

EATON PARISH COUNCIL

(In the authority of East Cheshire)

Minutes of the meeting of Eaton Parish Council held in the Parish Hall on Tuesday 5th March 2024

Present: Cllrs. Weerdenburg (chair), Waltho, Goodwin, Cook, Thorp, Ward Cllr. Smetham

Apologies: Clerk & RFO. D Waite, Cllrs Lyne & Cohen.

Residents Present: K Hart, G Bishop, M Bishop

COUNCIL MEETING

1954 Signing of minutes of January meeting

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

1955 Council vacancy

There is a vacancy pending due to Cllr. Lyne standing down after many years service to the Parish. We would all like to give our heartfelt thanks to Cllr. Lyne for her service to the Parish over the years.

Possible candidates were discussed

Action: Cllr. Thorpe to approach a local resident who has shown an interest. If this is unsuccessful Council will publish the vacancy on the village notice board.

1956 Clerk & RFO replacement

Due to the resignation of Clerk D Waite after over 40 years outstanding service to the village, there is a vacancy for a Clerk & RFO. The role is 4 hrs per week. An approach in the first instance to E Worrall, Clerk and RFO to Marton & Hulme Walfield & Siddington, was discussed. **Action:** Cllr. Waltho agreed to contact E worral.

1957 Flooding and drains update

A Complaint was raised to CE about the lack of action on the above by Ward Cllr. Smetham. The reply, sent to Cllr. Waltho, was disappointing to all, but perhaps expected. The letter is enclosed (see below).

A general discussion arose and the importance of this matter to both the council and residents was made clear.

It was pointed out that the fire service have a duty of care of fire hydrants and that in the current situation if they required access to the hydrant this may not be possible.

Action: Cllr. Waltho to contact the Fire Service to request they contact United Utilities re this matter.

The point was made that when the water flooded properties in October, it came from both Beechwood Drive and School lane, the latter primarily from the School field, has not been seen before or since. During this time Macclesfield Road behind the field was also flooded and the Fire service were in attendance.

Action: Cllr Waltho to approach the Fire Service for an update on their actions that evening, to see if there is a link to what was observed.

Cllr. Cook has contacted Fisher German, the land agents for the Antrobus Estate, who's land is adjacent to the rear of properties to the left and the top of Beechwood Drive.

The agent, who stated that they were unaware of the issues, has agreed to speak to the land tenant and to come back with some possible dates for Cllr. Cook & Waltho to walk around the sites with them to point out the main issues and to see if the source of the Beechwood Drive problem can be located or a plan put in place to investigate the source. Mr & Mrs Bishop to be invited also.

David Rutley MP is to be kept updated on any progress.



Working for a brighter future together

Date: 4th March 2024

Our reference: 24371045

Dear Mr Waltho

RE: COMPLAINT NUMBER 24371045

Thank you for your complaint dated 20th February 2024 regarding mitigation measures to reduce the risk of flooding in Eaton.

I am sorry to hear you are dissatisfied with the level of service provided to you by Cheshire East Council.

Drainage investigation works undertaken by Highways and the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) during 2023 proved inconclusive in determining possible solutions to the flooding issues experienced in Eaton. Therefore, further investigative works are intended during the upcoming new financial year (2024/25) when budgets allow.

As I understand you are aware, the Capital budgets of both Highways and the LLFA are extremely limited and attempting to secure funding by these means alone is likely to take many years. In order to expedite the chance of

being able to undertake a scheme in the interest of flood risk management, we are hopeful that a business case may be informed and progressed off the back of the additional drainage investigation works.

Please note that when the LLFA attended site last time to meet with you, we were accompanied by an experienced drainage engineer who, unfortunately, suggested that natural flood management, i.e. the ponds you mention in your correspondence, likely were not a viable solution to the issue. Therefore, any solution is likely to comprise some other methodology, perhaps by way of additional improvements to the surface water network.

When it is possible to arrange the additional survey works, we will update you of the anticipated dates, scope and objectives of the investigation.

I trust the above clarifies matters for you. If you disagree with the outcome of this investigation and wish this complaint to be considered for escalation within our complaints process, please contact our Customer Relations Team within 28 days. This can be done either by writing to Compliance & Customer Relations Team/1st Floor Westfields, C/O Municipal Buildings, Earle Street, CREWE, CW1 2BJ or by e-mail Letusknow@cheshireeast.gov.uk.

To consider escalation of your complaint our Customer Relations Team will require an explanation of the reasons why you are dissatisfied with the outcome of this investigation along with details of any additional information which you feel may not have been taken into consideration so far.

Yours sincerely

Guy Metcalfe
Flood Risk Team Leader
Cheshire East Council

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1958 Plough and Parking

There have been several issues raised by residents re on road parking which have escalated when the Plough has a large event. The main issues are around parking along the bottom of school lane, where the road is narrow, this makes it difficult to get in or out of the village. It is also very difficult for emergency vehicles to get through.

There is another issue re parking opposite the bus stop or close to the junctions causing people to have to drive on the wrong side of the road to get out of the village and the possibility of a collision with vehicles coming off the main road.

There were several issues reported last Sunday.

Cllr. Van Weerdenburg has met with the rural PC David O'Connor to discuss residents concerns.

PC O'Connor suggested that the council apply to Highways for a restriction line crossing the bus stop path to prevent it being blocked. He also stated that parking within 15 metres of a junction is illegal as is blocking the road. PC O'Connor stated that if people report issues to the police at the time they occur they can & will attend to take action. **The number to call is 101**

Action: Cllr. Van Weerdenburg to contact Highways requesting the restriction line and copy PC David O'Connor in.

1959 Land at Hillmoor

The tipping incident is still being investigated but there is no further progress reported.

1960 Ward boundary review

This is a national review and Parishes have been invited to put their comments in for discussion on the website. CE have already commented and proposals for Eaton mirror our previous boundary review.

Action: Cllr. Waltho to pull our comments together and feed them in to the consultation process.

Views can be given via the website at www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/cheshire-east

People can also give their views by e-mail at reviews@lgbce.org.uk, and by post:

Review Officer (Cheshire East)

**LGBCE
PO Box 133
Blyth
NE24 9FE**

1961 Website maintenance – essential

Due to Cllr. Lyne standing down we will need someone to update the website regularly and upload minutes and Actions. Cllr. Thorpe volunteered to take on this role from Cllr. Lyne.

Action: Cllr. Thorpe to Liaise with Cllr. Lyne re this.

1962 Boundary signs – any progress

Ward Cllr. Smetham reported that there had been some confusion as to the budget allocation for boundary signs. There is possibly a budget of £5K allocated to Eaton for this.

It was agreed that the request for all required signs and the siting plan should be re sent to Ward Cllr. Smetham and directly to AKI.tsakonas@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Action Cllr. Waltho to re-send this.

1963 Report on Tarmac liaison

The minutes of this meeting have been circulated. Key points were that Eaton requested for the Park Maintenance to be receive more regular attention and for Steve Williams, Operations Manager, to look at the problem area by the swings and slides to see if the issue can be resolved.

John Stenton, Church Warden – Eaton, also asked about maintenance of the Church Drive and requested the site be costed for a possible permanent solution.

1964 Bus shelter repairs

Tom Aindo was contacted to look at repairing the bus stop on the main road. Tom has looked at the damage and has come back with a quote which has been circulated. The quote was accepted.

Action: Cllr. Cook to contact Tom to say go ahead with the work the as soon as possible

Action: Cllr. Cook to contact John Coates to request permission to park Toms van on his drive for this work.

1965 Orchard project

Four fruit trees have been planted in the Millennium park and it was proposed that there is room for four more. This was agreed.

Action: Cllr. Waltho to purchase the additional trees and arrange with John Dines to plant these.

1966 School Lane speed limit – lack of highway response

There has been no response yet from Highways so we assume this is still pending.

1967 Raised beds

Currently it is difficult to see how much planting is required as not all plants have come through. It was agreed to leave the current planting and review in the summer. A number of volunteers have come forward to maintain these beds. Others are welcome. Many thanks to the following for volunteering. T & J Aindow, C & A Weerdenburg and S Waltho.

1968 Annual risk report

The annual risk report, previously circulated, was signed by the Chairperson.

1969 Accounts for payment & Approval

Cheques were signed for: Clerks salary, J Lyne for website maintenance and to the Church for hire of the parish hall.

1970 Bi-monthly accounts report

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

We need a possible date for accounts meeting in hall and audit arrangements Clerk D Waite to advise.

1971 Magazine Report

To include: The response from Cheshire East RE flooding and drainage, repairs to the bus shelter, parking outside the plough and around the green, raise beds and orchard update.

Action Cllr. Cook.

1972 Next meeting – 7th May at 7.00 pm – Annual Parish and Annual Council meetings

Signed Date

Action List

Cllr. Thorpe to approach a local resident who has shown an interest. If this is unsuccessful Council will publish the vacancy on the village notice board.

Cllr. Waltho agreed to contact E worral re Clerk/RFO Vacancy

Cllr. Waltho to contact the Fire Service to request they contact United Utilities re the inoperable fire hydrant.

Cllr. Waltho to approach the Fire Service for an update on their actions on Macclesfield road on the evening of the flood, to see if there is a link to what was observed.

Cllr. Van Weerdenburg to contact Highways requesting the restriction line and copy PC David O'Connor in.

Cllr. Waltho to pull our comments on the Ward Boundary review together and feed them into the consultation process.

Cllr. Thorpe to Liaise with Cllr. Lyne re website maintenance.

Cllr. Waltho to re-send the Boundary sign request and siting plan to AKI.tsakonas@cheshireeast.gov.uk and copy Lesley Smetham in.

Cllr. Cook to contact Tom to say go ahead with the work the on the bus stop.

Cllr. Cook to contact John Coates to request permission to park Toms van on his drive for this work.

Cllr. Waltho to purchase the additional trees and arrange with John Dines to plant these.

Cllr. Cook to produce the Parish magazine report.