

EGERTON PARISH COUNCIL

**The monthly meeting of the Parish Council was held on Tuesday 3 August 2010
in the Millennium Village Hall, Egerton at 8.00pm.**

Present: Richard King (Vice-Chairman, acting Chairman), Viv Foulds, Richard Hopkins, Pat Parr, Wendy Payne and Bill Smyth. Lois Tilden (Clerk) and 5 members of the public were also present.

- 1. Apologies:** Tim Lee (Chairman), Alison Richey, Hugh Ellison (ABC Ward Councillor); absentee: Roger Harper. *It was agreed that the Clerk would again remind the absentee of his responsibility to give notice and reasons for non-attendance.*
- 2. Declarations of interest:** Richard King, on item 8 - Planning.
- 3. The minutes of the meeting on 6 July 2010** were approved and signed as a true record of proceedings. *Proposed: Bill Smyth; seconded: Pat Parr*

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed unanimously, that in view of the public's interest that evening, the meeting should be closed for at 8.07 pm for:

4. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

The owners of Fairview bungalow at Pembles Cross wished to speak about the planning application they had made a few months ago for a replacement dwelling. The first application had been refused by ABC on the basis that it was out of proportion with nearby properties, too imposing for the site and in an incongruous style; Egerton PC had objected to it on those grounds. The second application had been more modest with a number of changes to the style and layout in the form of a bungalow with dormer windows at first floor level; although EPC had still expressed reservations about the size of the proposal, ABC planners had initially indicated to the owners that they might approve it. However, since then several changes in the leading planning officer at ABC had given rise to a decision to refuse permission; the Chief Planner had visited the site and suggested a two-bedroom two-storey house. The owners thought this was an odd idea – not only did it not meet their needs, it was a taller building out of place alongside bungalows. The owners wanted to explain to EPC that their aim was to live in harmony with the village and they had no intention to create a mansion. Their family had a long history of living in the village and they wished to preserve its character. After a good deal of discussion about the situation, EPC advice was that the owners should look at the Village Design statement and ask their architect to design a plan that was in keeping with the guidance in that; to consider setting the new dwelling further back into the plot; and to seek support from ABC ward councillor Hugh Ellison who could take steps to ensure that any further decision would be taken by the ABC Planning Committee. There would be no benefit in EPC making points to ABC until a further plan had been submitted, but EPC was content for the owners to state that they had fully discussed options with EPC beforehand.

The public discussion closed and the EPC meeting resumed at 8.32 pm for:

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES 6 July 2010

a. Recreation ground:

Lower rec: The weeds were dying off and an invoice for weedkilling was awaited from Ben Hope. It was agreed that Richard Hopkins would speak to Ben about managing the land more effectively and to consider cutting/flailing or other means of improving the grass and underlying bumpy ground. **Action: Richard Hopkins**

Football field and other rec areas: Heber had continued to keep the grass cut in line with the growing conditions.

Drainage on the Recreation ground leading to the cricket field: Richard was still due to submit an invoice for the drainage work he had carried out. **Action: Richard Hopkins**

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Trees: A response to Alison Richey's request to Jeremy Ault (tree surgeon) about further shaping of the trees and an inspection of other trees on the recreation ground that needed pruning (especially where they were overhanging gardens) was awaited. The Clerk had asked Andrew Hopkins to reduce the height of the trees in the hedge on the edge of the football field when he cuts the hedges (August or later). Kath Hilder would also be speaking to Michael Steed about the suitable species of trees for the lower rec.

Action: Alison Richey, Kath Hilder

Playground and Skatepark: ABC had submitted their report on the playground inspection attended by Pat Parr, Bill Smyth and Alison Richey. This confirmed that the equipment was comprehensive and sound. (A comment about no dog signs would be corrected by the Clerk.) All that was lacking was something for teenagers. ABC and others had suggested that shelters were popular – this could include a bunker-style with grass roof - but the views of potential users would be needed before any steps could be taken to pursue this option. Councillors would consider how best to secure valid opinions and take account of factors such as visual impact, and expenditure implications (no ABC grant available). In the meantime it was agreed that the existing playground equipment needed refreshing; the cost of shelters would be investigated, making use of experience in KALC and ABC; and a picnic table should be provided, to be chosen by councillors from a selection, costing up to £140.

Action: Pat Parr, Alison Richey, Bill Smyth

Dog fouling: Bill Smyth was about to put in place another sign as a reminder to dog owners about managing their dogs. The Clerk had met the Dog Warden on 8 July and it was agreed that the red bin for dog waste would be emptied regularly by ABC. The Clerk had notified Rob Hopkins. Bill had removed the tree branches that had obscured the bin and the Clerk had affixed a sign to it. It was reported that despite the Dog Warden confirming he had given official warnings to dog owners for letting their dogs loose and fouling the rec, some owners were still not acting responsibly. The Clerk agreed to speak to the Dog Warden again about this.

Action: Bill Smyth, Clerk

Benches in need of painting: The Clerk had asked Anthony Hicks (an Egerton decorator) to quote for treating the benches with appropriate paint/preservative. She awaited his response.

Action: Clerk

Sports pavilion: Richard King had confirmed a grant of £500 from his KCC fund. The outcome of the application for a £10,000 Biffa grant and one from the Football Foundation were awaited. The next meeting of the Committee was on 5 August when more information might be forthcoming. Even without the grants it was possible for the initial building work to proceed. The Cricket week had generated about £4k towards the pavilion. The timetable was still on track to begin the footings in September.

Action: Bill Smyth, Richard Hopkins, Richard King

Boundaries: Bill Smyth had continued to tidy up the grass strip between the access road and boundary with Old School Court now that the boundary had been re-established.

b. Playgroup/play area: Alison Richey was due to raise with the Hall Committee the need for fitting an isolator tap so the water supply could not be turned on accidentally from outside.

Action: Alison Richey

c. the Glebe and other land matters: Bill had taken over grass cutting on the Glebe from Dennis Harper who was now too unwell to continue with the task. Dennis' efforts over the years were appreciated and EPC wished him well. Bill was thanked for stepping in and was reminded that he should be paid for the work but he said he preferred not to be paid; however he was instructed to submit invoices for petrol costs. He proposed getting in a company such as Green Thumb a few times a year at £66 each time to treat the grass on the Glebe to improve its quality; the effect in his own garden had been very good. After some discussion Wendy Payne seconded the idea and it was agreed Bill should go ahead and arrange one treatment; the effect would be reviewed before further treatment. Investigation on land titles for Pemples Cross and Stonebridge Green would be fitted in when time permitted.

Action: Bill Smyth, Clerk

d. Traffic calming/disabled people's bays in the car park: Bill Smyth had arranged for a new sign – “Please slow down – children at Play”. He would soon put up the sign under the ABC car park sign. He was also making up posts for the disabled persons' parking bays. The sign to the car park would also be straightened. **Action: Bill Smyth**

e. Highways: Pat Parr and the Clerk had continued to report potholes to KHS on-line. Stone Hill had been neglected for a long time despite the road being marked up by KHS; repair work had only just begun. Stonebridge Green Road was still in a poor state. The KHS review on winter maintenance had now been published; comments about the need to engage parish councils more effectively and to allow them to take local decisions on snow clearance/gritting had been flagged up. KCC was due to take decisions on the findings very soon. As previously agreed, the Clerk had drafted a letter to KHS about the state of Field Mill Road and Stonebridge Green Road with the suggestion of designating the roads as “unsuitable for heavy vehicles” and/or width restrictions, since HGVs and quirky SatNavs were high contributors to road damage and potential accidents. The Clerk brought along a map, on which the points to block HGVs were marked for sending to KHS. It was understood - and highlighted in the letter - that necessary local access would not be prohibited. The Clerk would send off the letter and reminded everyone to use the KHS hotline 08458 247 800 to report potholes or problems instantly and add to the pressure. **Action: Clerk, Pat Parr**

f. 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, EPC would need to flag up the need for a review of its own strategy in September. The outcome of the request to KHS for a salt bin in Elm Close was awaited. **Action: Richard Hopkins, Clerk**

g. Traffic Management forum: The Clerk had circulated a draft letter supplied by ACRK for parishes to send to KALC, to campaign to the Government via NALC to reduce the speed limit on rural roads to 50mph. The Clerk had confirmed to ACRK that EPC was content with the draft and it was agreed that EPC should write on those lines. **Action: Clerk**

h. Bus route 523/new route to Headcorn The bus usage was not that high because of the long duration in Headcorn. It was suggested that it should be timed to arrive in Headcorn a few minutes earlier to connect with the No 12 bus to Tenterden; Richard King agreed to take this up with KCC. Bill Smyth had spoken to the new pub landlord about the overgrown hedge at the bus stop outside the garden of the George pub; in view of other priorities for the landlord this was unlikely to be done; Bill therefore offered to trim this section of the hedge as it was a hazard. **Action: Richard King, Bill Smyth**

i. Noise from M20: The Chairman of Ashford Area KALC had written to the Maidstone area KALC about the noise from the M20 and the case for pressure on the Highways Agency to resurface the motorway with sound-reducing material. KALC had sent Viv Foulds' draft letter to the Highways Agency but it was acknowledged this was unlikely to prompt action due to the uneconomic cost of resurfacing while the concrete surface endures.

j. Housing:

i. Local Needs: GSE Builders were making real progress in Forstal Road. Following the meeting between Bill Smyth, Clerk and Southern Water about the Forstal's sewage problems, the Clerk had written to each resident in Forge Lane and Forstal road to explain Southern Water's actions to avert future problems and to remind people of the need to keep their inspection covers in good order, and keep their ditches and culverts clear. The same points would be made in the next Newsletter. The Clerk had spoken to Alison Thompson at English Rural Housing Association about her recent communication about calculating the rent portion of shared ownership homes; this had been clarified as directed only to ERH's “partners” and the finer details would be spelled out to individuals as cases arose. **Action: Clerk**

ii. Older people's accommodation in a “cluster” settlement to serve several villages: Pat Parr said that ABC was devising a project plan with a potential developer (Orbit) and would be considering the two sites - High Halden and Smarden - in more depth. A scheme of about 30 units is seen as the most viable. **Action: Pat Parr, Tim Lee**

iii. Older people's accommodation in Egerton: Richard King was still looking at options for a site in Egerton. He had seen how other, smaller warden-assisted units were managed elsewhere and which could be replicated in Egerton. New powers to parish councils to establish exception sites for local needs housing was constructive. **Action: Richard King**

iv. Sanctuary Housing: Charges to Harmer's Way residents: Roger Harper, absent from EPC meetings since his attendance at the April meeting, still had not reported back about residents' catalogue of complaints. Subject to the outcome he was to suggest EPC writes again to Sanctuary Housing. The Clerk was asked to contact him.

Action: Clerk, Roger Harper

k. Red Telephone Kiosk at Stonebridge Green – EPC adoption: Pat Parr said that Steve Parr aimed to start painting the phone box very soon. The Clerk had given Tim Lee a copy of the paint guidance note from BT to give to Steve; the Clerk would provide Pat with a copy for Steve in case it had not reached him. The Clerk had left a message for Tim Lee on his return to clarify the position on the preservation group of other supporters of the kiosk. **Action: Clerk, Tim Lee**

l. EPC's role/ publicity/Newsletter/ Welcome Pack/ Parish Assembly on Wednesday 19 May /website: New items for the next newsletter in the Autumn needed to be prepared and circulated by email before the next meeting. Pat Parr had given a Welcome pack to the new resident at Cedar Mount, who was also the new landlord of the George pub. New residents at the Laurels in Mundy Bois road also needed a copy. It was decided that people moving within the village should no longer receive welcome packs. The Clerk was awaiting final comments on the draft minutes of the Assembly from attendees not on email and aimed to issue a revised version at the end of the Summer. **Action: All**

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

n. Footpaths and stiles: Pat Parr provided an updated written report. Viv Foulds had suggested to Pat that kissing gates might be installed on the footpath between Crockenhill and Addington Lodge. This would make it easier for school children to get to school without using the road on a significant section of the route. This was considered to be a good idea: Pat would check it out. **Action: Pat Parr**

o. Frith Wood - noise disturbance The Clerk and Richard Hopkins still intend to 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. At present the area has been relatively quiet although there are still people using Newland Green lane as a racetrack from time to time, towards the woods. The car park opposite the Pluckley side of the woods has now been closed due to vandalism. The Police have investigated the trouble. **Action: Richard Hopkins, Clerk**

p. Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator & Police matters: More residents had been added to the email circulation list; Lois Tilden would encourage more to join or to provide paper information or calls. The number to call for reporting incidents is 01622 690 690 (still 999 for emergencies). The mobile Police Station would be in Egerton in the afternoon on Friday 13 August – this had been arranged deliberately to coincide with the farmer's market, to attract more interest. The Clerk would be there to speak to the Police too. **Action: Clerk**

q. 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**

r. Survey of trees worthy of TPOs: Michael Steed and the Clerk had carried out a survey of trees outside the protection of the Conservation Area with a view to identifying any justifying TPOs. The Clerk was composing a letter to ABC with a map for submission to ABC's Trees officer for consideration. It was agreed that additional trees that might be worthy and under threat should be added: one in Old School Court and the line of mature trees that would be in the path of any aircraft if the shelved proposal for an airstrip off Stone Hill were to be resurrected. ABC would be consultation with the owners on whose land the trees were situated if they wish to go ahead with more TPOs. **Action: Clerk**

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6. CORRESPONDENCE (emailed or circulated to all Councillors or both unless otherwise stated)

For action:

KCC Minerals and waste Development Framework – call for sites
 ABC Concurrent Functions grant proposals –comments required
 ABC consultation on residents parking (supplement) – comments invited
 ABC Vote for expenditure priorities/cuts on line
 ACRK council meeting Tuesday 27 July - **Richard King to attend**
 KALC meeting 21 July – **Viv Foulds to attend**
 BTCV – Tree warden confirmation and information- **Clerk to complete**
 CPRE Invitation to event An Evening with Graham Clarke
 Kent Archaeological Society request for carrying out historical research in the parish – **to Cllrs + Kath Hilder – general view was that this had already been carried out via the History society and other research; Clerk to advise the Society to check the Egerton village website for details.**
 Letter from resident about new housing and how criteria applies: **Clerk replied – EPC would in due course be asked to confirm Egerton residency link and nothing else**
 Letter from Kingsfords about advertising on EPC website (**no - Clerk replied – but ideas such as sponsorship of sports pavilion and telecottage put forward to Kingsfords; they could make contact with lead person direct**)
 Vitalise (respite for carers) request for donations – no, not an Egerton charity

For noting:

KCC/KHS Winter Service consultation analysis – Pat Parr and Clerk to note specifically
 KCC Community Safety Unite message; KCC Bus Travel changes
 ABC Standards Committee minutes 30 June; ABC Ashford Growth Workshop
 ABC – Letter about ONS 2011 National Census; ABC Housing - gutter replacements in new Road, Elm Close Egerton
 ABC Forward Plan of key decisions August - Nov
 Kent Link Community engagement & news; Kent CAN funding opportunities
 KALC Parish News; KALC Parish Finance & accounts –campaign for Government review
 NALC Good Employer Guide; ACRK East Kent Parish Plan example; Oast to Coast
 Victim Support Newsletter

7. ACCOUNTS

Monthly Accounts @ 3 August 2010

Income: Nil

Expenditure:

	£
Heber Horticultural	350.74
Lois Tilden Clerk sal end Aug	491.78
HMRC Tax & NI end Aug	165.67

Approval of the accounts for the month, for cheques to be signed: Proposed: Viv Foulds; Seconded: Wendy Payne

8. PLANNING: (Consideration of applications submitted to Ashford Borough Council and noting decisions recently taken: all details may be accessed on line at: http://www.ashford.gov.uk/online_planning/)

10/00975/AS	County Deemed Permission (Reg 3)	Egerton CP School, Stisted Way, Egerton, Ashford, Kent, TN27 9DR Replacement/extension of fencing, additional outdoor activity play areas, replacement windows to kitchen area, alterations to bin area and replacement cladding to various areas	EPC voted to support this (R King abstained: school governor)
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Decisions taken by ABC:

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Permitted by ABC:

10/00652/AS	Full Planning Permission	Ragged Farm House, Mundy Bois Road, Egerton, Ashford, Kent, TN27 9ER Change of use of land for the keeping of horses and construction of an all weather menage. For private use only.
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Refused by ABC:

10/00781/AS	Full Planning Permission	Rockhill House, Rock Hill Road, Egerton, Ashford, Kent, TN27 9DP Erection of a single storey rear extension
10/00782/AS	Listed Building Consent	Rockhill House, Rock Hill Road, Egerton, Ashford, Kent, TN27 9DP Demolition of existing brick outbuilding, erection of single storey rear extension, relocation of doorway to proposed kitchen and insertion of partition walls

Other planning matters:

CO/10/00146	Enquiry	Stone Hill Barn - land at TN27 9DU Alleged runway for light aircraft. ABC site visit confirmed proposals not now proceeding but residents advised to monitor; ABC would follow up further activity.
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At EPC's request, the Clerk had checked the ABC website for any planning applications at **Cedar Mount**, Stonebridge Green Road; there was none; she also spoke to a planning officer about possible works being carried out at the rear. Advice to EPC was to keep the matter under general observation; it was acceptable to demolish sub-standard outbuildings and annexes and replace them on the same footprint, to a better standard without planning permission; anything more extensive may need permission depending on the scale, especially being within a Conservation Area. Some additional development may be permitted.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Bill Smyth mentioned that Alison Richey had asked if the **Friends of the School** could park a vehicle near the recycling bins for a short while one morning in the Autumn term in order to collect in donated boxes of items for **Oxfam**. This was agreed.

Bill Smyth had been approached by the **Cricket Club** to ask if EPC would be prepared to contribute funds towards **new fencing** at the foot of the outfield next to the sewage works. After considering the matter and weighing up its priorities, the conclusion was that EPC did not regard this as essential. Bill was asked to convey this to the Club. **Action: Bill Smyth.**

Pat Parr referred to an article in Oast to Coast about Bethersden and High Halden organising the **KCC Youth bus** to call there. It consisted of ways of entertaining local youths with computer games, Wii etc. It was agreed that this was worth considering, but without knowing more precisely what wishes should be met for youths in the village, it would be necessary to check this out first. It was agreed that Pat would speak to Alison to reach a conclusion about any next steps at the next EPC meeting. **Action: Pat Parr, Alison Richey**

The Clerk said that in a private capacity, she had designed and had printed some eco-friendly **jute bags** to promote Egerton's green credentials, to encourage more resourcefulness in the village and reduce the use of plastic bags. They carried an anagram logo "from Egerton to Green". She aimed to sell them at just under cost price (£2.50) through the shop and farmer's market but would welcome the opportunity to use the bench on the Glebe to sell more. As this was not a commercial venture and was for the sustainability of the village it was agreed that she could do this.

Richard King apologised that other commitments prevented him from attending the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 10.08 pm