

Minutes of the Eggington Parish Council
Meeting No.175 – held on Monday 4th December 2017 at 7:50pm

PRESENT : Chairman Rob Jefferis
Councillors Cllrs Peter Moore, John Symonds, John Westbury, Pete Ellyard,
Richard Gorton

CLERK: Charlotte Gurney

Public Statements: No Parishioners were in attendance

1. Apologies Received: Apologies were received from Cllr Mark Versallion.

2. Declarations of Interest and requests for dispensations: None were made.

3. Report from Ward Councillor: No update provided.

4. To confirm Minutes of Meeting 174: Minutes agreed as a true and an accurate record. Proposed by Cllr John Westbury, and Seconded by Cllr John Symonds

5. Matters arising from those Minutes:

Cllr Westbury reported that following requests to alter the format of the financial report to make it easier to see expenditure made since the previous meeting, this had been achieved, and he hoped it would meet with approval.

Councillors then discussed the situation regarding the caravans being kept at Charity Farm, some of which appeared to be being used as residential dwellings, and questioned whether such usage had been properly authorised. It was also noted that those living in the caravans are not registered as doing so, and they are not therefore contributing towards the Parish precept. Clerk to draft a letter to CBC. **Clerk to action**

Broadband: late last year a notice had been appended to a telephone pole opposite Osborn Cottage which indicated the intention to install a new fibre cabinet there: so the village's broadband service could be due an upgrade, perhaps in the latter part of 2018!

No update was available regarding the ownership (and thus responsibility) for the tree outside Peartree Cottage which had been reported as leaning. A request had been placed with Ian Johnson (at CBC) for information, which is expected as soon as CBC's GIS and ownership details are available again. **Clerk to action**

action

The Clerk reported that information received in the monthly Crime statistics would appear to indicate an increase in reported crime in the village.

The Annual Play-area Inspection report had been received which will be added to next Parish Council meeting Agenda.

Rural Match Funding: Cllr Westbury advised that CBC had verbally confirmed that in future there would be no additional financial assistance offered to smaller Parish Councils in relation to match-funding for larger projects, and that any additional money required should therefore be raised as part of the precept.

6. Financial Report: Acting as RFO, Cllr Westbury reported the current financial situation as:-

Current Account	£ 4,843.81
Deposit Account	£ 12,264.85
Total	£ 17,108.66

Approval was sought regarding payment of Invoices to:

- | | |
|-----------------|----------|
| a) Clerk | £ 244.08 |
| b) Village Hall | £ 24.00 |

Adoption of the accounts (as at 5th December 2017) and authorisation to pay those outstanding invoices was proposed by Cllr Ellyard, Seconded by Cllr Gorton, and unanimously agreed.

Precept: Cllr Westbury provided budget documentation to all Councillors listing budgeted figures for the past 10 years, with actuals set against budget. There were discussions concerning s.137 grants and whether the Council should be issuing grant money to the Village Hall especially as Councillors had previously expressed interest in the lease being handed over to the Parish Council. Estimated budgets were discussed for each area of expenditure with Councillors debating whether the precept should remain the same, with no increase. However, following considerable discussion it was eventually agreed that the precept should be raised to £6,500. This was then proposed by Cllr Westbury, seconded by Cllr Symonds, with all indicating agreement.

Notification of external auditors appointments: Cllr Westbury advised that Cleveland & Co had been appointed as the new External auditors, and they may have a different view on how our accounts are audited. He added that Mrs Angela Dyer (our current internal auditor) may not wish to continue to act in this role for much longer, in which event the Parish Council would need to look for another Internal Auditor.

7. Planning and Development:

White House fence: the original hedge had been replaced by a new panel fence without Planning approval being sought. The new fence was considered to be “unsightly” - especially considering its existence with the Conservation area! It was also though dangerous for pedestrians due to its height preventing vehicles exiting the property being able to observe their approach. There have been many complaints voiced by parishioners.

Claridges Farm - Parish Council decided to respond and clarify that the proposed development is indeed within the existing Conservation Area. It was noted that previous refusal was based partly on the development being built on land within the green belt.

8. Updates from Cllrs on Village Matters: Cllr Jefferis advised that a parishioner had reported a Sold sign being put up regarding a development at the top of village, although it was immediately removed. No planning regarding this had been made, and assumption is sign was misplaced.

Cllr Westbury provided details on Transparency Fund and proposed that an application for funding be submitted for equipment. This would include funding to pay for a Broadband line or home 4G for the Clerk. Cllr Westbury had attended a recent Town & Parish Council Meeting at Priory House and advised that GDPR had been discussed, with limited information provided to those attending. It had been suggested at the meeting that CBC should have a DP Officer which could be utilised by all Parish Councils.

Cllr Westbury also provided copies of the consultation document for Governance arrangements review. The Consultation is open until 2018, and Brian Dunleavy had indicated that he would be prepared to attend a ‘near future’ council meeting.

9. Play Equipment: Councillors discussed the quotations received along with the proposed plans. Cllrs agreed they wouldn’t be interested in replacing with any general grass-based equipment but would rather keep it on set areas.

Cllr Gorton asked how many children live within the village.

Clerk to action

It was decided that it would be good to receive further quotations, and to look at fenced-in area for children to play. Also to obtain some quotes for repair as a comparison.

Clerk to action

10. Clerk’s Update: Clerk’s update document was provided to Cllrs.

Grass cutting was discussed. A meeting was to be arranged with contractor for the 12th December, to include walking the village to discuss verges including near Bella vista to go right up to the fence. Between Rosedale and Farm, weeds grow over the path.

11. Close of Parish Council Meeting: There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 22:35 (10.35pm). Next meeting is 5th January 2018.

This is true and accurate record of the meeting.

Signed: *R. Jefferis* (chairman)

Date: 5th March 2018