

Minutes of the Eggington Parish Council
Meeting No.186 – held on Monday 2nd January 2019 at 7:30pm

PRESENT: Chairman: Cllr Rob Jefferis
Councillors: John Westbury John Symonds Peter Moore Richard Gorton

CLERK: [Cllr Westbury, taking notes in lieu of a Clerk]

PARISHIONERS: There were none in attendance

Public Statements: Cllr Symonds reported receiving a complaint about the mud on the road adjacent to Model Farm (the building site). Cllr Jefferis responded that Mrs Donna Lavender (of CBC Planning) had indicated (at the meeting held with Cllrs Jefferis and Westbury) that she would be attending the site to ensure that the contractors were complying with all the Conditions applicable. He added that this was really a matter for Bedfordshire Highways (as opposed to the Parish Council) although a message would be submitted.

1. **To receive apologies for absence:** Cllrs Ellyard and Versallion had both tendered their apologies.
2. **Declarations of Interest and requests for dispensations:** None were made.
3. **To confirm Minutes of Meeting 184:** These were proposed by Cllr Moore, seconded by Cllr Jefferis and unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record.
4. **Matters arising from those Minutes:** It had been ascertained that, contrary to information given by Cllr Versallion, the Queen's Head pub in Tebworth had not been purchased by the local community there. During the discussion Cllr Jefferis added that he'd been unable to find any record of The Horseshoes (aka The Curry Garden), the Village Hall or St Michael's Church being registered as Community Assets within Eggington (which was thought to have been previously carried out) and he volunteered to follow this matter up.
There was further comment regards the hedge outside Woodbine Cottage which seems to be growing out over the pavement: it was agreed that the Parish Council should write to Mr & Mrs Dyer and ask them to rectify the situation.

5. **Financial Report:** Acting as Clerk/RFO, Cllr Westbury reported that the current situation was:

Community Account	£ 3,835.46
Bus. Saver Account	£ 12,291.49
Total	£ 15,828.49

Due to the changes now in place regards the payment of Invoices, there were 4 Invoices outstanding, awaiting authorisation.

Clerk (Oct Invoice)	£ 149.46
Village Hall (Oct & Jan)	£ 48.00
Ed's Garden Services (Inv 752)	£ 125.00

The Accounts were submitted: Proposed by Cllr Jefferis and Seconded by Cllr Symonds: they were unanimously adopted.

6. **Planning and Development:** The White House fence had been sprayed to a less-obtrusive colour, and a selection of small Yew saplings had been planted in front of it. Also, a small speed sign had been applied to the fencing, although it was considered that it would have little desired effect where they're placed.
The re-submitted Claridges Farm's application (for two larger houses) had yet to be decided upon. Cllrs Jefferis and Westbury had attended a meeting with Mrs Donna Lavender regards the recent proposals for The Stern Land element of the Clipstone Park development. Cllr Westbury, on behalf of The Parish Council, had responded to CBC Planning with regard to the alterations (which included making a new entrance off Clipstone Lane) and voicing the Council's objections thereto. It was noted that the application (by Arnold White Estates) had subsequently been rejected at the Planning meeting prior to Christmas.
7. **Updates from Cllrs on Village Matters:** Cllr Jefferis commented on his disappointment that it had not proved feasible to erect and illuminate a village Christmas tree, but that with more planning time it was hoped to do so in time for Christmas 2019.
Cllr Gorton raised the matter of the weed spraying along the curbs throughout the village. The operative had carried out the weed-spraying operation whilst riding around on a quad-bike, and had unnecessarily sprayed a wide section of the grass verge which had killed the grass. This should be referred to Cllr Versallion who could bring the matter to the attention of CBC/Highways.

Cllr Gorton also enquired as to the situation regards the Defibrillator which had been proposed for installation outside the Village Hall. Cllr Jefferis commented that as far as he was aware the Parish Council had not yet received any acknowledgement or agreement from the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) that they were willing to have a unit mounted on the exterior wall, or agreement to allow an electrical connection to be made so as to power the unit. Cllr Westbury agreed to follow this up with Mrs Sear (Chair of the VHMC) in order to move the issue along.

With the arrival of the new wider village Noticeboards, Cllr Jefferis said he felt that the posts which are supporting the current noticeboard (at the Western end of the village, alongside Kings Cottages cul-de-sac) were perhaps inadequate to support the new one. Cllr Moore suggested that if new posts were required that the Council should consider the use of Kedel material (a form of recycled plastic) which is rot-proof. This was considered by all to be a good suggestion.

- 8. Vacancy in office of Clerk to the PC:** There was a short discussion as to what Councillors considered to be the best way forward. Ms Gurney had indicated that a colleague at CBC in Dunstable was interested in taking up this position. She would not, however, have any experience of such a position and would therefore need training (from BATPC). The alternative would be to see whether one of the Clerks from a neighbouring parish might be interested. It was eventually concluded that the Parish Council approach the young lady (Ms Rebecca Downie, from Dunstable) and invite her to attend the next meeting. Cllr Westbury agreed to contact her and issue the invitation. If she was still interested thereafter, Cllrs Jefferis and Westbury might hold a short interview to ascertain her suitability for the post.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 20:48 (8:48 pm).

This is true and accurate record of the meeting

Signed: *R. Jefferis* (Chairman)

Date: 6th February 2019