



**The Extraordinary meeting of Egerton Parish Council was held on Wednesday 21 February 2024
7pm Committee Room, Millennium Hall, Egerton**

Present

CLLrs (Vice-chair) Peter Rawlinson, Claire Foinette, Jeff Hopkins, Pat Parr, Simon Palmer, and Sonia Young (Clerk).

Borough Councillor Kayleigh Brunger-Randall

Members of the public in attendance: 22

1) Apologies

EPC Chair John Lawton and Cllr Richard Wall. County Councillor Simkins

2) Declarations of Interest in matters relating to the agenda

None

Meeting chair Peter Rawlinson welcomed all members of the public to the meeting. He confirmed that the meeting would commence with a public forum to enable those members of the public who wished to propose and outline a future project for the village – no matter how small or big – and that the meeting was expected to last for one hour. He said this would enable EPC to list those projects for the wider village to look at and prioritise at the Parish Assembly, and inform how projects proposed might be funded, whether by a S106 payment allied to a new housing development, grant funding, the annual precept or via other means.

Five attendees from village groups indicated in advance that they wished to speak.

3) Chair Peter Rawlinson opened the meeting to the public at 7.02pm.

He said that the Clerk would list the projects proposed and that the session would allow councillors to answer questions. Members of the public were allowed to contribute informally to the discussions and ask questions throughout the meeting and also in the formal section designated as a public session.

Projects proposed:

Defibrillators

Resident Stratton Richey, who manages and services all the defibrillators in the village, said that an additional defibrillator was ideally needed to fill a 'gap' in provision for the many village residents living in the area known as Pleasant Valley at the lower end of Rock Hill Road.

The projected cost was given as £1,738 plus annual servicing costs of approx. £150. If accepted, and if funds were to come available, he said that a resident had volunteered to have the defibrillator on the wall of their garage, accessible to all. He also said that the other defibrillators in the village at Stonebridge Green, the Village Hall, The Forstal and the Rose & Crown pub at Mundy Bois, were regularly deployed and had saved lives but those living in Pleasant Valley would currently have too long a journey to access one of the existing defibrillators to have a positive outcome in the event of an incident.

Upgrade to the school playground to ensure that Egerton Primary School remains inviting, welcoming and viable as the birth rate in Kent falls.

The current wooden playground is in a poor state; the large leylandii at the rear of the school playground also need to be removed due to the debris, shading and overall damaging and negative impact they have on the area. The school PTA chair, Beth Foxford, said that the school is a valued



asset that added much to the wider community. She said that it would cost £10k to remove the trees and that the upgrade to the playground would need to be phased to better manage the costs. The PTA work hard to raise 6-7k per annum but these funds must be widely spread. The total cost, including tree works, was mooted to be in the region of £70k. Beth thanked EPC for allowing the school to present its case to the village.

Additional car parking at the football field

Egerton Playing Fields Association chair, Steve Wellard, said that both cricket and football had seen a welcome resurgence in the village and to support that, additional parking was needed to avoid people parking on the banks and grass and damaging the surfaces. He said that parking in dry weather was already in place near the entry road, but that it would be a big plus to formalise that by installing proper groundworks and markings. He said the area was approx. 30m x 25 and that a crude estimate would put the expected costs of the work at approx. £10k, and this would accommodate around 15-20 additional cars safely. He said that the additional car parking could also be used for people attending other central village events. Steve added that climate change and the increasing rainfall was another reason to consider putting in a larger parking area.

He added that finding an area to build a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) was still also a live project. He said it would be a boon to supporting sporting activity in the village, again because climate change meant that the grass surfaces, even with the new drainage, could not always be used. He said he would be happy to help with that project.

Permanent home for Egerton Pre-School

There is an ongoing project to find a permanent home for the pre-school so that the Millennium Hall can be used by a much wider range of village groups during the day - such as hosting the Egerton Music Festival - and also outside organisations to deliver much-needed additional income to fund maintenance of the hall and cover all outgoings. EPC has so far been frustrated in its plans to create funds for a permanent home for the pre-school but is still working hard for a successful outcome.

Replacement climbing frame for Egerton playground.

Cllr Claire Foinette said that the existing frame is rusting from the inside and will in the next 4-5 years need to be replaced. Estimates (two years old) were in the region of £35k.

Games Barn – online booking system and battery installation linked to the solar panelling.

The chair of the Games Barn sub-committee said that an investment in an on-line bookings system that included all village assets would be a worthwhile project and could potentially be the driver for a single unified village website to be established. The current village website, originally set up but not now managed by the Computer Centre, is out of date and in need of an upgrade. It could be combined with the Egerton Parish Council website so that users had 'one' place to go to source all the village information and to make a booking for one of the venues, be it the village hall, games barn or pavilion. It would also allow village groups to better publicise their activities and events in one place. Costs for this have not yet been gathered.

She advised that outline costs of a battery to store energy generated by the solar panels were in the region of £8-10k.

Chair Peter Rawlinson opened the floor for anyone else to make further comment.

One resident proposed that projects that had positive sustainable and green credentials would be very welcome in the village.



The public session closed at 7.53pm

4) Village Projects

The clerk reported that EPC had also received, ahead of the meeting, suggestions for other projects:

A replacement permanent beacon.

This is needed as the old beacon is no longer safe to drag out from behind the hall and put up or to leave standing unattended. It is also difficult to light as a ladder cannot be safely placed against it. The clerk has applied for a grant to fund this.

Additional picnic benches and seating benches for the wider enjoyment of the recreation area outside the hall and for parents and carers to use while watching children using the playground. The clerk advised that the grant applied for (above) included an application for funds to buy two of each.

Establishing the Egerton village archive: equipment.

Borough Councillor Kayleigh Bunger-Randall advised that a borough councillor application had been submitted for funding towards the purchase of some of the equipment needed for the Egerton Archive and for new equipment needed by the Film Society.

Jane Carr, chair of the Egerton Archive Group, said that the Group would be organising an 'open day' centred on the old Egerton tithe map on the afternoon of Saturday 10 March at the village hall. She said that everyone would be welcome to attend and to bring old village items with them for possible inclusion into the archive.

Oak posts to protect the verge at New Road

The verges along New Road have been badly damaged by works associated with the Canham Homes development and nearby residents have asked for small oak posts to be put into the verge, once repaired, to prevent lorries and cars damaging them again.

Installation of electric charging points

Grant funding is sporadically available for the installation of these points. A suitable location for the points needs to be investigated and potential suppliers sourced for estimates.

Improvement to the village car parking and lighting

The car park surface has been repaired. Residents have asked for the location of disabled parking provision to be reviewed.

Village 'gates'

This project was 'mothballed' a few years ago but EPC felt that it was something that would still enhance the boundaries of the village.

Solar panelling and storage battery for the village hall plus other urgent maintenance such as guttering repairs, renewed kitchen equipment and furniture.

5) Additional Items



Egerton Parish Council

Chair Peter Rawlinson thanked everyone who had proposed a project for their time and attendance and said that anyone with other projects to suggest should send them into the clerk.

He said a final list would be produced and honed for informal consideration and prioritisation by villagers at the Parish Assembly on 17 April. At that point, EPC would aim to clarify with ABC the situation with the S106 payments allied to the development of North Field for housing. He said the S106 payments due from the development of the New Road site for housing had been set some time ago.

Once the list has been reviewed and prioritised, then how those projects will be funded will be looked at in greater detail by the Parish Council and outline timelines agreed.

He thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting closed at 8pm