



**The meeting of Egerton Parish Council was held on Tuesday 5 March 2024
7pm Committee Room, Millennium Hall, Egerton**

Present

Cllrs: Peter Rawlinson (vice-chairman), Simon Palmer, Pat Parr, Richard Wall, Jeff Hopkins, Claire Foinette

Borough Councillor: Kayleigh Brunger-Randall

Six members of the public were present

1) Apologies

EPC Chairman John Lawton, Clerk Sonia Young, County Councillor Charlie Simkins Peter Rawlinson (Vice-Chairman) advised that in the absence of the Chairman he would chair the meeting, and in the absence of the Clerk, Claire Foinette would be taking the minutes. There were no objections.

2) Declarations of Interest

Cllr Pat Parr: Neighbour to the Orchard Nurseries site proposed for development.

Cllr Simon Palmer: Neighbour to the Orchard Nurseries site proposed for development.

3) Minutes of the Previous Meeting 6 February 2024

The minutes were approved and signed as a true record of the proceedings.

Proposed: Jeff Hopkins. **Seconded:** Simon Palmer. **All in agreement.** Peter Rawlinson abstained as he was not present at the February meeting.

4) Matters Arising from 6 February 2024 (not covered by the agenda below)

- a) The George Pub.** A parishioner was concerned about the safety of the scaffolding and this was checked informally. There has been no response from the owner to the Clerk's request about the return of the property loaned to the pub.
- b) Tree Works.** Owing to the wet weather it is likely that this work may be postponed until later. The hard standing for the basket-ball net next to the dead tree may need to be relocated due to soil subsidence. If feasible, the landowner adjacent to the cricket field may be approached to gain easier access to the dead tree on the perimeter of the outfield. The Playing Fields Association are seeking quotes for rabbit fencing around the outfield.
- c) Computer Centre.** A further meeting of the parties involved in the use of the Millennium village Hall and Computer Centre was held in February. The Hall will now invoice all regular users as tenants. The Computer Centre/Film Society bank account will no longer come under EPC and they will handle their own monies. There will be an expected rent increase for the Parish Council which is considered reasonable considering recent increases in expenses. The details will be provided at the April meeting.
- d) Trees for Elm Close.** A field maple and a flowering cherry have been planted, leaving room for mowing. The felled trees are also regenerating, so the Tree Warden will monitor their growth.
- e) Canham Homes.** The state of the verges was partially improved with reseeded which has now sunk and has also been damaged by lorries turning. Kent Highway Services are liaising with both Canham Homes and their subcontractors to ensure the verges and the highway are properly reinstated.
- f) Office Cabinet.** This has now arrived and is due to be assembled and installed in the near future.



- g) **Flooding.** South East Water engineers have investigated the flood on Rock Hill Road and could find no leak from the water supply pipework. Since this has recurred, they have been asked to investigate further, along with Southern Water in case the leakage is from the sewer.
- h) **Vacancies on the Parish Council.** There has been some interest. The closing date is 15th March. Details of any applications will be carefully considered by the Council and the outcome announced in April.

5) Chairman to close the meeting for Public Discussion

Meeting closed at 19.20pm

Meeting re-opened at 19.32pm

6) Footpaths Report 166 (See Appendix 1)

There are 5 outstanding issues and one closed, as in the attached report. The stile on the Greensand Way off Stone Hill has now been lowered. Two new cases are a) at Coldharbour Farm- the owners have been contacted regarding the repair of a metal gate, which is in hand. And b) adjacent to the footpath opposite the George there is concern regarding the - protected trees in a private garden as they are very large, overhang the footpath leaving debris and are close to buildings. Branches have fallen dangerously into nearby gardens and could adversely affect the path. The ABC Tree Preservation Officer is to be consulted for advice to give the owner of the trees. Parish councillors would be content to attend a site meeting and the Egerton Tree Warden would be asked to assist in discussions where required.

7) Highways Report

It has not been possible to produce a full report, but all known potholes have been reported and drainage issues are to be followed up. Cllr Simon Palmer offered to move the 'Road Closed' signs at the bottom of Rock Hill off the highway as they are out of date.

Kent Highways have confirmed they will extend the 30mph speed limit on New Road to the Pluckley side of the Stone Hill junction.

8) Planning and Development

Planning Applications

Planning applications submitted to Ashford Borough Council this month for Egerton Parish Council to consider, details of which may be accessed online at: http://www.ashford.gov.uk/online_planning/. Individuals may also register via the website with ABC to receive regular alerts of new applications and decisions and any matters under or for investigation because of potential planning breaches.

Case Reference:	PA/2024/0146
Location	Malthouse Farm, Rock Hill Road, Egerton TN27 9EB
Proposal	Listed Building Consent for rear single storey extension following demolition of existing single storey extension; removal of chimney, widening of door opening; removal of a modern gas fireplace, reinstating a historic door opening; installation of a WC in understairs cupboard and repositioning of modern partition.
Case Reference:	PA/2024/0119
Location	Malthouse Farm, Rock Hill Road, Egerton TN27 9EB
Proposal	Single storey rear extension following demolition of existing single storey extension.
EPC View	EPC's comment is recorded on the ABC website

Older People's Accommodation

Revised plans for the Orchard Nurseries site are under consideration by ABC and the matter of sight lines is under discussion with KCC.

Affordable Housing- Gale/Sale Field

The application has been further delayed as two rental properties are to be changed to shared ownership, reflecting the needs of those who registered interest in the properties. ABC has insisted that English Rural Housing produces a revised Viability Statement, which is in hand.

9) Correspondence

Note: All circulated by email in advance unless marked with a *

- KALC weekly bulletin. All.11/2/02
- CPRE bulletin .All. 10/02
- KALC weekly bulletin. All. 21/02
- ABC briefing – Dover challenge to Ashford border controls. All. 21/02
- Food Friends charity alert. All. EU. 21/02
- Rescue Hoads Wood. All. EU. 21/02
- Letter from resident. All. 21/02
- KALC area meeting details. CF. 28/01
- ABC new waste and recycling services. All& Update. 29/02
- ABC building safety compliance on its housing stock. All. 29/02
- ABC HUG grant scheme. All. 01.03
- KCC Speed Limit Order new Road. All. 01.03
- Letter from resident about problem trees adjacent to footpath. All. 02/03
- Letter from resident regarding Orchard Nurseries *

The letter regarding the trees lining the footpath **see item 6**

A response to the letter regarding Orchard Nurseries to be prepared

Website

January minutes

March agenda

Addendum to Complaints Procedure and Freedom of Information Requests

10) Accounts

		Cheque No	£
Build and install planter, clear and remove rubbish. Digging out and planting trees	G Green	BACS	145.00
March Salary –	Clerk	BACS	1153.71
HMRC	HMRC	BACS	249.64
Total			£1,448.35

Income			
Donation		cheque	200.00
Total			£200.00

Bank Reconciliation Balance at 29th February 2024 = £17,309.36 less unpresented cheques as follows

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Actual balance = £17,309.36 as at 29th February 2024



Accounts for Egerton update magazine

Expenditure			£
Delivery	A Arthur		£130.00
Total			£130.00

Income			
Advertising	Mixed		2660.00
Total			£2660.00

Bank Reconciliation Balance at 29th February 2024 £3,892.55 Less un-presented cheques as follows:

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Actual balance = £3,892.55 at 29th February 2024

Accounts for Village Projects

Expenditure		Cheque No	£
Total			

Income			
Interest		BACS	13.56
Total			£13.56

Bank Reconciliation Balance at 29th February 2024 £13, 156.66 Less un-presented cheques as follows:

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Actual balance = £13,156.66 as at 29th February 2024

Village Projects fund

Pre-school project	3,117.44
Esme Slater woodland	10,039.22

Cllr Claire Foinette kindly provided a new planter for the Glebe and this was installed by Peter Rawlinson and George Green. They also removed a large tree branch by the Millennium Hall after the storm damage and cleared the area of all debris.

A donation towards the Neighbourhood Plan Fighting Fund was received and entered in Income. The latest financial figures regarding legal costs of the application for a Judicial Review cannot be published until all invoices and all donations have been received. No donors can be identified owing to Data Protection regulations and their desire to remain anonymous. It may be possible to provide a relevant financial statement at the Parish Assembly on 17 April if all invoices and donations have been received.

Mel Rawlinson was thanked for her hard work on the preparation and publication of the February issue of Egerton Update magazine.

Proposal to approve the accounts as presented. Proposed: Richard Wall. **Seconded:** Jeff Hopkins. All in favour

New quotes for the annual mowing contract were discussed. The quotes were circulated prior to the meeting. The Clerk secured a quote from a potential new supplier called Envisage and which provided a more competitive quote than the existing contractor Aspire. The Envisage quote also included regular



clearance of leaves behind and around the village hall. Proposal to accept the quote from Envisage: **Proposed:** Simon Palmer. **Seconded:** Pat Parr. All in favour

A quote of £6,400 for the rebuilding of the steps to the cricket field had been received. The wood to be oak rather than softwood which will be longer lasting and sturdier This is within the projected budget plan. Proposal to accept the quote for the replacement steps to be built out of oak: **Proposed:** Richard Wall. **Seconded:** Peter Rawlinson. All in favour

11) Sewage Works

A meeting with representatives of Southern Water, EPC and Egerton Playing Fields Association was held to discuss required improvements to the sewage treatment works. This had been prompted by the Environment Agency's concerns that some pollutants were being discharged in the nearby water courses during heavy rain. The capacity needs to be increased by installing an additional settlement tank within the year before March 2025 and the work should be done during the summer months. This will involve heavy plant machinery and an access route into the site. The two options are:

- 1) Bring in a large crane which would involve putting in a temporary roadway where the playing field and cricket nets are currently positioned (all to be reinstated after the work is completed at the cost of Southern Water).
- 2) Bring in a smaller crane using the existing access road and removing the leylandii trees adjacent to the plant. Further, more suitable native trees to be planted after completion and a close board fence to be erected until the trees can provide a suitable screen. All to be funded by Southern Water.

Southern Water to communicate to the village the agreed plan. The newly installed tank would be capped to reduce the smells.

Option 2 was proposed as the most suitable: **Proposed:** Peter Rawlinson. **Seconded:** Richard Wall. All in favour.

Southern Water had been reminded at the meeting of the inadequacy of the Pumping station in Forstal Road next to Forstal Villas and that this needed to be addressed in parallel. SW stated that one of the pumps had failed and this was being rectified, now that an out-of-stock spare part had been sourced.

12 Additional Items

Policy: Addendum to Egerton Parish Council's Complaints Procedure and Freedom of Information Requests. PR read out a statement explaining the need to have in place measures which provide a level of protection against those that might seek to undermine the democratic process or disrupt the Parish Council's work and to protect the Clerk and Council in the event of unreasonable behaviour, harassment or undue influence. The addendum had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting and was discussed and the adoption proposed:

Proposed: Peter Rawlinson. **Seconded:** Richard Wall. All in favour.

Egerton Archives

The Archive group working on compiling the Egerton Archives were thanked for their most informative and interesting presentation for the village on Saturday 2 March. It was very well attended and many positive comments had been received.

Shop

A date has not yet been formally announced for the opening of the village stores. It is hoped that there will be a post office and general store opposite the Glebe by the end of April.

Welcome Pack

This has been revised and 20 copies printed, thanks to the work of Pat Parr.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm