

# EGERTON PARISH COUNCIL

**The monthly meeting of the Parish Council was held on Tuesday 6 April 2010  
in the Millennium Village Hall, Egerton at 8.00pm.**

**Present:** Richard King (Vice-Chairman acting Chairman), Viv Foulds, Roger Harper, Richard Hopkins, Pat Parr, Alison Richey, Bill Smyth, Lois Tilden (Clerk) and 12 members of the public were also present. **Apologies:** Tim Lee (Chairman); Wendy Payne; Hugh Ellison (ABC Ward Councillor)

1. **Declarations of interest:** none
2. **The minutes of the meeting on 2 March** were approved and signed as a true record of proceedings.  
Proposed Bill Smyth ; seconded: Roger Harper

**The Chairman proposed altering the order of the Agenda to take planning items first, in view of public interest. This was agreed.**

3. **PLANNING** *Consideration of applications submitted to ABC and noting any ABC decisions recently taken:*  
**(Note:** EPC is consulted by Ashford Borough Council (ABC) about planning applications in the Parish and invited to comment. EPC considers such applications at its monthly meetings and passes comments to ABC before ABC decides the outcome. EPC also notes decisions recently taken by ABC. All details of past applications & decisions and live applications may be accessed on line at: [http://www.ashford.gov.uk/online\\_planning/](http://www.ashford.gov.uk/online_planning/) )

<a href="#">10/00212/AS</a>	Full Planning Permission	Link Farm Cottage, Link Hill Lane, Egerton, Ashford, Kent, TN27 9BH Proposed new double garage <b>Conclusion: EPC supported this</b>
<a href="#">10/00097/AS</a>	Listed Building Consent	Stone Hill Oast, Stone Hill Road, Egerton, Ashford, Kent, TN27 9DU Proposed relocation of boiler flue <b>Conclusion: EPC supported this</b>
<a href="#">10/00183/AS</a>	Listed Building Consent	Barling Manor, Stone Hill Road, Egerton, Ashford, Kent, TN27 9DU Erection of orangery to northern elevation to replace existing conservatory. Removal of internal window to hallway to create new doorway, removal of wall in store room, insertion of a new window at ground floor level to eastern elevation and insertion of 2 roof lights in roof to eastern elevation. <b>Conclusion: EPC supported this</b>
<a href="#">10/00334/AS</a>	Full Planning Permission	Breeches Field Oast, Green Hill Lane, Egerton, Ashford, Kent, TN27 9HA Conversion of garage and loft space to living accommodation. Replacement of windows and doors and the insertion of new windows and doors <b>Conclusion: EPC supported this</b>
<a href="#">10/00235/AS</a>	Listed Building Consent	Iden, Iden Lane, Egerton, Ashford, Kent, TN27 9AR Replacement single storey garden room extension to side elevation. Internally at ground floor, removal of two internal partitions and introduction of three new oak trusses to stabilise the roof. Re-positioning of internal doorway to cloakroom. At first floor removal of masonry wall between landing and shower room. removal of modern staircase to attic and introduction of a small en-suite to bedroom 1. Enlargement of existing hatch on landing and structural works to roof. Some Councillors had taken up the applicants' offer of a site meeting to inspect and question the proposals and make comparisons with the earlier plans rejected by ABC. <b>Conclusion: EPC supported this.</b>

### Decisions taken by ABC:

<a href="#">10/00134/AS</a>	Full Planning Permission	Permit	<b>Hope Cottage, Kingsland Lane, Egerton, Ashford, Kent, TN27 9ET</b> Proposed two storey side extension, extend and rebuild single storey link to out-house, re-build south elevation including new fenestration and a 'cart lodge' style oak-framed garage.
<a href="#">10/00152/AS</a>	Listed Building Consent	Grant Consent	<b>Stone Hill, Stone Hill Road, Egerton, Ashford, Kent, TN27 9DU</b> Repair of chimneys involving rebuilding of top section of stack, provision of en-suite within bedroom and replacement bay window/door and window

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<a href="#">10/00212/AS</a>	Full Planning Permission	Permit	<b>Link Farm Cottage, Link Hill Lane, Egerton, Ashford, Kent, TN27 9BH</b> Proposed new double garage
<a href="#">10/00113/AS</a>	Full Planning Permission	Withdrawn By Applicant	<b>Fairview Bungalow, Egerton House Road, Egerton, Ashford, Kent, TN27 9BN</b> Replacement dwelling together with a new double "Cart Lodge" style garage.

**4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES 2 MARCH 2010**

**a. Recreation ground: Lower rec:** Ben Hope confirmed he had made contact with his contractor for weedkilling, weather and ground conditions permitting. Bill Smyth reported that Mike Steed had not seen the Clerk's request to assist in surveying and identifying the existing trees and drawing up a list of suitable trees for the site. Bill would take this further with Mike and the Clerk would re-send her email to Mike. In the meantime the Clerk had received a request from Pauline Missing on behalf of the family of the late John Kent who wished to plant a tree in his memory. It was agreed that the Clerk should advise Pauline Missing that in principle this was acceptable, and that EPC would be in touch soon about the most suitable type of tree from a list to be compiled by Mike Steed.

**Action: Clerk, Richard Hopkins, Bill Smyth**

**Football field-** soil dip following water leak repair: the Clerk had raised this with SW but it was suggested that the spoil from the work at the rear of the Hall (item 4e) could be used to infill the dip. Viv Folds agreed to arrange this, with help from others, along with some redistribution of spoil to cover the grass seed she had sown on the Muddy and slippery areas on the bank behind Jubilee Villas.

**Action: Viv Foulds**

**Fir Trees screening the sewage works:** The trees screening the sewage works had been successfully pruned and would need to be shaped. It was agreed that Alison Richey would ask Jeremy Ault to carry this out at the appropriate (post-nesting) time and that thereafter, regular hedge trimming would be required by a local contractor such as Andrew Hopkins.

**Drainage on the Recreation ground leading to the cricket field:** Richard Hopkins was maintaining contact with Geoff Wickens to be sure of meeting EPFA's requirements for the rest of the work.

**Action: Richard Hopkins**

**Cricket net proposal between the football goal and sewage works boundary:** This was now awaited.

**Larger rubbish bin:** Tim Lee and Bill Smyth had made a concrete base to secure the new bin and had repositioned the old, smaller bin.

**Contract renewal with Heber:** The Clerk had exchanged emails with Councillors about the scope of Heber's grass mowing and strimming and it was agreed that 20 cuts to the Cricket outfield would be included in the contract; if the Cricket Club required more mowing, they could approach Heber direct and pay the extra. The Clerk was asked to confirm the detailed specification with Heber on the same basis as last year.

**Action: Clerk, Viv Foulds**

**b. Sports pavilion:** Bill Smyth, Richard King and Richard Hopkins reported that planning permission had been applied for, details of which were yet to be received from ABC. The Pavilion subcommittee had made significant decisions at its most recent meeting about the project timetable. They explained that the main grant applications that were in hand (to Biffa, CEMAX and the Football Foundation) would all be prejudiced if the order for the building were to be placed or work commenced before the grant was offered. The outcome of these applications would not be known until July/September. Regardless of the outcome of these applications, however, sufficient funds were already in hand (with other grant funds not so dependant also being sought from Julie Rose Trust/ABC funds as investigated by Hugh Ellison, and possibly more from KCC via Richard King) to allow the purchase and erection of the shell of the pavilion building, including the footings and provision of services. Further funding would be needed, hopefully to be met by the grant applications in hand, to fit out the interior and cover other minor works. The company providing the building shell were prepared to hold their price until the autumn, and so the Playing Fields Committee had therefore finally decided to order and commence construction of the building, subject to planning permission being obtained, by the end of September, regardless of whether any of the grants applied for were forthcoming or not. The shell of the pavilion would therefore be in place at around the turn of the year with fitting out being dependant upon the

success of the grants applied for or the availability of other funding and of benefits in kind. Distribution of a leaflet to all households in Egerton explaining the current status of the project, details of financing and the expected timetable and milestones was imminent. **Action: Bill Smyth, Richard Hopkins, Richard King**

**c. Parish land and boundaries:** Bill Smyth and Tim Lee had cut back overgrown hedging and trees (with regard to wildlife) at the rear of No 4 Old School Court adjacent to the recreation ground and had begun to reinstate the fenceline. The debris had been cleared by Richard Hopkins. Investigation on land titles for Pemples Cross and Stonebridge Green would be fitted in when time permitted. **Action: Tim Lee, Bill Smyth, Clerk**

**d. Playground and Skatepark:** Bill Smyth had made the repairs to the rope-bridge. Councillors would look at ways of achieving something on the recreation ground to benefit teenagers. This could be explored with the School Council (see item 4w).

**e. Playgroup: The Clerk reported that** Rayner Missing was due to begin work on the play area at the rear of the Hall on 15 April. Rayner was aware that the spoil could be used elsewhere on parish land. Viv Foulds would sort out practicalities with him. **Action: Viv Foulds**

*The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.37 to enable members of the public to comment on highways issues, reflected in the text below. He reopened the meeting at 9.40.*

**f. Highways:** Pat Parr and the Clerk had met KHS officials at the Clerk's address to discuss the winter maintenance problems and other highway matters. KHS would be reviewing its winter maintenance strategy and welcomed comments from parishes. One suggestion put to KHS was that parish councils should be able to judge the necessity for snow clearance and gritting in their own localities and should have direct access to KHS' contractor-farmers to instruct them to clear snow at KHS' expense; failing that, parishes could request such action via KHS. KHS said that this seemed a good idea since parishes were best placed to judge priorities. They admitted that snow clearing by KHS was not always prioritised accurately due to very localised weather conditions and they did not rely on parish councils as they might. KHS cited the example that KHS had cleared Iden Lane but not Elm Close. A number of other points were registered at the meeting about the state of roads. KHS explained that they were planning to re-inspect and as necessary re-do all recently-filled potholes. They also said that their additional fleet of contractors and Ringway were instructed to fill all obvious potholes in a stretch of road, not just single ones on their worksheets. Particular problems were raised with KHS, namely: Bedlam Lane, Crockenhill Road, Rock Hill Road, Coach Road, Stonebridge Green, and New Road. KHS said that they were under instructions to inspect Iden Lane on a weekly basis and that they were scheduled to complete work properly in Greenhill lane (West) in May. The previous workmanship was acknowledged as inadequate. Many potholes had already been filled although some were with inappropriate materials and some resurfacing was required. Additional potholes in Stonebridge Green Road, and blocked gullies in Stonebridge Green and Field Mill were reported by members of the public, which the Clerk undertook to log with KHS. The Clerk also reported the broken sign in Chapel Lane. Richard King said that he believed **all** of Egerton's roads should feature in KHS' priorities for snow-clearing action and for a higher level of maintenance. The Clerk reminded everyone to use the KHS hotline 08458 247 800 to report potholes instantly and add to the pressure. **Action: Clerk, Pat Parr**

**g. Winter gritting and snow clearance:** Richard Hopkins would consider the practicality of a sweeper/spreader arrangement for clearing snow on the car park in future and would talk to Graham Palmer about this; in the meantime, John Smith had contacted EPC on behalf of the Farmer's market about EPC's responsibilities for clearing the car park and pointed out that the stall holders had clubbed together to pay Graham Palmer for clearing the snow in January/February. After some discussion and a vote being taken (6 in favour, 1 against) it was agreed that without prejudice to its future deliberations about its responsibilities in times of snowfall, EPC should offer to pay half the cost (£25) on receipt of an invoice. The Clerk reported that KHS were about to provide replacement salt bins and replenish them, but they would be inadequate for both Elm Close and the car

park. The Clerk said that she had made a case for a salt bin in Elm Close but it was not likely to be provided by KHS. The outcome would be known in a few months' time. EPC would be invited to contribute to KHS/ KCC's review of winter maintenance (see item 4e) in the context of setting its own snow strategy, taking into account other priorities for expenditure on contractors/equipment. **Action: Richard Hopkins, Clerk**

**h. Bus route 523/new route to Headcorn:** Richard King reported that implementing a revised timetable for a route extension to Headcorn had been delayed: driver regulations and the operator's complexity in managing other routes had resulted in a 4-hour stay in Headcorn and half an hour shorter time in Ashford that was not acceptable to Smarden PC. After opening up the question of the acceptability of this to Egerton residents present at the EPC meeting, and to parish councillors, it was agreed that such a service was better than no service. In any case it could be reviewed after a while. Richard King was therefore prepared to tell this to Smarden PC, go back to KCC Transport Services and fund the extra costs from his KCC members' budget for one year. Once all the hurdles had been overcome and confirmation had been received for the revised route to take effect in June, an article would be drafted for the Parish magazine, website and noticeboards,. The imminent Egerton Newsletter would take account of the revised timetable and implementation date. Some councillors would aim to catch the bus on its first day on the new route to boost public patronage . The Clerk reported that there had been several recent incidents when the 523 bus had not called at the Forstal, leaving waiting passengers stranded. This had been reported to the operator but needed to be on KCC's radar to ensure the revised service was not undermined by driver behaviour. **Action: Richard King, Alison Richey**

**i. Noise from M20:** Viv Foulds would attend the next KALC meeting and would report back on the matter of all parishes joining forces in putting pressure on the Highways Agency to resurface the motorway with better sound-reducing properties. **Action: Viv Foulds**

**j. Housing: i. Local Needs :** GSE Builders had begun work in Forstal Road. In response to a question from the public about poor drainage and sewage backing-up in Forge Lane, the Clerk summarised the action taken to seek resolution with Southern Water about concerns that the sewers were taking in surface water (resulting in the Forstal pumping station not coping with the excess). The aim was to get SW to resolve the situation in the short- and long-term. Councillors said they supported residents in their concerns and urged the Clerk to keep up pressure on SW. In view of the fact that ERH had said that the new houses wouldn't suffer from sewage back-up because non-return valves would be fitted, it was also suggested that SW should be asked if a non-return valve could be fitted at the junction of Forge Lane and Forstal Road thus eliminating the problem caused to properties in Forge Lane. Some residents had also expressed concern about the disruption caused by lorries in the road but this was not considered serious enough to warrant action. The site and road would be monitored from time to time by Councillors and the Clerk. Roger Harper asked for clarification on the proportion of homes to be rented and part-ownership. Pat Parr would check. **Action: Clerk, Pat Parr**

**ii. Older people's accommodation in a "cluster" settlement to serve several villages.** The analysis of questionnaires by ACRK was still awaited. An example in Margate of a comparable development by the chosen builder had been visited by Tim Lee, who would report back on his return. **Action: Pat Parr, Tim Lee**

**iii. Older people's accommodation in Egerton:** Richard King would defer identifying potential sites solely for Egerton people until the outcome of the questionnaires was known. **Action: Richard King**

**iv. Sanctuary Housing: Charges to Harmer's Way residents:** Roger Harper had contacted residents about a meeting: 8 households attended, 2 apologised for not being able to attend and 1 did not respond. Roger explained the aim was to establish facts about their complaints which were broadly based on: 1) the sewerage system – failures and the maintenance charges; 2) lack of maintenance on the properties; 3) the level of overall charges. Roger was now awaiting further details from them. Subject to the outcome he would suggest EPC

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writes again to Sanctuary Housing. Bill Smyth suggested that contractors for the sewage system in Stevens Close, Moodys, could advise on the state of the pumping station in Harmers way, if needed. **Action: Roger Harper**

**k. EPC's role/ publicity/Newsletter/ Welcome Pack/ Parish Assembly/website:** Alison had drafted another eye-catching newsletter, with contributions from a number of Councillors and the Clerk. A few finishing touches were to be made and it would be ready for distribution by volunteers as before, in advance of the **Parish Assembly on Wednesday 19 May**. Pat Parr had delivered Welcome Packs to a new family in Malthouse Barn who were enthusiastic about the village, and keen to recycle. More on this could be added to the Website, the Newsletter and the Welcome Pack. The Clerk was waiting for the latest value of recycling credits from ABC and would highlight this in the new Website. The Website was taking shape but it needed someone in addition to the Clerk to maintain continuity. Alison Richey would pick this up. The Clerk would write to organisations and clubs as before to invite 2-3 minute presentations on review and forward look. Pat Parr apologised that other commitments precluded her from attending. **Action: Clerk, All**

**l. Risk management:** The Clerk had updated the memory sticks, one being retained by Alison Richey.

**m. Signposts:** Bill Smyth had painted and re-installed the EGERTON sign to good effect.

**n. Footpaths and stiles:** Pat Parr circulated her latest report; she had attended a KCC Footpath (Access) Wardens course. This supported her with more guidance, back-up and toolkit. KCC had completed more work to replace broken stiles or replace them with kissing gates. **Action: Pat Parr**

**o. Frith Wood - noise disturbance:** In improved weather, the Clerk and Richard Hopkins will map out the areas giving rise to concern and photograph evidence such as rubbish, inappropriate use of the woods and any building work. Then ABC will be appraised. Richard Hopkins reported occasional police presence in the area. Despite this there were cars racing and causing danger and noise along the roads to the woods. Residents were encouraged to report each incident to the police on 01233 611 055. **Action: Richard Hopkins, Clerk**

**p. Red Telephone Kiosk at Stonebridge Green – EPC adoption:** The Clerk had now included the telephone kiosk in the insurance policy and an article about maintaining the kiosk would be in the Newsletter. She would also contact the people who had already volunteered to maintain the kiosk or contribute funds. **Action: Clerk**

**q. Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator & Police matters:** More names had been added to the email circulation list; Lois Tilden would encourage more to join or to provide paper information or calls. Crimes in Egerton were mainly theft of trailers, red diesel, and machinery. The next Police Forum meeting is in Tenterden on 21 April. She will query if it is true that PCSOs are no longer able to take calls on their mobile phones. **Action: Lois Tilden**

**r. Local Authority consortium:** Richard King's proposal for a group of, say, six local parishes, plus the relevant local Borough Councillors and the local KCC Member, to discuss common concerns and try to reach conclusions on workable solutions across the three tiers of local government, would be set up. **Action: Richard King**

**s. Small Circus proposal by Friends of the School:** This was going ahead on 11 June.

**t. Guy Fawkes' Night proposal from Friends of the School:** An update on enquiries of other villages and any developments was needed. If this goes ahead, EPC needs to study its insurance policy. **Action: Alison Richey**

**u. Village Spring-Clean Saturday 27 March:** Pat Parr said this had been successful, with 13 participants. The Clerk had put up Thank You posters and a message via the website and NW network. Some residents said that the footpath next to the school was littered with debris; Alison said she would have a word with the School. **Action: Alison Richey**

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**v. overhanging trees in Crockenhill Road:** Richard Hopkins said that the trees were owned by Percy Hope. The Clerk was asked to write him a polite letter drawing his attention to the danger they posed. **Action: Clerk**

**w. School Council/EPC event:** This is on Wednesday 5 May. Only a few councillors would be able to attend.

## **5. CORRESPONDENCE**

***For action: (papers either emailed or sent on circulation to all Councillors or both unless otherwise stated)***

KCC – Kent Rail Summit invitation – no takers; KCC Talent Search and TRYangle nomination request -none  
 KCC Social services letter about Elm Close resident – Clerk replied; in meeting she flagged up need for discretion  
 ABC: Gypsy, Traveller and Showpeople Development Plan Options report for consultation deadline 22 April  
 ABC: Parish Forum meeting 12 May and minutes of meeting 17 Feb – to Pat Parr  
 ABC Affordable Housing criteria to note and publicise – Clerk has drafted piece for Newsletter  
 ABC Ashford Voice request for local interviewees and photos – Clerk provided ideas and photos  
 KALC next meeting 13 April now 7.00am – to Viv Foulds; ACRK Rural Retailer of the Year Competition -none  
 ACRK meeting 21 April, Bethersden: Traffic Management- Alison Richey to attend, will observe and report back  
 Women of Kent Lucheon 12 May – Alison will attend  
 Pauline Missing – request re memorial tree to the late John Kent – yes in principle, species and siting to be agreed in light of tree review; Clerk to write  
 St James Church – Carole Morgan seeking EPC support to ABC for grant application for sound system/induction loop – Clerk has drafted letter  
 Car Park – Winter maintenance etc; Letter from John Smith re farmers market  
 Affordable Housing – request from Miranda Palmer on behalf of employee – Clerk gave details of ABC Register  
 Bob Seaton – complaint from residents about road obstruction/mess caused by new housing development work  
 Kent Wildlife Trust Wildlife Sites in Kent –some just inside northern side of parish boundary along Gt Stour; parish records to be updated – Action: Clerk  
 Transport Integration Group: update request for EPC contacts - Clerk responded

***For noting: (circulated by hand or email to all parish councillors)***

Central Govt – new powers for parish councils relating to planning permission and affordable housing sites  
 KCC Mobile Library – single staffing arrangement now in place; KCC Kent Link Bulletin;  
 ABC Housing Tenants’ Magazine; ABC Funding and Support of Voluntary Organisations- adopted policy – to Viv Foulds; ABC Forward Plan of key decisions; ABC Ashford Best Placed Photo Competition  
 KALC Parish News; KALC Information leaflet for Clerks; NALC Conference Localism in Action; Clerks& Councils direct magazine; CPRE Fieldwork magazine; CPRE Campaigns update; Highways Agency Journey Planner

## **5. Accounts**

**Income:** £909.50 from ABC Street cleaning grant for year ending 31 March 2010

### **Expenditure:**

Tim Lee – materials for base of new bin	20.70
Aon Insurance – agreed prior to meeting	1350.00
Jeremy Ault tree work – agreed before meeting	1600.00
Mower service- agreed before meeting	101.64
L Tilden clerk salary end April	429.10
HMRC tax & NI Clerk sal end April	125.86
KALC RENEW SUBSCRIPTION	385.45
CLERKS AND COUNCILS DIRECT	22.00

Cheques presented for signature and accounts approved: Proposed: Bill Smyth; Seconded: Roger Harper

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The Clerk also circulated a copy of the bank reconciliation with the cashbook as follows:

provisional figures for EGERTON  
PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS AT  
31 March 2010

		CURRENT	DEPOSIT
Balance b fwd		1766.56	13960.05
Total Income		23633.22	7.62
Total Expenditure		18919.52	4600.00
<b>Balance per Cash Book</b>		<b>6480.26</b>	<b>9367.67</b>
Bank Statements		8851.48	9367.67
Add bankings not credited		0.00	0.00
Less cheques not presented			
	890 HMRC	125.86	
	889 L Tilden	429.10	
	892 L Tilden phone	15.00	
	894 Hall cttee	30.00	
	895 petty cash LT	48.92	
	897 Mower services	101.64	
	898 JS Ault	1600.00	
	899 T Lee	20.70	
Total cheques not cleared		2371.22	0.00
<b>Actual BALANCE</b>		<b>6480.26</b>	<b>9367.67</b>

The Clerk reminded Councillors that the following would arise later (as in the agreed budget for 2010/2011):

Hon auditor (for June meeting)	50
Wealden Wheels	1,000
ACRK	40
CPRE	30
Parish Magazine	30
Church Clock	50
EPFA	300
Later in the year: Unforeseen donations	500
<u>Village Hall heating – due March 2011 and possibly more for hire costs</u>	<u>35</u>

The Clerk said that the Accounts were due to be **audited** for the financial year ending 31 March 2010. Colin Newnham would carry out the internal audit first, including the Games Barn and Telecottage, during the next few weeks. The Clerk would collate the data and answer the **Audit Commission's** questions, prepare the form for signature by the Chairman, the Clerk and internal Auditor and return it to the Audit Commission by 31 May. One question seeks justifying the reserves held, funds carried over and the timing of likely expenditure. The proposed answer will be about future projects such as the Hall extension for which EPC wishes to build up gradually, rather than seek a massive hike up in the precept in future years.

**A transfer of £4,500** from the deposit account to the current account had taken place to ensure a reasonable credit balance was maintained before the precept, concurrent functions grant and recycling credits were received from ABC. The quote from Heber for the new season was also agreed.

The Clerk had started to complete the EPC **employer tax return** for the year ending 5 April 2010. This is on-line and, as last year, the system is far too complex to be justified for a sole employee but there is no alternative. Only part of the action had been possible as the data maintained throughout the year on the HMRC data base had not transferred to the final form. Manual inputting would be required to complete the return.

***The Chairman closed the Council meeting at 9.50 pm, for***

**6. PUBLIC DISCUSSION –**

David Northcott, new resident at Rock Hill House, said that he wished to dredge a pond; he had been in touch with the Environment Agency and wished to check if EPC had any interest or needed the silt. On a separate matter he had been in touch with BT about removing redundant telegraph poles (lines now run beneath the road). He wanted to check if this was of any concern to EPC. Councillors welcomed him to the meeting and village and confirmed neither issue was of significance to EPC (there would be plenty of spoil to use on the recreation ground from the pavilion footings). In the case of the telegraph poles, EPC appreciated that he had arranged removal (and payment for the work). The vista in the village would be improved as a consequence. If needed, parish Councillor Viv Foulds would be his contact, in Old School Court.

Timothy Harman, new resident in Iden, expressed concern about the noise of the M20 traffic as mentioned earlier in the meeting (item 4i). Richard King outlined the history – that the Highways Agency had run out of funds for renewing motorway surfaces unless the surface had worn out, despite earlier plans to reduce the noise. He suggested this was worth raising with Damien Green (MP before dissolution of Parliament, now a candidate in the forthcoming General Election) who was due to be in Egerton on 19 April.

Jean Gravett said she was pleased to see that new housing was under way for people in the village but was still concerned about the drainage/sewage problems. Councillors sympathised with her concerns and the Clerk gave an update on action with Southern Water. See item 4 j above.

Tim Oliver expressed concern that traffic using the car park were inconsiderate or even a danger to pedestrians, especially children, and he asked if a sign could be put up to warn drivers to slow down. Alison Richey offered to speak to the School and Playgroup about this; subject to the result, it was thought that signage might neither be effective nor needed.

***The Chairman re-opened the meeting at 10.15 pm for:***

**9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Pat Parr said that the triangular signs near the church and in Stonebridge Green stating “No footpath for 670 yards” were unnecessary. Richard King and Tim Oliver said that the signs were a cautionary reminder to motorists – not to pedestrians – because children walking to school have no pavement and the road is twisting and narrow. The signs were originally placed there by KHS after a request by EPC in the 1980s following a proposal by then parish councillor Janet Kemp.

The Clerk reminded everyone that the next meeting on **Tuesday 4 May** was the **Annual General Meeting**, at which Chairman, Vice-Chairman and committee members were elected. Councillors should be ready with proposals and if unable to attend, let others know of their willingness to take up posts.

The Clerk said that neighbours of a property in the Forstal at which a mature tree was being felled expressed concern as they thought it was the subject of a Tree Preservation order (TPO). Enquiries revealed that it was not protected and felling proceeded. It was a loss to the environment and this prompted the idea of a survey of all worthy and vulnerable trees in Egerton not already protected, with a view to securing TPOs. It was agreed this could be pursued with the advice of Mike Steed and the ABC Trees Officer. **Action: Clerk**

***Other matters raised are covered in items 4a, 4j(i) and 4o above.***

***The meeting closed at 10.28 pm***