr. Smetham and it is hoped we will be getting part of the grants available. We need to ask her to update us on this. If monies come through, we should have enough for four signs.

1924 – Tarmac and park improvements

Cllr. Goodwin advised that the new manager needs to know the ‘gentleman’s’ agreements for work being done for the village by the quarry ie. The grass mowing has been done for a long time as a gesture of good will. The cutting of the grass in the play area and the field is not good. Cllr. Waltho felt that the original suggestions for improving the wet area needed to be simplified and that the ground should be levelled and turf laid on top. We need to have a discussion to put this into operation and for the work to be done around February – before the Rospa inspection. The area involved is around 26 square metres. Clerk to e mail Tom with this proposal and ask for park repairs and ground maintenance be on the agenda for the next liaison meeting – possibly in January.

1925 - Bus Shelter

In the light of no progress the council requested that the Clerk speak with Tom Aindow and ask for a quote to make the bus shelter opposite the Plough to be made safe and waterproof.

1926 – Orchard project

The two apple trees have been planted in the park and Cllr. Waltho will contact John Murray Nursey again for two bare rooted fruit trees – a plum and a pear. He had purchased all the necessary compost and ties ready to complete.

1927 – Roundabouts

There is still consideration to be given on a wild flower border to be planted on the two roundabouts in our parish. Decision made to leave as at present and maybe consider if CE will be undertaking the maintenance. We could mention this at the next liaison meeting and maybe Tarmac would like to sponsor and have acknowledgment on the ground of their involvement. This would be a one-off cost to them of around £1000 for the two roundabouts. Clerk to advise Congleton of our decision and that we will come back in the new year/spring.

1928 – Speed Limits on School Lane

The suggestion is that the 30mph sign near Smithy Farm be moved up the lane to beyond the turn into Bebbington Road. Clerk to initiate this.

1929 – Broadband speeds

There is a problem with properties at the north end of the parish and a few others with very low broadband speed where the connection is coming from a North Rode source. Cllr. Cook has been looking into this and there may be a scheme for low speed areas to be given special consideration by a Government scheme running 2024/2027. Cllr. Cook is compiling a list of the properties involved and will report back in due course.

1930 – Raised beds

Macclesfield are no longer able to do the seasonal planting with bedding plants but have kindly planted them with perennials but general weeding of them is still required. Two of the beds have been done and when the remembrance material is moved, the third will be planted.

Ask for volunteers to do occasional weeding to keep them looking good.

1931 – Planning

We have sent our comments to CE on the various current planning applications

1931 – Royal British Legion

The wreath for the service came from stock at the Church but the council still wished a donation of £30 to go to the RBL.

1932 – Accounts for payment and approval

S. Oakes - £120 for park maintenance – cheque no. 806

J. Lyne for website maintenance - £92.51 – cheque No, 807

D.Waite for salary and allowance - £501.66 – cheque No, 808

S.Waltho – for supplies for Orchard project etc. £97,84 – cheque No. 809

Royal British Legion – annual donation - £30 – cheque No, 810

1933 – Bi monthly finance report

Council members had receipts, payments and bank reconciliation matching the bank statements – fully approved.

1934 – Budget and Precept 2024/5

The clerk had e mailed a copy of the proposals to each member prior to the meeting. The clerk turned down the suggestion of a 5% increase in salary and felt that on her leaving the post a new clerk near the present figure would be possible. A small increase in precept due to higher costs in maintaining the website and the defib but offset by the decrease in insurance on using another company. We may incur costs in the future for the bus shelter repairs but provision has been made for this under ongoing repair monies and for the boundary signs we are hoping for substantial aid from CE. Therefore, the precept figure of £5304 was approved.

1935 – Magazine report

Advise changes to the raised beds, orchard trees and where they are and will be, the precept for 2024/25 on website and notice board. Thank all the team involved in the poppies and figures for remembrance – they were a credit to the village and the occasion. The next meeting will be in the Parish Hall on Tuesday 9th January 2024 at 7.00 pm

ACTION LIST FROM MEETING 14TH NOVEMBER, 2023

CLERK TO CONTACT PLOUGH AND ASK FOR FURTHER MEETING AND THEIR PLANS FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON PARTIES

**CLERK TO ASK LESLEY FOR CLARIFICATION AND UPDATE ON:
MONIES FOR THE BOUNDARY SIGNS**

**CLLR WALTHO TO OBTAIN UPDATE FROM ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY RE:
HILLMOOR FARM**

CLERK TO CONTACT TOM AT TARMAC REPAIRS AND MOWING IN THE PARK. ASK FOR JANUARY LIAISON AND THESE ITEMS ON THE AGENDA. ALSO MENTION POSSIBLE SPONSORSHIP OF ROUNDABOUT – N.B. TOM FARMER HAS CONTACTED THE CLERK AND CLLR WALTHO WILL SPEAK WITH HIM ON THE ABOVE

CLERK TO CONTACT HIGHWAYS AND ASK FOR 30MPH SIGN IN SCHOOL LANE TO BE MOVED BEYOND BEBBINGTON ROAD TURN

CLLR. COOK TO CONTINUE INVESTIGATION INTO SLOW BROADBAND SPEEDS

CLERK TO ADVISE CE OF OUR PRECEPT FIGURE

ASK IN MAGAZINE FOR VOLUNTEERS ON WEEDING RAISED BEDS AS REQUIRED

CLERK TO SPEAK WITH TOM AINDOW FOR A QUOTE ON BUS SHELTER REPAIR

CLERK TO CONTACT PCSO TO RE-ITERATE THE VILLAGE CONCERNS REGARDING THE LIMITED ACCESS TO THE SLIP ROAD DUE TO PARKING OPPOSITE THE PLOUGH

CLERK TO UPDATE CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL REGARDING THE WILD FLOWER BORDER ON THE ROUNDABOUTS