



Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Tuesday 1st February 2022
8.15pm Committee Room, Millennium Hall, Egerton

Present

Richard King (Chairman), Peter Rawlinson (Vice Chairman) Cllrs Tim Oliver, Jeff Hopkins, John Lawton, Pat Parr, Claire Foinette, Richard Wall, Sonia Young (Clerk)

Three members of the public were present

1) Apologies

Cllr Lois Tilden

County Councillor Charlie Simkins

Borough Councillor Ken Mullholland

2) Declarations of Interest

Chairman Richard King: declared no financial or business interest in any matters on this agenda nor in any land put forward for development in the Neighbourhood Plan or any land excluded from development in the Neighbourhood Plan process.

Cllr Tim Oliver: a relation of his owns Gale Field which is proposed for development in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr John Lawton: property owned in Harmers Way which is adjacent to land put forward for development.

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

Cllr Claire Foinette: neighbour to Fortune, Forstal Road, Egerton, the subject of a planning application under Item 9.

3) Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 4th January 2022

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

Proposed: Chairman Richard King **Seconded:** Cllr Tim Oliver. **All agreed. Abstained:** John Lawton as not present at the 4th January 2022 meeting.

4) Matters Arising from 4th January 2022

a) Sale of the Shop

No further information available

b) Post Office

Service levels disrupted by connectivity. Engineers have been called out by the PO

c) Heathlands Garden Settlement

No update available

d) South-East Water replacement mains water works

See Item 8 Highways

d) Village websites

Meeting postponed until Thursday 3rd February

e) Village noticeboards

No update available

e) Games Barn replacement roof and installation of solar panelling

The Clerk advised that residents living near to the Games Barn had been notified of the works. There is a slight delay to expected completion due to the late arrival of the new roof lights which will slow installation of the solar panel. However, the Clerk said both contractors were in close communication and still expected to complete all works by mid February. The clerk confirmed that the GB would be clear of workmen and operable for the Neighbourhood Plan Referendum on Thursday 10th February.

f) Bus stop marking outside the former Queen's Arms Pub at The Forstal

No update available. Cllr John Lawton to follow up with Cllr Tilden

5) Chairman closed the meeting for public discussion

Closed: 20.23pm

Opened: 20.28pm

6) Neighbourhood Plan

Egerton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (ENPSG) chair Jane Carr reported that 60 people had so far attended the open evenings/Saturday briefing to find out more detail on the NP. She said the number included many people that the ENPSG had not heard from before, as well as residents new to the village; many sat and read the full NP document. She said discussions had all been positive and wished to thank members of the ENPSG who had given up time attend the briefings and answer residents' questions.

She said the results of the Referendum would be known by 11am on 11th February and published on the Ashford Borough Council (ABC) website.

The result will go to the ABC Cabinet on 24th February followed by full council on 3rd March for adoption if villagers voted in favour of the Plan.

7) Footpath Report No 142 (see Appendix i)

Footpath Warden Cllr Pat Parr said no new issues had been closed since the last report in January. The Chairman noted that the part of the path AW87 to the west of the church behind The Glebe houses, where the path is quite narrow ,was now open and appeared to have been repaired. Cllr

Action: Cllr Pat Parr to check.

8) Highways Report No 31 (See Appendix ii)

Allied matters

Cllr John Lawton reported that the road closures in Pluckley for the water main replacement had had a series of consequential effects for Egerton.

On a positive note, Cllr Lawton said the intervention of Richard King and Peter Rawlinson with South East Water and the Contractors Clancy Docwra before the works started in Pluckley had avoided Egerton being a diversion route and ensured that Heavy Goods Vehicles that would use Pluckley as a through route were diverted through Ashford and along the A28 to Bethersden; this had the effect of significantly mitigating the impact on Egerton and Pluckley villages.

The almost ubiquitous use of Satellite Navigation Systems meant, however, that traffic, not familiar with local roads, had been using the very narrow country lanes to find a route through. This had led to gridlock at times in Pivington Lane and Green Hill Lane and the damage to verges in Green Hill Lane was appalling. The same devastation of the verges had occurred in Malmain, Dowle Street and Sparrow Hatch Lane on the eastern side of Pluckley.

Once the works in Pluckley moved below the Swan Lane/ Egerton Road junction in January Green Hill Lane started to suffer from increased volumes of traffic, it is assumed not from locals who would know that it was not a suitable diversionary route. This led to traffic jams and more damage to verges, and vehicles getting stuck in the narrow lanes and significantly increased traffic through



Egerton village with attendant problems with speed and lack of consideration for pedestrians, cyclists, and horse riders.

Cllr Lawton and a resident of Green Hill Lane separately took this up with KCC Streetworks team who, at the suggestion of the Green Hill resident, agreed to supply additional signage marking Green Hill Lane for access only, in the same way as Lampden Road in Pluckley had been signed. Cllr Lawton said he had been told on various occasions that this signage was on its way, on the back of a lorry etc. Before he went on holiday, Charlie Simkins, Kent County Council Councillor, had asked Cllr Lawton to liaise with Barbara Westmacott at Streetworks to get the matter resolved with Streetworks. County Cllr Simkins had advised Barbara Westmacott to expect contact from Cllr Lawton. Despite this, Cllr Lawton said he never managed to contact Barbara Westmacott and that she failed to return all calls; no signage was forthcoming.

The whole situation reached a new level of serious concern when Southeast Water closed Mundy Bois Road on 19th January to effect emergency repairs. No prior notice was given and, inexplicably, the diversion route was signposted through Egerton village along New Road and down Green Hill Lane and the reverse of traffic coming from the Pinnock.

When the notice of road closure was received from Streetworks, the day after the road was actually closed, it stated a quite different diversion route, through Egerton Forstal, Bedlam Lane, Headcorn Road (past the Big Cat Sanctuary), Smarden Bell Road and then Mundy Bois Road. It was not clear if the diversion route was ever actually re-signed to the correct route.

In the meantime, and with no response from Streetworks, the matter was escalated to the Member of Parliament Damian Green and the scheduled 6 days of works in Mundy Bois Road was completed in the early afternoon of 21st January and the road reopened 2 days after being closed.

Cllr Lawton said it has also come to his attention that five schoolchildren had been left stranded in the dark at Pluckley on 19th January when the bus suddenly terminated due to the Mundy Bois Road closure.

Green Hill Lane was inspected by a KCC Highways inspector on the 26th January, and he determined that the road should be immediately closed. Signage was in place on 27th January.

Whilst this brought the matter to a conclusion for the time being, Cllr Lawton advised EPC that he believed there was a series of serious questions that need to be asked as follows:

- Was it really the case that the emergency works in Mundy Bois Road could not have waited three weeks until the Forge Hill works moved further down the hill?
- Are SEW, and indeed Streetworks, unable to recognise that any diversion needed to be considered along with extant diversions?
SEW have said that in this instance it caused by different depts not knowing what the other was doing. If true, Cllr Lawton said that this was not good enough.
- Even if it was accepted that it was necessary for the Mundy Bois works to be done as an emergency, then why was the diversion signposted along Green Hill Lane?
- Why was the official notice of the road closure (Mundy Bois Rd) only sent after the road had been closed?
- Why did SEW sign an incorrect diversion route and KCC Streetworks fail to get it corrected?
- Why did KCC Streetworks fail to respond to Cllr Lawton's repeated attempts to get in contact?
- Why did SEW apologise to Pluckley Parish Council about an issue that was exclusively an Egerton one, adding insult to a considerable injury.



Cllr Lawton proposed that EPC should raise formal complaints with Streetworks through the County Councillor and SEW to obtain satisfactory answers to the above questions.

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

Cllr Lawton reported that KCC Councillor Simkins said he would be pressing for the verges to be repaired.

Cllr Lawton concluded by saying that now that the works in Pluckley had moved further down the hill and with Station Road now available as a through route, it was hoped and expected that the worst was over for Egerton.

Vice Chairman Peter Rawlinson said that he had written to Ashford Police, Kent and Medway Police and Crime Panel, plus the Speed Camera Partnership to ask that the increase in speeding traffic through Egerton be monitored and to help Egerton establish a Community Speedwatch Group. He reported that Egerton PSCO Laura Langridge had responded and attended Egerton with a camera.

9) Planning

Planning applications submitted to Ashford Borough Council this month for Egerton Parish Council to consider, details of which may be accessed on line at: http://www.ashford.gov.uk/online_planning/ Individuals may also register with ABC to receive regular alerts of applications and decisions.

No planning items were submitted to EPC for comment in February.

It was agreed to ask Cllr Lois Tilden to respond to Application [21/02117/AS](#) for a Lawful Development Certificate, asking that Ashford Borough Council consider the Egerton Parish Design Statement.

Cllrs resolved to discuss the matter of the EPC submission to Ashford Borough Council Planning Committee's consideration of the proposed development at North Fields, at the EPC 1st March meeting, and to ask Cllr Lois Tilden to start to draft an outline submission ahead of the meeting.

10) Orchard Nurseries

Chairman Richard King advised that the update was commercially sensitive and proposed to move discussion to closed session.

Proposed: Chairman Richard King. **Seconded:** Vice chairman Peter Rawlinson. **All in agreement.**

11) The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Chairman Richard King proposed that an EPC Working Group be established to plan village celebrations for The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Proposed: Chairman Richard King. **Seconded:** Vice Chairman Peter Rawlinson. **All in agreement.**

Chairman Richard King asked Cllr Claire Foinette if she would represent EPC on the Working Group and gather villagers together to form a Working Group. Cllr Foinette said that volunteers from the former WW2 VE Day celebrations group had already said they would be happy to get involved: Janet Poppett, Melanie Rawlinson, Kate Fenwick, Graham Howland, Sonia Young and Claire Stevens. Cllr Foinette said she would confirm that a Working Group had been established and see if other villagers would like to join in and help. Cllr Foinette will update EPC at the next meeting.

Vice Chairman Peter Rawlinson said he would take on the responsibility for lighting the village beacon on Thursday June 2nd as part of the nationally organised activities and look for volunteers to help with that.

12) Replacement of the playground equipment

Cllr Claire Foinette advised that a survey had been undertaken in 2020 about the play items most wanted by parents and children, and that 30 completed forms had revealed the equipment most favoured. She said that the play area needed to be replaced to maintain safety and to make it more



accessible for children with disabilities. She advised that the existing swings were robust and would remain in place; the toddler swing seats had both been replaced within the past six months. Cllr Foinette said three suppliers had been contacted and that estimates, and designs, would be circulated ahead of the 1st March meeting. She said the costs were expected to be substantial and as such, monies would need to be sourced to pay for the work as EPC did not have the necessary funds.

13) Correspondence

All circulated by email in advance unless marked with a *

Rural Bulletin – older people in rural areas. All/ JC. 4/01/2022

Kent Plastics advisory group meetings. All. 5/01

Rural services network funding digest. All. 6/01

ABC Neighbourhood Plan referendum timeline. All. 7/01

Kent Police budget and precept plan. All. 07/01

KALC bite-sized training courses. All. 10/01

KALC Climate change calculator. All. 11/01

KALC Jubilee Beacon Lighting. All. MR/JP. 11/01

KALC Ashford district Jan minutes. All. 13/01

KALC reminder deadline community awards. All. 13/01

KALC March conference and other events until March 22. All. 13/01

ABC Queen's Green Canopy – tree planting. All. MR/JP. 14/01

Aspire – application related to above. All. MR/JP. 16/01

Sue Hubbard Egerton School Business manager re removal of Ivy to perimeter wall and works to Games Barn roof. All. 18/01

Rural Network bulletin – research by Rural England on the urban/rural divide. All. 18/01

ABC Pilgrims Hospice raises record £ from its Xmas tree collection service. All. 19/01

Village Halls Week in Kent – seminar series. All. SJ/MP. 19/01

ABC implementation of the Govt Household Support Fund. All. 20/01

NALC newsletter. All. 17/01

SE Water future of water supply webinar date. All. 18/01

NALC open letter on the bullying, intimidation and harassment of councillors and clerks and the resultant impact on their effectiveness. All. 20/01

KCC wastewater newsletter. All. 20/01

Rural Kent call for trustees. All. 21/01

ABC launches Ashford Community Lottery to support local good causes and charities. All/ MR. 23/01

Govt bulletin – changes to national permitted rights developments. LY/JC.

Rural bulletin. All. 25/01

KALC/ NALC bulletin – personal safety webinar and national compliance with the AGAR. All. 27/01/2022

KALC chairmanship workshop. RK/PR. 27/01/2022

ABC Planning Committee 19 Jan minutes. LT/JC. 26/01

NALC consultation on the future of the PO/ sub-PO services. All. 27/01

KCC road closure information for jubilee street parties. All. 01/01

Action: Cllr Pat Parr said that she had investigated the ABC Household Support Fund and would highlight it to residents as well as give assistance in confidence any villager who wished to make an application. Cllr Parr said she felt it was important for EPC to be pro-active and help with this.

Website

January minutes

March agenda

14) Finance

Accounts

| Expenditure | | Cheque No | £ |
|---|---------------------------|-----------|------------------|
| EPC printer inks | Reimburse S Young | BACS | 80.98 |
| 4 PVC banners | Reimburse Jane Carr | BACS | 336.00 |
| A3 colour printing | Reimburse Jane Carr | BACS | 34.44 |
| Hedgecutting | Andrew Hopkins | BACS | 156.00 |
| Website work | Captive Webs | BACS | 104.25 |
| Banner artwork | ZED | BACS | 60.00 |
| Lightbulbs for steps | Reimburse S Young | BACS | 15.96 |
| Re-lay granite sets on elm close steps and remove rotten picnic bench | Tim Kent | BACS | 138.00 |
| Replace toddler swing cradle | Tim Kent | BACS | 40.00 |
| Delivery | Alan Arthur | BACS | 100.00 |
| A2 posters | Reimburse Peter Rawlinson | BACS | 72.00 |
| Salary | S Young February | BACS | 1013.07 |
| HMRC | NI and tax | BACS | 49.01 |
| Total | | | £2,199.71 |

| Income | | | |
|--------------|--|--|--|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| Total | | | |

Bank Reconciliation Balance at 31st January 2022 £6,984.71 less un-presented cheques as follows:

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|

Actual balance = £6,984.71 at 31st January 2022

Please note that in January two sums were transferred from the EPC current account into the EPC deposit account to ensure clarity at year-end on the amount of precept monies that will be taken forward into the next financial year; the Finance Committee approved the transfer as prudent. One amount is for £3,480 which is the grant money given in June 2021 by the Geoff Wickens Trust to pay for the felling of dead trees around the cricket field; EPC is still waiting for its application for a Felling Licence to be approved by the Forestry Commission. The second amount is for £1,818 which was the sponsorship monies raised for the VE Day Celebrations in 2020 and now re-assigned to help with the 2022 village celebrations for The Queens Platinum Jubilee.

Accounts for Egerton update magazine

| Expenditure | | Cheque No | £ |
|---|-----------|-----------|---------|
| Egerton Update February print and paper | Big Print | BACS | 1397.00 |

| | | | |
|---|------------|------|------------------|
| Reversal of advertising income paid in error by payee | LG Bunyard | BACS | 323.00 |
| Total | | | £1,720.00 |

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------|--|----------------|
| Income | | | |
| Payment made in error by payee | LG Bunyard | | 323.00 |
| Total | | | £323.00 |

Bank Reconciliation Balance at 31st January 2022 £3262.70 Less un-presented cheques as follows:

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|

Actual balance = £3262.70 at 31st January 2022

Accounts for Village Projects

| Expenditure | | Cheque No | £ |
|-------------|--|-----------|---|
| | | | |

| | | | |
|---------------|--|--|--------------|
| Income | | | |
| Interest | | | 0.17 |
| Total | | | £0.17 |

Bank Reconciliation Balance at 31st January 2022 £20,906.40 Less un-presented cheques as follows:

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|

Actual balance = £20, 906.40 at 31st January 2022

Village Projects fund

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Pre-school move | £11,288.65 |
| Village Hall | £ 9,617.75 |
| Total | £20,906.40 |

The accounts were approved

Proposed: Cllr John Lawton. **Seconded:** Cllr Claire Foinette. **All in agreement.**

15) Any other business

- **EPC meetings**
Councillors discussed the possibility of resuming EPC meetings in the smaller Parish committee room. A return to the smaller room was mooted, starting 1st March 2022 at 7.30pm **All in agreement to return.**
- **Parish Assembly**
The Clerk confirmed the date for the 2022 Parish Assembly as Thursday 12th May.
A fuller discussion of the format for the Parish Assembly is scheduled for the 1st March meeting.
- **Proposed mobile phone mast the The Forstal**
Cllr Lois Tilden reported that a villager had raised the status of the phone mast given planning approval at junction of Forstal Road and Crockenhill.
Action: Vice Chairman Peter Rawlinson to investigate with the applicant/agent.
- **Full bins at the New Road bus stop**



Cllr Pat Parr reported that the bin at the New Road bus stop was full.

Action: Clerk to follow up with contractor to get it emptied.

16) Closed Session

The Clerk read the confidential minute of the 4th January closed session that related to an update from the Working Group for Older People's Accommodation.

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

Proposed: Cllr Claire Foinette. **Seconded:** Cllr Tim Oliver **All in agreement.** Cllr John Lawton abstained as not present at the 4th January meeting.

Confidential minutes were taken on this closed session, for approval in due course.

Meeting closed at 10.24pm

Next meeting: Tuesday 1st March 2022.

Appendix (i)

Report no. 142 of the Egerton footpaths representative – February 2022 Meeting

7 Outstanding Issues remain from the January 2022 report. No movement on any of these issues

0 Closed Issues

0 New Issues

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 210554009. 24/05/21. AW76 opposite Kingsland Lane, Mundy Bois Road. Broken stile. Status: Still Awaiting Allocation**
2. **PROW 210561834. 24/05/21. AW79 Mundy Bois Road to Rockhill Road (opposite The Laurels). Broken stile (bottom plank flicks up when you step on it as both ends have come loose from the supporting posts). Status: Still Awaiting Allocation.**
3. **PROW 210834144. 15/08/21. AW90 Green Wickets Animal Sanctuary, Rockhill Road end. A resident reported that the wooden fingerpost is lying on the ground at the entrance of the property. The Clerk lives nearby and will check that it has been re-erected. Status: Work Scheduled.**
4. **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.**
5. **PROW210998966. 20/09/21. AW76 opposite Kingsland Lane, Mundy Bois Road, broken stile. This was reported in July 2019 under ref PROW214250. In March 2020 KCC reported 'landowner action' and deleted it from their records. Status: Still Awaiting Allocation.**
6. **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. Don and I temporarily blocked either end off, reported it and within 2 days KCC had come out and put an official block on it and posted notices around and about. Michael Ellis visited me to return the fencing stakes we had temporarily used and said**

that contractors will attend and assess what remedial action to take. Status: Still Work Scheduled.

7. **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. Two photos shown on next page. Status: Still Work Scheduled.

Appendix (ii)

Report no. 31 of the Egerton Highways Representative – February 2022

Summary

| | |
|---------------------|----------|
| Closed Items | 4 |
| Open Items | 4 |
| New Items | 8 |

Closed Issues

| Reference | Description & Status |
|-----------|--|
| 11205485 | Drainage & Flooding – Blocked Drain/Gully – Stonebridge Green Road |
| Logged | October 2021 |
| Status | Works completed |
| | |
| 42003401 | Rock Hill Road – nr Mathom House Blocked Drain/Gully |
| Logged | December 2021 |
| Status | Works completed |
| | |
| 613628 | Mundy Bois Road – Multiple Potholes |
| Logged | December 2021 |
| Status | Works completed |
| | |
| 598619 | Forstal Road - Bus Stop Lines worn |
| Logged | Sept 2021 |
| Status | Enquiry investigated and customer updated |
| Update | No change |

Outstanding Issues

| Reference | Description & Status |
|-----------|--|
| 42003307 | Rock Hill Road – Retaining Wall vegetation damage to grouting |
| Logged | May 2021 |
| Status | Enquiry under investigation |
| Update | Site meeting held in November and issues explained. Engineer needs to attend to determine works required. No further developments since. |
| | |
| 583038 | Crocken Hill Road – Steps from highway to pavement overgrown |
| Logged | June 2021 |

| | |
|--------|---|
| Status | Work has been planned as part of regular schedule and will be undertaken shortly. |
| Update | No change |
| | |
| 589193 | Stonebridge Green Road - Blocked drain/gully |
| Logged | July 2021 |
| Status | Enquiry under investigation |
| Update | No change |
| | |
| 589164 | Mundy Bois Road nr Newland Green – Ditch Problems |
| Logged | July 2021 |
| Status | Works being programmed |
| Update | No change |

New Issues

| Reference | Description & Status |
|-----------------|---|
| 616124 | Multiple Potholes Coldbridge lane |
| Logged | January 2022 |
| Status | Works being programmed |
| | |
| 616875 & 616121 | Multiple Potholes – Crocken Hill Road |
| Logged | January 2022 |
| Status | Works being programmed |
| | |
| 589164 | Drainage & Flooding, Ditch Problems – Mundy Bois Road |
| Logged | January 2022 |
| Status | Works being programmed |
| | |
| 60000949 | Carriageway Flooded – Mundy Bois Road |
| Logged | January 2022 |
| Status | Enquiry under investigation |
| | |
| 618119 | Road Damaged By 3rd Party – Green Hill Lane |
| Logged | January 2022 |
| Status | Enquiry under investigation |
| | |
| 615554 | Blocked Drain/Gully – Newland Green Lane |
| Logged | January 2022 |
| Status | Enquiry under investigation |