

Minutes of the Eggington Parish Council
Meeting No.205 – held on Wednesday 10th February 2021 at 7:30pm

PRESENT: Chairman Rob Jefferis
Councillors Charlotte Gurney, Damon Woulfe, Martine Tournay, Kerry Gorton

GUESTS: Ward Councillor Mark Versallion

CLERK: Claire Martin

PARISHIONERS: Small number present on Microsoft Teams

1. To receive apologies for absence:

No apologies – all Councillors in attendance

2. To co-opt new Councillor:

Kerry Gorton unanimously co-opted in as a new Parish Councillor

3. Declarations of Interest and requests for dispensations:

None were made.

4. Standing Orders:

None were made.

4a. Ward Councillor Mark Versallion, CBC Update:

- a. Following a public consultation CBC are proposing a 5% increase in Council Tax, this has not yet been approved but likely to take effect in April.
- b. Police Force proposing a 7% increase – 150 new police officers to be recruited, whilst 100 are retiring this will mean an increase in numbers of 50 new police officers.
- c. Local Plan, regarding new housing being built in Central Beds, will be adopted legally in September following one final public consultation in March for six weeks. 2 sites going ahead in Hockliffe parish, no other developments locally in Local Plan.
- d. Announcement from CBC launching new App: fixmystreet.com, where issues can be reported, i.e pot holes, faulty lampposts.
- e. New solar farm proposal at Grounds Farm, Hockliffe, with the land for the proposed 105 acre site falling in the parish of Eggington. This is only at the pre-application stage and has not been finally submitted yet but Cllr Versallion has had a discussion with the developer regarding likely financial contribution through Section 106. Suggested that contact be made with Hockliffe Parish Council to discuss any concerns they may have regarding construction traffic and to arrange meeting with the developers to discuss further.
- f. The Boundary Commission have published their conclusion, the CBC ward boundary for Eggington is to be moved with the Eggington parish boundary remaining the same. A Governance Review could be brought forward, although it has been noted that there needs to be a minimum number of properties occupied on the new Clipstone Park development before a fair referendum can be held.

5. To confirm Minutes of Meeting 204:

Minutes agreed as a true and accurate record. It was Proposed and Seconded. Unanimously agreed.

6. Financial Report:

(a) Current financial situation;

Current Account	£ 19,816.87
Deposit Account	£ 12,325.38
Total	£ 32,142.25

(b) Invoices awaiting payment;

a) BATPC	£ 93.00
b) Clerk Wages	£ 332.24
c) Microsoft	£ 40.47

Accounts submitted and accepted by the Parish Council. Unanimously agreed.

Banking arrangements: Cllr Jefferis to contact bank to ask them how to register Cllr Gurney and clerk for online banking and the possibility of having a debit card.

7. Councillor Vacancies Expression of Interest:

There are currently 2 vacancies for new councillors to be co-opted. Cllr Tournay shared that she had received one possible expression of interest. It was discussed that a leaflet would be designed and distributed, to include the new Clipstone development and that this could be in a newsletter format to include details of the vacancies.

8. Review Clipstone Governance:

Cllr Gurney updated the parish council on her discussions with Leighton/Linslade Town Council and Central Beds Council regarding the bringing forward of the Governance Review regarding Eggington parish boundary. It was agreed that the parish council would reply to Leighton/Linslade Council with their concerns on this happening before an adequate representation from the Clipstone Park Development is available and that they will approach the parishioners to gain public opinion. It was agreed to add this to the leaflet discussed earlier and advertise on the website. It was Proposed and Seconded. Unanimously agreed.

9. Budget:

The potential purchase of the village hall due to the increased precept was discussed. It was decided that the next step would be to approach CBC for a price and seek advice from Stanbridge and Tilsworth parish councils, who own their village hall.

10. Planning and Development:

Manor Cottage: Application refused.

Solar Farm on land north of Leighton Road: 'Variation of Condition', still being decided upon, consultation closed.

Curry Garden: Change of use from function room to B&B. Response will be sent to Central Bedfordshire Council detailing comments made, Cllr Jefferis to action.

New Solar Farm proposal at Grounds Farm, Hockliffe: Meeting to be arranged to discuss with developer.

11. Updates from Cllrs on Village Matters:

Cllr Jefferis: Advised that he had been approached by parishioner Peter Moore who would like to officially hand over the responsibility to the parish council of the Speed Watch sign.

Cllr Gorton: Expressed gratitude for the village christmas tree and raised concerns about the patch of grass/green being damaged by vehicles using the space to turn during the road closure. It was decided to approach the grass cutting firm about the possibility of installing more posts or planting of a permanent tree at the site.

Cllr Gurney: Updated that a warning had been shared by CBC of a fake RSPCA van operating in the area, she will share this on the village Facebook page.

The contents of the proposed leaflet were confirmed to include: Parish Councillor vacancies. Governance Review update and to invite parishioners to address the parish council with their views.

Close of Parish Council Meeting: Next meeting 3rd March 2021

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 20:56 (08:56pm).

This is true and accurate record of the meeting

Signed:

(chairman)

Date: 3rd March 2021