

Minutes of the Eggington Parish Council
Meeting No.244– held on Wednesday 5th February 2025

PRESENT: Eggington Parish Council - Vice Chair Simon King, Councillors Martine Tournay & Kerry Gorton,

Ward Councillors - Kevin Pugh & Mark Versallion

1.Apologies

Eggington Parish Council - Chair Craig Ramsay, Councillors David Parkinson & Paul Hyams

Ward Councillors - Nigel Carnell & David Bligh.

2.Public

None in attendance

3. Ward Councillors

Ward Councillor Mark Versallion reported that at the health centre Bassett Rd, there are plans to add 6 rooms and that a GP will oversee all the nurses, Pharmacists and paramedics, it's the current alternative to building a new health centre in the town. The CBC Health Committee continues to push the local health authority to fund the previously proposed new health centre for the town.

As part of producing a new 'Local Plan', CBC is exploring potential sites for development. Additional parts of the land surrounding Leighton Buzzard might be included in the plan. Further details available on CBC website.

Ward Councillor Kevin Pugh pointed out that even though Leighton Buzzard and Linslade have been campaigning for New Health facilities, and it is the biggest town in central Bedfordshire, all the facilities seem to be going to Dunstable that actually has a hospital just down the road. One of the issues with expanding Bassett Rd is that there is limited parking.

Vice Simon King asked if the new Labour MP had been helpful as Andrew Selous had always been supportive of these issues. Ward Councillor Kevin Pugh replied that with regard to the public she is not very visible. Ward Councillor Mark Versallion added that he has emailed 4 times with a holding reply from the 1st email, and explained he wanted to speak to her regarding schools as well. But has had no reply from the other 3 emails.

Vice Chair Simon King stated there were lots of different quotes on social media from councillors regarding the local plan. Ward Councillor Kevin Pugh stated if you don't have a plan that you can engage in you have things imposed on you where you don't want them. Not many people want huge developments but with a Local plan you can have some control. Vice Chair Simon King pointed out that a developer is pitching to build on land towards the end of Fraserfield Way, which is green belt, to meet the Governments target. Ward Councillor Mark Versallion pointed out that the call for sites is closing now for 2025, public consultation 2026 February-April. Submissions 2027 and to be adopted by the secretary of state in 2028.

Vice Chair Simon King explained to the ward councillors the problem with accountability on the Clipstone Estate, where problems are arising and at first the consortium were helpful as CBC have no responsibility yet. Residents complain and there is a spread sheet of complaints but there is no response from the consortium. The parish council has arranged a meeting with some directors of Barratts & Taylor Wimpey on the 6th February. Ward Councillor Mark Versallion suggested that you try the head of enforcement at CBC Richard Procter, because there are conditions of approval, to maintain the estate until it is adopted.

Vice Chair Simon King asked about the Budget, Ward Councillor Mark Versallion replied that there could be possible amendments. There will be increases of Council Tax by 5% and because a lot of money has been spent from the reserves that will be replenished and built back up again. Two thirds of the budget is for children and adult social care and borrowing interest rates are going up. There is to be a 10% cut in staff. Ward Councillor Kevin Pugh stated that council budgets in real terms from 2010 have been cut by 50%.

Ward Councillor Mark Versallion attended the Police Commissioner's panel and felt before they ask for money from the taxpayer they should perhaps think of efficiencies.

4. Planning

None

5. Clipstone

Vice Chair Simon King reported that First Port the administrators of Clipstone Estate management company have reconciled their 2023 budget and have asked residents for another £8000 even though they have very small areas of grass and sweeping of concrete. Their budget is approximately £60,000. First Port will not engage with the councillors of the Parish Council as we have no jurisdiction and that residents need to email them through their first port customer accounts portal. The way round this is to form a residents association and residents have been asked but so far people seem reluctant.

Ward Councillor Kevin Pugh asked if there was any flooding on the Clipstone Estate. Vice Chair Simon King replied that the playground is on the flood plain for clipstone brook which floods frequently and renders the playground unusable at this time of the year. CBC did an inspection of equipment at the playground and has found it unsuitable. Until the problem with the flooding is resolved they cannot install new equipment.

There have been a few complaints regarding dog waste bins where they are full and people just leave bags of dog waste by the bin. The answer is to take the dog waste bag home and put it in your black bin.

6. Allotments

No update.

7. Requests for Funding

No funding requests.

8. Speed Data

To Be Added to the Website;

A few remarks on Facebook Clipstone Estate group regarding speeding on Fraser Fields, residents are reminded that speeds are monitored, and speeds are within reasonable range and when the roads are eventually adopted, they could make representation to CBC. Vice Chair Simon King also pointed out that there is a resident in the village, wanting the speed camera moved further down towards the Leighton Rd end. The problem is that the suitable lamp posts are embedded into the hedges these would need to be trimmed back regularly. The monitoring in the village shows that 99% of the time speeds are within the limit. It was suggested to the resident that if he could set up a speed watch with volunteers, the Parish Council would provide the speed gun.

9. Village Update

Hog roast event for Eggington Scheduled for 12th July, any funding to be applied for via the Parish Website.

Quote from Prouloudic of £4623.68 for Village Playground See Saw was agreed. Chair Craig Ramsay and Councillor Paul Hyams before the meeting also agreed with this quote. Vice Chair Simon King had spoken to LTC with regard to playground equipment and they highly recommend this company.

Proposed Vice Chair Simon King
Seconded Councillor Kerry Gorton
Vote was unanimous

Lease for the Village Hall

A detailed survey has been carried out at a reasonable cost of £1000-1500 arranged by Councillor Paul Hyams. They have listed a number of things that need to be put right. Vice Chair Simon King has been in contact with CBC and the fact that the lease has expired and as a Parish Council we are quite happy to take on a new lease. It was explained to CBC we would like to keep it for the community. The findings of the survey have been shared with CBC and a meeting at the village hall has been arranged to ask what remedial works will be carried out by themselves before the Parish Council taking on the lease. They have agreed to keep the rental at £275.00 per annum. The viability of taken on the lease at a further meeting of the council will be discussed. Residents will be invited to a meeting to air their views. A new committee will need to be set up and to run it as a viable enterprise.

10. Declarations of Interest and requests for dispensations:

Councillor Martine Tournay declared that she was on the committee for the Village Hall.

11 Standing Orders

None were made.

12. To confirm Minutes of Meeting 243

Proposer Councillor Kerry Gorton
Seconder Councillor Martine Tournay
Vote unanimous

13. Any other Business

A session on accessing S106 reports was attended by the Clerk and Councillor David Parkinson. A recording of this session was shared with the councillors.

It has been noted that we still have no rental invoice for the village which will need to be settled before taking on the Lease.

We have been invited to put someone in the ballot for a garden party at Buckingham Palace. Chair Craig Ramsay has been entered

Current Financial Situation

Current Account Lloyds	£4,608.51
Current Account Barclays	£636.00
Savings (Reserves) Account Barclays	£33,197.77
S106 Solar Farm Funds Balance	£29,176.25

Close of Parish Council Meeting: Next Meeting 5th March 2025

This is true and accurate record of the meeting

Signed:

(chairman)

Date: 11th February 2025