

DRAFT MINUTES

PARISH OF ENSTONE

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held
At Enstone Parish Hall on Thursday 18th May 2017 at 7.15 pm

PRESENT:- Eight Parish Councillors attended the meeting together with District Councillors Andrew Beaney and Nigel Colston, County Councillor Hilary Biles, PCSO Chris Jones and three members of the public.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs B. Sinclair, Clerk to the Council

APOLOGIES. Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr. T. Gilbert, Ms. Kate Farquhar-Thompson and Roz Blake

Cllr. N. Knott welcomed everyone to the meeting.

337. THAMES VALLEY POLICE – PCSO Chris Jones

- PCSO Chris Jones reported that crimes recorded over the last 12 months had reduced by four from 26 to 22.
- Incidents recorded as a non-crime totalled 31 – e.g. domestic incidents and adult & child protection.
- Thames Valley Police encouraging everyone to sign up to the new Thames Valley Alert System App – the clerk to put this into the Ensign magazine.
- The Cherwell and West Oxfordshire performance figures were circulated and attached to these minutes.
- PCSO Chris Jones has been working with Enstone Parish Council regarding the Speedwatch Campaign and thanked Cllr. Butler who is organising the campaign.
- School Input – The inter-active sessions with children and parents continue and are excellent. It was worrying that all children in Years 1 and 2 now have access to a mobile ‘phone.
- A new police model starts on 1st June 2017 – Chipping Norton, Carterton and Witney will become one team under one sergeant and Woodstock, Kidlington and Eynsham become a team under one sergeant.

QUESTIONS:-

- There were no questions. PCSO Chris Jones was thanked for all his help over the past year. PCSO Chris Jones left the meeting to attend to an urgent case.

338. SIGNPOSTING – OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – DIRECTIONS TO HEYTHROP PARK

- The Council had received information from Oxfordshire County Council regarding the changing of the signposts along the A44 at Enstone at its junction with the B4022. Soho Farmhouse has a routing agreement which is to be signed (at their expense) on the A44 and at the A44 / B4022 junction. The County Council had asked Enstone Parish Council for comments regarding this and how best to direct traffic to Heythrop Park. Enstone Parish Council had responded suggesting that traffic be directed through Enstone, to turn right into The Drive and then straight ahead to Heythrop Park. Many car drivers get confused at Church Enstone and turn onto the Little Tew Road towards Heythrop Village rather than Heythrop Park. County Cllr. Hilary Hillbert-Biles will discuss this with the Officers next week – it was pointed out that it was not the decision of Soho Farmhouse as to how the signs are written. The village should be at the top of the signpost, not Soho Farmhouse.

TEMPORARY MARQUEE AT HEYTHROP PARK

District Cllr. Andrew Beaney explained that the Planning Department had approved the planning application for a temporary marquee at Heythrop Park with the condition that a master plan for the vision of Heythrop Park be drawn up within the next three years. This would cause an increase in traffic to Heythrop Park with an expected increase of half a million people per year. The Highways’

Report did not foresee any problem with this but the Parish Council was most concerned with this increase in traffic through the Parish and had raised this concern with the Planning Department.

339. MINUTES

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 12th May 2016 having previously been circulated, were agreed and signed.

- *Matters Arising – Site Visit to Soho House.* An invitation from Mr. Ergatoudis had not yet been received, following last year's meeting. Cllr. Knott explained that she had attended ENCON's Annual General Meeting where Mr. Ergatoudis was present. Cllr. Knott asked why ENCON had been invited to visit Soho House and not the local Parish Councils? Several planning applications were on hold until August 2017 – the Planning Department was awaiting for the passing bays and signage to be put in place before any further applications were considered. One application was for Soho Farmhouse to fund the tarmacking of the Green Lane with the expectation that the Highways Department maintains this afterwards – County Cllr. Hilary Hibbert-Biles did not agree with this concept and would discuss this further.
- *Dog Bin along Cleveley Bridal Path* – Mrs. A. Lawrence asked whether or not the Parish Council could fund an installation of a dog poo bin along this path? This would be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting.

340. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Cllr. N. Knott

A copy of the Chairman's report is attached to the minutes.

341. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – District Cllr. Andrew Beaney

- DC Andrew Beaney explained that the District Council's part of the council tax rose by £5.00 but was still the second lowest in England at £96.00 for a Band D property; Cherwell was £135.00 and Oxford City £265.00
- Green Waste Bins – there was now an annual charge of £30.00 to have these emptied
- Recycling Bins – from October 2017 the current recycling bins would be swapped to a large waste bin with a separate bin allocated for glass.
- Broadband – the contract was once again out to tender

342. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – County Cllr. Hilary Hibbert-Biles

- *County Council Election* – County Cllr. H. Hibbert-Biles thanked the Council for its support and was pleased to have been re-elected for a further four year term.
 - *Council Tax* – The council tax increased by 3.99 % as per last year. Following the Rochdale Inquiry there was a significant increase in childcare requirements in Oxfordshire with more people reporting concerns. With the increase in the elderly population, the majority of the County's budget was used for childcare and elderly care provision.
 - *Operation Bullfinch* – this had been extremely costly to the County Council.
 - *Public Health* – County Cllr. Hibbert-Biles was pleased to serve on the Board of Public Health.
 - *Chipping Norton Hospital* – the second phase of the consultation was due to start. The County Council had not commented on the first phase due to inadequate information.
- County Cllr. Hibbert-Biles said that it was a pleasure to serve Enstone which was a busy Council and thanked Cllr. Knott as Chair and all the PCs for their work on behalf of the residents and also to the clerk for all the work involved.

343. FINANCE REPORT – Mrs Beth Sinclair, Responsible Financial Officer

The Clerk reported that the certificate of audit had been received for the 2015/16 accounting year. The audit process for 2016/17 was near completion. As at 31st March 2017 the balance of the accounts totalled £19,897.00 in the Santander Account and £44,805.00 in the Barclays Account for the fit out of the parish hall. Quarterly checks on the accounts by two members of Council continued. The clerk thanked the Council for its hard work over the past year and said how sad she was that David Parris had died recently.

344. SCHOOL GOVERNOR'S REPORT – Cllr. Andrew Beaney

- The new building had been completed this year and had created more space for music lessons, 1:1 tuition and a library.

- The Ofsted Report was reported as “good” in all categories.
- A Year Three/Four teacher was leaving at the end of this term and a replacement teacher would start in September.
- There had been a problem with admissions for children living within the Parish – last year there were 17 applications within Enstone with 15 places available. All the children had been accepted and this would be reviewed on a year by year basis. This was not ideal as there should only be 30 children in each classroom.
- Andrew explained that he was stepping down as Chair of the Governors in June 2017 due to family commitments but would continue as a School Governor which he enjoyed very much.

345. PARISH HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – Mr. Andrew Lee – Vice-Chair

- Between 1st May 2016 end of April 2017 the hall was let for 1088 hours, two hours less than the previous year.
- Most sessions take place in the main hall. The Litchfield Room had been used for 95 hours.
- Activities include general fitness, toddlers group, yoga classes, pole fitness, badminton, martial arts, birthday parties and wedding receptions. Summer fetes for local societies and organisations are also held at the hall including the Enstone Show. The committee is looking into starting film nights and annual social events.
- The website is managed by Rachel Hunt.
- Committee members have increased but more are needed.
- This year Maureen Parker, Susanne Hamilton and Yvonne Perkins retired after many years of support. David Parris who was recently appointed as Chair died recently and will be missed.
- Income receipts had increased by £10,000 from £16,428.00 to £26,717.00
- The cost of running the hall increased by £50.00 per month from £950.00 per month compared to £900.00 per month.
- More people are needed on the committee with new ideas on how to promote the hall.
- The balance of accounts as at 31st March 2017 totalled £24,415.00 compared with £16,167.00 the previous year.

346. ENSTONE RELIEF IN NEED CHARITY – Trustee - Mr. Richard Parker

- The land registration process continued in relation to the allotment field and a decision was still awaited regarding the application which was submitted nearly a year ago.
- The Charity was able to help one family in the parish.
- As the number of allotment holders had reduced, it was agreed to reduce the current size of the vacant plots and to employ a company to renovate the more badly overgrown plots. After advertising this, the Charity gained six new allotment holders including a lady from Great Rollright.
- The Charity remains asset rich but cash poor and none of the assets can be released – the Charity owns plots of land throughout the Parish, some of which began in the 1930s. Some of the tenants do not pay the rent and the Charity has to fund the upkeep and maintenance of the land.
- The balance of accounts as at 31st December 2016 totalled £12,156.00. The Statement of Assets & Liabilities as at 31st December 2016 totalled £245,734.00 (assets only).

347. PLAYING FIELDS ASSOCIATION – FIELDS IN TRUST – Report emailed by Mrs Lynn Jenkins (Chair) after the meeting

- No new equipment has been purchased this year.
- A safety assessment has been carried out and passed.
- There has been some vandalism to wooden fencing which will need to be repaired or replaced.
- Due to work commitments, Lynn is having to step down as Chair but will continue until a new Chair starts.
- More volunteers to join the mowing rota would be appreciated.

348. ENSTONE SHOW COMMITTEE – Mr. Phillip Shaw

- Due to a storm, last year’s show had to be abandoned as it was an absolute wash-out, causing a financial loss of £364.00. Gate money was down by £500.00 from £717.50 in 2015 to £207.20 in 2016. Income from stalls was also reduced from £277.40 in 2015 to £155.00 in 2016 due to the bad weather.

- The 2017 show takes place on Saturday 26th August.
- The Committee thanks the Parish Hall Management Committee for allowing direct access between the Parish Hall and the Sports Field.
- Phillip thanked the members of the committee for all their hard work and expressed the need for additional members. Particular thanks went to the dedication and hard work of Kate Farquhar-Thompson, Chair, and also to Carol Glendinning and Rachel Hunt who were also on the committee. Ian Barnes from the Sports Club had also joined the committee.
- The balance of accounts in 2016 totalled £2,391.61 compared with £2,755.60 in 2015.

349. SPORTS CLUB – Cllr. N. Knott (from email report from Roz Blake, Chair)

- The club continues to go from strength to strength.
- There is a full cricket fixture list this season and four football teams.
- Membership totals 200 with plenty of planned activities.
- The club is run, maintained and opened by volunteers to keep it looking good for the village.

350. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

- Cllr. Knott thanked Rachel Hunt for maintaining the website so efficiently and to Kate Farquhar-Thompson for the continued excellent upkeep of the Parish's Facebook Page.
- Cllr. Knott explained that Soho Farmhouse had held a clay pigeon shooting event recently but that residents had complained to the Shooting Club concerning this.
- Cllr. Knott thanked Cllrs. Shaw and Glendinning for undertaking a site visit at the Shooting Club to look at the progress of the bunds – the work was eight months behind schedule.

351. There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.20 pm.

Chairman