

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EARLS CROOME PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 25th JANUARY 2022 AT 7.30 PM AT EARLS CROOME VILLAGE HALL.

PRESENT: Mark Smith (Chairman), Penny Green, Margaret Herbert, Robin Tomkins and Charlotte Bloomfield (Members), Martin Allen (County Councillor) Ann Smith (Advisor to PC) and the Clerk.

1) APOLOGIES

District Councillor Owenson, Cllr Tom Goodwin & Cllr Katie Etherington

Malcolm Tomkins (Tree Warden) & Andrew Milward (Lengthsman)

2) PUBLIC: One member of the public was in attendance.

3) MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th November 2021 were proposed by Robin, seconded by Penny, agreed by all and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

The Minutes of the special planning meeting held on 30th November 2021 were proposed by Penny, seconded by Robin, agreed by all and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

4) REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

District Council Report

The Members discussed the written report from Jeremy that had been circulated prior to the meeting and the Chairman asked for a volunteer to review the Boundary Commission changes consultation. The Chairman advised that Katie had offered to review this, and Penny volunteered to work with Katie.

Charlotte suggested contacting Jeremy to see if changing the day, that ECPC meet or any other adjustment could be made to allow Jeremy to attend the ECPC meetings more often.

The Chairman advised that Martin Allen County Councillor was due to attend but he had a meeting at MHDC prior.

5) BOUNDARY COMMISSION REVIEW

As discussed.

6) SWDP

Mark advised there was no further update.

7) HIGHWAYS MATTERS – footpath resurfacing Orchard Close

Mark advised that WCC had reported that the pavement outside 9&10 Orchard Close was not adopted by WCC and therefore would not be resurfaced in the scheduled resurface working for the rest of the pavement in Orchard Close. Penny advised she was following this up with WCC & Martin Allen as she was the resident directly affected. Mark asked Penny to keep the Clerk informed of the progress.

It was reported that there were resident hedges overhanging the pavement in Church Lane. The Clerk would contact Croome Estate as they were the landlords of the properties concerned.

Penny asked the Clerk to chase up the WCC request for the passing bays in Quay Lane to be resurfaced.

8) PARISH PATHS

Mark advised that the P3 claim for footpath clearance had been £390 for 2021 and this had been reimbursed by WCC.

9) TREES

The Chairman gave an overview of Malcolm's report. The Chairman advised that further trees had been purchased and donated and had been planted. The Chairman and the Members thanks Margaret, Bob and Trina for helping Malcolm plant the trees and Bob & Margaret from kindly donating some additional trees for planting.

10) LENGTHSMAN SCHEME

The Clerk advised that the Lengthsman was aware of how much funds remained in the 2021/2022 WCC allocation and she would ensure the correct amount was claimed in February for the end of the financial year to include the clerk administration claim.

11) COMMONS

a) Smithmoor –

LEGAL MATTERS:

The Chairman advised that the statement of truth had been submitted to the Land Registry and it was now a case of waiting for the outcome and or a request for further information. The chairman advised that there was a back log at the Land Registry, and he thought it would be quite some time before ECPC heard from them.

The Chairman confirmed that the legal assistance sought via the Parish Council insurance had been unable to take matters regarding the track usage any further.

MAINTAINANCE: The Chairman advised that Steve Coole had completed the agreed maintenance tasks to a high standard.

Dunstall – Mark advised that Malcolm had reported that the dog fouling was ongoing albeit a little less. Margaret reporting sighting a barn owl perched on the pole Malcolm installed at the Common.

Marsh – Mark advised that Malcolm had reported a fallen apple tree which he would remove.

12) PLANNING

21/01970/FUL Elgar Inn, Worcester Road. Creation of new agricultural access – resubmission of application 21/00136/FUL. Objection submitted.

21/02236/FUL Upgrade of telecommunications mast at Hollybeds Farm. No objection.

Margaret led a discussion on how damaging radiation can be for the human brain.

Re-consultation on Planning Application 20/000015/CM – Mark confirmed that the PC had submitted a reiteration of original comments and note regarding loss of trees and the direction of traffic onto the A4104. The comments included a suggestion of programme of tree replanting. Mark suggested that this application required raising at the next Ryall Quarry liaison meeting.

Baughton traveller site planning appeal – ECPC planning comments made as discussed on 30th November.

Members raised the issue that more caravans have been sited at the location since that meeting and asked the Clerk to write to MHDC and liaise with M Brooks at Hill Croome PC about this.

20/01827/FUL Baughton Stud, Smithmoor Common. Enforcement notices served.

13) PHONE BOX

The Chairman advised that the repaint would be scheduled just as soon as the weather conditions allowed. The Clerk would confirm with the contractor.

14) LITTER PICK

Members decided a litter pick was necessary before the growing season took hold. Saturday 26th February at 10am was decided. Members requested that the Clerk contact MHDC for replacement grabbers (Approx. 1 dozen) and more bags. They also asked the Clerk to organise the collection of the filled bags following the litter pick.

15) FINANCE

The Members discussed the precept requirement for 2022-2023. Following a review of the budget and with provision required for price increases and legal fee's Members decided upon a 10% increase. This was proposed by Penny, seconded by Charlotte and agreed by all. The Chairman asked the Clerk to submit the precept request of £4180.00

The monthly reconciliation of cash and other monies was undertaken for November & December by Charlotte & Penny.

Payments made since the last meeting were noted as follows:

Mr A Milward – Lengthsman payment – November	£123.00
Mrs N Nicholson – Clerk Salary- December (S/O)	£204.30
Mrs N Nicholson – Clerk working from home allowance December (S/O)	£15.00
WCC Road Salt	£127.16

Margaret queried why the PC were buying road salt and it wasn't being provided by WCC. The Clerk explained that WCC only fills yellow grit boxes and that ECPC had a green grit box on Quay Lane that the PC was responsible for keeping topped up. Historically the purchase of the road salt took place every few years. Margaret asked why WCC was not providing a yellow bin at that location. The Clerk explained that WCC have a criteria that had to be met to enable a yellow grit bin location and that Quay Lane dose not meet the requirement.

Mr M Tomkins – Parish Paths P3 invoice	£390.00
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It was proposed by Margaret and seconded by Penny and agreed by all to authorize the following payments:

a) Mr A Milward – lengthsman payment – December	£48.00
b) Mrs N Nicholson – Clerk salary – January (S/O)	£204.30
c) Mrs N Nicholson – Clerk Working from home allowance January (S/O)	£15.00
d) CALC – Chairman training	£36.00
e) Charlotte Bloomfield -reimburse for defibrillator pads	£86.40
f) Mr M Tomkins – reimburse for purchase of tree's	£209.30
g) Mrs N Nicholson – Clerk OPE	£32.85
h) Mr A Milward – lengthsman payment – January	£TBC

Remittance:	
WCC – P3 reimburse	390.00

22. CORRESPONDANCE

It was noted that a leaflet calling for volunteers to arrange a celebration for the Queens Platinum Jubilee was to be distributed.

21 INFORMATION AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday 15th March at 7.30 pm at Earls Croome Village Hall. Margaret & Charlotte gave their apologies for the March meeting.

Martin Allen – County Councillor Joined the meeting

Martin reported as follows:

Bow Farm access for mineral extraction would go before the planning & regulatory committee but likely members will only get to vote on the area within WCC not able to comment on the area within Gloucester County Council. The Chairman reminded Members that it had been agreed by ECPC to support their neighbouring parishes that are directly affected by this application.

Martin advised that the A38 speeding results from 2018 were the latest available and that he was calling for a further review. He noted that there was an increased presence of the speed enforcement van on A38.

Martin advised that following the last CLG meeting Cllr Amos has agreed that a monument can be mounted on the new roundabout as long as it is paid for by Ripple PC & Upton Town Council. Any proposal would be subject to WCC highways safety sign off. The Members asked the Clerk to liaise with Ripple PC and Upton Town Council regarding the proposal as the roundabout was actually in ECPC.

Martin confirmed that the records indicate that when 9&10 Orchard Close were built by Upton RDC the pavement wasn't adopted. Martin is liaising with Highways to try to get a resolution and the pavement resurfaced with the others in the Close.

Martin advised that a new Community Bus had started today and included Earls Croome, it was a trial until the middle of April when it would be reviewed. He encouraged use and handed out leaflets about the bus. The Clerk advised that a similar scheme was running Drakes Broughton and it was being regularly used.

Meeting Closed 8:40pm