Minutes of the Eggington Parish Council
Meeting No.234– held on Wednesday 6th March 2024

PRESENT: Chair Craig Ramsay, Vice Chair Simon King
Councillors Kerry Gorton, Paul Hyams
Ward Councillors David Bligh, Kevin Pughe

1.Apologies
Ward Councillors Mark Versallion & Nigel Carnell
Parish Councillors Martine Tournay & David Parkinson

2. Planning
CB/24/00243 Charity Farm Change from Agriculture to Caravan Site;

Chair Craig Ramsay explained that this is retrospective, and it has been there for many years. Councillor Kerry Gorton and Chair Craig Ramsay agree that there will be more accountability if a licence is approved, and they will have to adhere to certain conditions. Chair Craig Ramsay's view is that the Parish Council will not challenge this planning. Chair Craig Ramsay pointed out that the caravan site would have electricity as amenities are to be installed but this has to be clarified and we could suggest to the resident of Charity Farm that a spur be installed allowing for a defib to be fitted at that end of village. Chair Craig Ramsay to have a conversation with the applicant.

EGG/FP6VO New Plan for Pathway. Diversion order;

Vice Chair Simon King emailed the Rights of Way Officer because the documents didn't really clarify what they were doing, and it looked like the public right of way was being closed for another year. The issue is, there is no pathway on the Stanbridge Road by the DVLA test centre and pedestrian's have to dangerously walk in the road. Vice Chair Simon King to get updates.

3.Public

A resident Carol Jefferies complimented on how well the Parish Council was being run, in particular the clerk.

Carol Jefferies pointed out her concern on the school bus funding. Ward Councillor David Bligh responded that school bus funding generally, including SEND children, is over budget, and will remain under review. Carol Jefferies stated that there is insufficient school provision and therefore there are children not getting into their catchment area, particularly the children of Leighton Buzzard's surrounding villages. This could be a cause for inefficient use of school transport budget and proposed that CBC should review school catchment areas. Carole Jefferies asked what is being done to notify the parents.

Ward Councillor David Bligh replied that a consultation was taking place. Chair Craig Ramsay responded that if there is a consultation it is not getting to our residents and what is the plan if it is over budget. Ward Councillor David Bligh replied by email with the proposed changes , this will be available on the Parish Website, but one of the main changes that is being proposed is to develop an independent travel scheme for children and young people with SEND, to help those who can develop the necessary skills and knowledge to travel independently and provide parents or carers with peace of mind that they are travelling safely. Another proposal is when applying for school transport it is proposed to change from the school catchment area to the students nearest school. Ward Councillor David Bligh felt that it is very inefficiently organised, and he will write to the executive member of education Hayley Whittaker.

Carole Jefferies expressed concern on the planning application for a caravan park at Chairity farm. Chair Craig Ramsay responded this is a retrospective planning application that is already on the grounds. It's not a permanent basis only up to 28 days stay. Vice Chair Simon King pointed out there will be shower facilities and toilets and advised that any residents with an opinion/comment can respond to the application via the CBC planning portal.

Carole Jefferies pointed out her concerns regarding the planning application for a dog walking field, main concern being unsafe access. Vice Chair Simon King replied we had discussed the planning and as a Parish Council we had no objections, but CBC Highways will be a consultee of the application and are best placed to comment on road safety. Any residents with an opinion/comment can respond to the application via the CBC planning portal.

Carole Jefferies asked if the contractors for the grass cutting MJ Agri could cut back the brambles bordering Perrywinkle. Chair Craig Ramsay replied yes, and they will be instructed.

4. Ward Councillors Update

Ward Councillor David Bligh reported that he was trying to get information regarding the shop planning application on Clipstone. Vice Chair Simon King replied that Councillor David Parkinson had been looking into it and it wasn't just a change of use but an actual planning application. Ward Councillor will chase this up.

Ward Councillor Kevin Pughe spoke regarding an informal chat with the Clerk at LLTC regarding Cemetaries and allotments. It was pointed out to him that the clerk would need instruction from the council before he would be able to talk to Eggington Parish Council. Ward Councillor Kevin Pugh proposed that Vice Chair Simon King send an email copying him in setting out the points that he would like to discuss. Ward Councillor Kevin Pughe asked how far along is the Parish Council with the allotments and Cemetary. Vice Chair Simon King replied that the 1st Allotment will be early summer this year and the 2nd Allotment will be 1-2 years away. Vice Chair Simon King reported that Lisa White (CBC) was going to keep us updated on progress with the land earmarked as a cemetery on Clipstone. There are still lots of tests to be done on the land to determine if it is suitable for a cemetery and these will not happen until the developers are finished building houses in that section of the estate. Therefore the cemetery is not something of immediate action for the Parish Council but it is being monitored for progress, still likely years and not months before it is made available.

Ward Councillor David Bligh announced somebody has been offered the job of head of grounds and once that has been announced it will a good idea for the Parish Council to open up discussions regarding the cemetery and allotments.

Vice Chair Simon King stated that we are likely to have some spare plots that can be offered to LLTC and agreed that we should have a means of dialogue with LLTC. Ward Councillor Kevin Pughe replied LLTC have a very long waiting list for allotments. Chair Craig Ramsay asked how many plots we have, and Vice Chair Simon King replied that it's about 50-60 plots with a waiting list of approximately 50 though it's estimated that not everyone will take up the plot they requested.

Ward Councillor David Bligh reported that CBC continue to want to develop the land in Leighton Buzzard town centre (Dunscombe Drive car park and adjoining area) and conversations on how it would be used are still ongoing. Chair Craig Ramsay asked if there was anything the Parish Council could do. Ward Councillor Kevin Pughe replied that there had been a consultation last summer and that the Parish Council could make representation to CBC.

CBC have a meeting 1st Thursday every 3 months with LLTC and Ward Councillor Kevin Pugh will mention that perhaps a councillor from Eggington could join, along with councillors from the other village parishes. Chair Craig Ramsay agreed and that one of councillors would be willing to attend.

Councillor Kerry Gorton feels there is not excess parking in Leighton Buzzard. Ward Councillor Kevin Pughe responded that there had been a survey but the market traders who park in Duncombe Drive and school parking were not taken into consideration and that also the data from car parking ticket sales had not been made public.

5 Clipstone

Vice Chair Simon King reported that the allotments at Clipstone should be ready spring/summer this year. It has been ploughed and water pipes need to go in and then the plots are to be marked out and the revised plans just need to be signed off and once we have a draft legal licence from the consortium, we can instruct our solicitor to review it. Chair Craig Ramsay asked about sizing of the plots, Vice Chair Simon King responded that the national size is 100sqm but there will be a mix some 50sqm and others 60sqm. The larger ones will be adjustable.

Vice Chair Simon King stated that the consortium would be happy to bring forward the 1st allotment and we have the new plans.

Vice Chair Simon King reported that the Crane at the New Care Home will be removed soon and the developers have offered Councillors to tour the care home.

Vice Chair Simon King commented that the playground equipment planning is going through and that they will install free of charge the equipment that the Parish Council will purchase.

Vice Chair Simon King reported that 1 resident has asked about outdoor Gym equipment. They were told it is not in the budget for this year. Another resident commented that it is very difficult to cross Hockcliffe Rd. Vice Chair Simon King responded that The Parish Council will flag this up with the Highways as it is an issue with the increase of the houses and the contractors.

Councillor Paul Hyams brought up the problem with the excess gravel that is now piling up in the kerbs and there is no sign of this being cleared.

6. Requests for Funding

a. Part two of the Village Hall.
b. Village Church.

Vice Chair Simon King reported that a meeting of the solar farm fund took place on the 15th February 2024 and WI and 1st Part of the Village Hall requests were both approved and are now going through the process with CBC and the department that is responsible for giving out the money.

The requests for the Part2 of the village hall is unusual as they have already purchased the equipment, but we are allowing this request as pointed out in the minutes of the meeting. They have now provided proof that it was cost effective to purchase early and save money.

The request from the Church Warden is for £4600 for substantial work to trees that are encroaching the public pathway. Chair Craig Ramsay explained that some trees are to be removed as they have Ash die back and they must get permission as it is in the conservation area.

These requests were agreed that they fit the criteria for the Solar Farm Fund and a virtual meeting to be proposed for the 20th March to consider them for approval.

7. D Day Celebrations

Chair Craig Ramsay asked the Ward Councillors if there were any plans at LLTC for celebrating D Day. Ward Councillor David replied that at the moment there are no plans.

Councillor Kerry brought the matter of flying a flag on D Day but has not tracked down a pole in the village.

Chair Craig Ramsay responded that perhaps the developers on the Clipstone estate could be asked to fly one on their poles and it was agreed to order a flag.

Chair Craig Ramsay proposed that a metal women soldier monument to be ordered. Agreed by the Parish Council.

Chair Craig Ramsay discussed the possibility of a venue for an afternoon celebration for the residents. Councillor Kerry Gorton to ask Eggington House if they would like to host. The Cricket Club and the Rugby Club also to be considered as venues.

The date was agreed for the 8th June and Councillor Kerry Gorton suggested that the outdoor games could be used for the children. Vice Chair Simon King responded as long as we have volunteers to organise, he has no objection. Chair Craig Ramsay stipulated this event is open to the whole of the Parish and the planning to presented at the next meeting.

8. Speed Data
To be provided separately on the website.

9. Village Update

Councillor Kerry Gorton reported that the recycling bin will be delivered on Friday and to placed outside the Curry House on the community ground and persons who park there been notified and asked to leave a space.

Councillor Kerry Gorton has spoken to Resident Andrew White regarding the storm drains that need to be cleared. Ward Councillor David Bligh responded that at a meeting he attended a motion would be proposed to the highways for CBC to clear them every year. Carol Jeffries brought up the matter of the manhole that has still not been fixed even though it was reported on fix it. Chair Craig Ramsay suggested that it be reported again, and the reference number used to chase this up with Mark Versallion.

A portrait of the King has been ordered and to be put up in the Village Hall.

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

11 Standing Orders
None were made.

12. To confirm Minutes of Meeting 233
Agreed as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Vice Chair Simon King and seconded by Councillor Kerry Gorton

Current Financial Situation

Current Account £3194.54
Savings Account £53074.22

The Parish council have instructed a new Independant auditor as the previous auditor Mr Foster is retiring.

It was agreed that the quote from Elan city for remote access to the radar speed signs is not something the Parish Council will go ahead with.

Vice chair Simon King reports that we will have sufficient funds until the end of the financial year. FY25 precept is paid early April 2024. Half of the parish savings will be used next year to subsidise the council's budgeted expenditure, as well as for projects such as playground equipment on Clipstone, therefore allowing a much lower precept for our residents. This will leave an amount in reserve of an amount equivalent to the annual expenditure of the Parish council.

Payments approved to be paid before next month - None

Close of Parish Council Meeting: Next Meeting 3rd April 2024

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 8.55 pm

This is true and accurate record of the meeting

Signed: (chairman) Date: 11th March 2024