



**Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Tuesday 6th December 2022
7.30pm Committee Room, Millennium Hall, Egerton**

Present

Richard King (chairman), Cllrs Tim Oliver, Jeff Hopkins, Lois Tilden, Pat Parr, Claire Foinette, Richard Wall, Sonia Young (Clerk)

Two members of the public were present.

1) Declarations of Interest

Cllr Pat Parr: neighbour to site proposed for the Older People's Accommodation at Orchard Nurseries.

2) Apologies

Vice Chairman Peter Rawlinson, Cllr John Lawton

Councillor Charlie Simkins

Borough Councillor Ken Mulholland

3) Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 8th November 2022

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

Proposed: Cllr Lois Tilden. **Seconded:** Cllr Claire Foinette. **All in agreement.**

4) Matters Arising from 8th November 2022

a) Noticeboard at Egerton Forstal.

Action pending. Cllrs Lois Tilden and Claire Foinette to confer re siting of the new noticeboard.

b) Request to 100 Club for funds to help with costs of playground improvements.

Request declined by J Elworthy on behalf of the 100 Club.

Action: Clerk to write to J Elworthy seeking clarification on behalf of all villagers who contributed to the fund and have enquired about what has happened to the monies raised by them, to confirm what has been spent, and on what, and what funds – if any - remain within the fund. The same enquiry to be asked regarding the funds from the Egerton Fete so that both are on the public record.

e) 123 bus service

The shared survey (Smarden, Pluckley and Egerton) has been distributed to every home in Egerton and will be collected back in via the EPC letterbox at the Hall and other locations in the area for assessment.

f) Playground improvements

Cllr Claire Foinette reported that the two new items installed had passed independent inspection and were now in full and happy use by village children. A seesaw has been ordered and is scheduled for installation in late January.

Cllr Foinette has negotiated a deal re the required playground inspection so that the further inspection needed after installation of the see-saw will be combined with the required annual checks for the play area and skatepark.

The indicated charge for the combined inspection is £275.

Cllrs approved the cost.

5) Chairman to close the meeting for public discussion

Chairman closed the meeting for public discussion.

Meeting closed 19.51pm

Meeting re-opened 20.42pm



6) Footpaths report No 152 (see Appendix i)

7) Highways report No 40 (see Appendix ii)

8) Planning

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 with ABC to receive regular alerts of applications and decisions.

No planning applications listed.

a) Planning appeals – North Field –

Cllr Lois Tilden advised that EPC had appointed an independent planning consultant to construct and submit its appeal by the deadline of 9 December 2022.

Several Cllrs will also submit their own comments to the Inspectorate.

b) MBC plan review – Lenham Heath Garden Development

The Planning Inspector heard evidence on 25 November and now retired to consider the evidence. Cllr Lois Tilden said it would be some months before anything would be heard from the Inspector.

9) Older People's Accommodation – update

Residents have made comment on the Pre-application submitted by the developer into ABC Planning Department. ABC have asked the developer to submit two additional documents.

10) Affordable Housing – update

Cllr Lois Tilden raised some concern that it appeared comments had been allowed by ABC after the deadline. She also advised that the field put forward for the development of Affordable Housing should, according to the Land Registry, be called Sale Field and not Gale Field.

11) Review and approval of EPC Standing Orders.

The EPC Standing Orders were circulated to all Cllrs prior to the meeting.

Propose: approval.

Proposed: Chairman Richard King. **Seconded:** Cllr Richard Wall. **All in agreement.**

12) Freedom of Information (FOI) Requests – volume and impact on costs

The Clerk advised that one individual not resident in the village had, over a 24-month period, undertaken a vexatious campaign against Egerton Parish Council, its councillors and its Clerk that had taken up approximately 32% of The Clerk's available working hours. This equated to a financial cost to the village of at least £8,500 during that period although The Clerk and Cllrs had devoted many unpaid hours to dealing with the volume of this individual's complaints, requests for information, and Freedom of Information submissions. The Clerk listed 15 separate FOI requests.

13) Correspondence

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

NALC training Local councils and community outreach. All. 15/11/2022

Rural Services Network bulletin. All. 15/11/2022

KALC Boundary commission - Proposed boundary changes – comment until 5 Dec. All. 15/11

ABC – parliamentary boundary commission review – proposed changes to Ashford constituency and Weald. All 15/11

ABC planning notification re land 7-14 Harmers Way APP/E2205/W/22/3298686. All. 17/11/2022

Kent Fire and Rescue Service consult. All. 17/11

Rural Services Network. All. 29/11/2022

KALC establishing a Climate Change working group. All. 29/11

Emailed refusal from 100 Club administrators for application from EPC for a grant towards the new play area/equipment. All. 1 Dec



ABC invitation to join Christmas market and concert 9 Dec. All. 1 Dec

NALC newsletter. All. 1 Dec

Website

October minutes

December agenda

14) Accounts

Accounts

Expenditure		Cheque No	£
Egerton Pre-School	Donation from jubilee Surplus	BACS	100.00
New playground installation independent inspection	Safeplay	BACS	180.00
Egerton Primary	Donation from jubilee Surplus	BACS	100.00
EPC annual room rental	Egerton Film & Computer Centre	BACS	500.00
Remove old and replace new salt bin on concrete and fill	G Green	BACS	82.50
Microsoft 365 annual sub	Reimburse S Young	BACS	79.99
Village Christmas tree	Reimburse S Young	BACS	114.00
Clerk holiday cover	Heather James	BACS	200.00
Salary	S Young	BACS	1120.46
HMRC		BACS	33.97
Total			£2510.92

Income			
Jubilee surplus transfer from deposit account	To pay donations x 2 £100	BACS	200.00
Peppercorn rent	Millennium hall	Cash	0.10
Donations	NP fighting fund	BACS	1,250.00
Hawks Nest Trust	Donation playground refurb	BACS	250.00
Peppercorn rent	1 Old School Court	BACS	50.00
Total			

Bank Reconciliation Balance at 30th Nov 2022 = £17,261.95 less un-presented cheques as follows

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Actual balance = £17,261.95 at 30th Nov 2022

Note above balance includes a RESERVE of £1,000 = grant from K Mulholland/ ABC towards the printing of the Neighbourhood Plan and a legacy from Ernie Mexter of £5,000.



Accounts for Egerton update magazine

Expenditure		Cheque No	£
Donation	Egerton community event autumn social	BACS	40.00
Total			40.00

Income			
Total			

Bank Reconciliation Balance at 30th Nov 2022 = £2,2736.80 Less un-presented cheques as follows:

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Actual balance = £2,236.80 at 30th Nov 2022

Accounts for Village Projects

Expenditure		Cheque No	£

Income			
Interest		BACS	3.34
Total			3.34

Bank Reconciliation Balance at 30th Nov 2022 = £31, 277.41 Less un-presented cheques as follows:

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Actual balance = £31, 277.41 30th Nov 2022

Village Projects fund

Pre-school move	11,478.65
Esme Slater woodland	10,000.00
Village Hall	9,798.76

Accounts to be approved and budget spend to date noted. The accounts were approved.

Proposed: Cllr Jeff Hopkins **Seconded:** Cllr Claire Foinette. **All in agreement.**

Proposed precept 2023-2024 for review and approval

Proposed precept 2023-2024: £43, 056.00

Total budget 2023-2024: £44, 297

Precept 2022-2023: £33, 909

The Clerk had circulated next year's proposed budget and precept set out by the Finance Committee (see Appendix iii) to all councillors in advance of the meeting.

Egerton Parish Council reviewed the proposed budget and precept and voted to accept and adopt it.

Proposed to accept: Cllr Pat Parr. **Seconded:** Cllr Jeff Hopkins. **All in agreement.**

Action: The Clerk will submit the precept forms to Ashford Borough Council.

15) Additional items

- Welcome packs



Cllr Pat Parr advised that six packs had been delivered to new residents.

- Bus transport to Ashford Schools

It was agreed that EPC would contact bus providers for indicative quotes of costs to send approx. 20 Egerton children to their schools in Ashford when the 123 bus service stops. It was also noted that the HOU7 and 8 services to Tenterden Schools were also under threat. The only proposal put forward by KCC to get pupils into the Ashford Schools (after lobbying by parents and affected parish councils), was a bus service with an allied charge of £1,300 per child (dependent on total volume of uptake). KCC has stated that it only has responsibility to transport Egerton children to the nearest 'appropriate' school at Lenham. However, the Lenham school is oversubscribed and cannot educate all impacted children.

Action: Cllr Claire Foinette to contact all known local bus/minibus services for quotes and to assess levels of interest in providing a replacement daily service.

Next steps to be confirmed when the results of the research are received.

- Watersheet Farm

The owner contacted EPC to make it aware of future tree work that must be undertaken to fell rotten Poplar trees at the property boundary, as well as overhanging branches.

Meeting closed at 21.48pm.

Next meeting Tuesday 10th January 2022

Appendix (i)

Report no. 152 of the Egerton footpaths representative for December 2022

The Clerk wrote to Charlie Simkins regarding Egerton not currently having a KCC officer dealing with our footpath issues which was promptly directed to the officer concerned to which Charlie received the following reply:

"Dear Cllr Simkins,

Thank you for your email. The clerk is correct in that there is currently no area officer assigned to Egerton, which is looked after by the Swale area officer rather than the Ashford one. Interviews for a new Swale area officer commence on Thursday next week and it is difficult to say when the officer will be in place, as this will depend on the circumstances of the successful applicant.

Any high priority issues, such as those that are safety critical or related to development are being triaged by area manager Andrew Hutchinson and will be assigned to one of the other area officers.

I am the area officer for Ashford, but although Egerton is in Ashford district, it is not a parish that I look after. To add to the confusion, I was the Swale officer and did look after Egerton but have taken over my current role from Faye when she switched service.

I hope all of that makes sense. Kind regards, Malcolm Wills | East Kent Area Officer - Public Rights of Way & Access Service | Kent County Council | The Granary | Penstock Hall Farm | Canterbury Road | East Brabourne | ASHFORD | TN25 5LL

6 Outstanding Issues remain from the November 2022 report.

0 Closed Issues

0 New Issue



The outstanding issues below are listed with the KCC Reference, the date reported, the footpath number, the location, the difficulty experienced and the status of action.

1. **PROW 210959063.** 10/09/21. AW75 at Heronsdale, Wanden Lane. Egerton resident complaint of overgrowth (brambles) and fence panel leaning towards the footpath. Status: Still Awaiting Allocation.
2. **PROW211126930.** 09/11/21. Part of AW87 to the west of the church behind the Glebeland houses where the path is quite narrow. Badgers have again been active and collapsed the side of the path about halfway along. Status: Still Work Scheduled but it is accessible with matting in place until a more permanent solution is found. Status: Still in Progress.
3. **PROW211117086.** 21/11/21. AW64 Footpath opposite Egerton House on Greensand Way in a small, wooded area towards the byway up to Coach Road. Two planks missing/broken on the bridge over a small stream. Status: Still Work Added to Forward Maintenance Plan.
4. **PROW220641396.** 22/06/22. AW81. Stone Hill to Green Hill. At the Parish Assembly two separate reports were made regarding the boundary stile between the Stone Hill properties to the large field out to Green Hill. The stile there is too high for ladies to manage. Status: Still Awaiting Allocation.
5. **PROW220718308.** 21/07/22. AW88. Elm Close to Stone Hill. Official KCC fingerpost at the top of the steps leading down to the hall pointing across to direct walkers to the footpath which leads out to Stone Hill is missing. Status: Work Scheduled.
6. **ROW221045684.** 27/10/22. AW106. The Cottage on The Street by the telephone box out towards Egerton House etc. The new owners of The Cottage have sent a dozen photos (4 attached here) where various of the trees on the footpath are leaning towards their property or beginning to grow over The Cottage. I have suggested to KCC a meeting with the new owners to discuss the issues. Status: Awaiting Allocation.

NEW ISSUES: None.

Appendix (ii)

Report no. 40 of the Egerton Highways Representative – Dec 2022

Summary

Closed Items	0
Open Items	7
New Items	1

Closed Issues

Reference	Description & Status

Outstanding Issues

Reference	Description & Status
589193	Stonebridge Green Road - Blocked drain/gully
Logged	2 nd August 2021

Status	Enquiry attended - more work required
60002069	Green Hill Lane – Potholes
Logged	24/05/2022
Status	Works being programmed
No reference	Pembles Cross/Barham Mill Road – Road repair
Logged	Unknown
Status	Order raised
646549	Egerton House Road near The Coppice – Dip/Depression
Logged	20/07/2022
Status	Works being programmed
655998	Egerton House Road/Link Hill Lane Blocked Drain/Gully
Logged	21/09/2022
Status	Enquiry under investigation
655201	Chapel Lane Forstal Blocked Drain/Gully
Logged	15/09/2022
Status	Enquiry under investigation
659473	Mundy Bois Road – Multiple Potholes
Logged	09/08/2022
Status	Works being programmed

New Issues

Reference	Description & Status
667890	Pembles Cross – Multiple Potholes
Logged	November 2022

Appendix (iii)

EGERTON PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET 2023-24		Budget	budget	Proposed
Expenditure:		2021- 22	2022- 23	2023 2024
Administration	Clerk's salary(incl NIC)	11943	13054	15237
	Clerk cover	200	200	225
	Training	300	1000	750
	Telephone/wifi	50	50	240
	Travel	75	0	50
	Stationery/printing/stamps	500	400	300
	Newsletter/welcome/publicity/website	65	150	1050
	Insurance	1000	1000	1200
	Equipment	100	100	100
	Publications	0	0	0
	Advertising	0	0	0
Property	Rent of Parish office	500	100	550
	Repairs	300	0	250
	Parish facilities incl hall heating etc	150	150	150
Subscriptions/donations:				
S.137 donations	Church clock/floodlighting	250	250	200
Donations	various (such as Wealden Wheels)	500	500	500
	KALC	550	450	475
	Clerks& Councils direct	25	15	20
	ACRK	100	100	100
	CPRE	40	40	0
	Parish Magazine	0	0	0
	EPFA	0	0	0
Activities/events	Assembly etc.	100	150	2400
	Neighbourhood plan	0	0	0
Land and highways:				
Mowing	Mowing/Strimming	3800	5500	5700
	Glebe mowing and maintenance	50	50	450
	Tree surgery	3500	1000	1000
	Plants	100	150	160



General maintenance	Street cleaning/repairs/new equipment ie noticeboards	1000	750	1200
	Maintenance	0	3000	3000
	Playground & Skatepark	0	0	340
	WWTW access road c/f	3000	0	0
	Contractors/materials	1000	0	0
	Defibrillator Upkeep	300	0	0
Professional fees	Audit Commission			
	Auditor	1000	1250	1250
	hon auditor	0	0	
	Legal and professional fees	0	1500	1500
	VAT (to be reclaimed)	1500	1500	1900
	Other (Reclaimed VAT paid out to TC and GB)			
Contingency	Unforeseen items	3000	1500	4000
TOTAL		34,998	33909	44,297