

EGERTON PARISH COUNCIL

**The monthly meeting of the Parish Council was held on Tuesday 2 March 2010
in the Millennium Village Hall, Egerton at 8.00pm.**

Present: Tim Lee (Chairman), Viv Foulds, Roger Harper, Richard Hopkins, Pat Parr, Bill Smyth, Lois Tilden (Clerk) and 4 members of the public were also present.

Apologies: Richard King (Vice-Chairman), Alison Richey, Hugh Ellison (ABC Ward Councillor)

- 1. Declarations of interest:** Roger Harper (item 3d)
- 2. The minutes of the meeting on 2 February** were approved and signed as a true record of proceedings.
Proposed: Pat Parr; seconded: Roger Harper

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES 2 FEBRUARY 2010

a. Recreation ground: Lower rec: The Clerk had made arrangements for a meeting with Ben Hope and Richard Hopkins for Saturday 6 March to discuss a quote for weedkilling, the best way of making good the broken fence alongside the football field, on the basis that the costs of materials would be paid by EPC. In the longer term, Councillors had unanimously concluded that sheep grazing, interspersed with indigenous and suitable memorial trees along with robust management was the preferred way forward. They awaited a response to the Clerk's request to Michael Steed for assistance to Bill Smyth in surveying and identifying the existing trees and drawing up a list of suitable trees for the site.

Action: Clerk, Richard Hopkins, Bill Smyth

Football field- water leak near sewage works: the water leak had been repaired by SW's contractors but the soil infill had sunk even further; the Clerk had raised this with SW.

Action: Clerk

Fir Trees screening the sewage works: In consultation with Alison Richey, the Clerk had issued a letter to Jeremy Ault to accept his quote formally and confirm the date of pruning as 15 March. The Clerk had contacted SW to alert them to the plan.

Action: Alison Richey, Clerk

Drainage on the Recreation ground leading to the cricket field: Richard Hopkins had begun the work, for which he had submitted the first invoice, and would consult further with Geoff Wickens to be sure of meeting EPFA's requirements for the remainder of the work.

Action: Richard Hopkins

Cricket net proposal between the football goal and sewage works boundary: EPFA had confirmed to the Cricket Club their approval of the Cricket Club's proposals. Southern Water had indicated informally they had no objection and that if the water supply pipe needed to be replaced, it would not affect the cricket net.

Muddy and slippery areas on the bank behind Jubilee Villas: Viv Foulds had sown grass seed on the areas; although there was some sign of growth it was at risk of being "scalped" by the grass mower. The Clerk had pointed out to Heber the need to raise the blades to avoid this.

Action: Viv Foulds

Larger rubbish bin: The Clerk had received the new dark green bin from Broxap, which would be collected by Tim Lee and Bill Smyth for fixing in the recreation ground. The Clerk had advised Rob Hopkins of this addition.

Action: Tim Lee, Bill Smyth

b. Sports pavilion: Bill Smyth reported that another meeting had taken place and it was agreed that work on the new pavilion would begin after Cricket week 3-9 July. Another £10,000 had been secured via ACRK thanks to Richard King, who had also provided funds of £1,000 from his KCC member's grant. There was also the possibility of a grant from Biffa in about 6 months' time. Planning permission was being sought and was expected to be approved in a month or so (EPC should automatically receive information from ABC and have the opportunity to comment). A meeting planned for 8 March would discuss the finances: there appeared to be sufficient for the ground work and building shell; the fitting-out would be dependant on funding later. Bill Smyth would ask EPFA more questions about top-up funds and enquire if EPFA needed a bridging loan. It was agreed that Bill would outline the conditions that EPC would attach to any loan, as previously set out in emails between councillors.

Action: Bill Smyth, Richard Hopkins

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c. Parish land and boundaries: Bill Smyth and Tim Lee were about to start work cutting back overgrown hedging and trees (with regard to wildlife) at the rear of No 4 Old School Court adjacent to the recreation ground. In discussion with the owner of the garden plot they would also realign the fence to its proper position and allow safe access on the roadway. The Clerk aimed to study Land Registry guidance about land titles for Pemples Cross and Stonebridge Green when time permitted. **Action: Tim Lee, Bill Smyth, Clerk**

d. Playgroup: Alison Richey had received 4 quotes for improving the area at the rear of the Hall: AK Paving, CEC Builders, Egerton Builders and Rayner Missing. It was proposed by Bill Smyth and seconded by Viv Foulds that the latter was the most competitive and this option was approved unanimously (Roger Harper abstained due to his interest). The Clerk was asked to contact all about the outcome, agree a start date with Rayner Missing, and tell him that a skip was not needed as spoil could be used in the surrounding area. **Action: Clerk**

e. Highways: Pat Parr and the Clerk had continued to register potholes and faults to KHS, notably in Iden Lane, Stonebridge Green, Newland Green Lane, Mundy Bois Road, Rockhill Road, Crockenhill Road and Bedlam Lane. From KHS's website, the Clerk had printed off a three-page parish report for pothole and salt bin action in Egerton which indicated that work was due to take place in the next few days and beyond. The Clerk would query some outstanding cases that KHS had said were complete and would also raise the matter of work in Greenhill Lane - KHS had cordoned it off earlier – where many potholes remained. Bedlam Lane was in an extremely bad and dangerous state along its length and the Clerk undertook to pursue this with KHS (despite there being some plans in hand to do work). Although some councillors believed a letter to KCC/KHS was needed, Pat Parr and the Clerk emphasised that KHS was already seized of the problems and had in fact issued new tenders for road repairs in recognition that a) the volume of work demanded it; and b) Ringway hadn't always met KHS' targets. It was therefore agreed that The Clerk would take up specific points of concern with the KHS Parish Liaison Officer. 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, all**

f. Bus route 523/new route to Headcorn: Richard King had reported to the Clerk that the new timetable for a route extension to Headcorn was still on target for 12 April and had given details of the KCC contact to confirm it. In the meantime it transpired that Smarden PC had already publicised the new extension to the route. It was agreed that once the confirmation had been received, an article would be drafted for the April Parish magazine, website and noticeboards, and that some councillors would aim to catch the bus on its first day on the new route to boost public patronage. **Action: Clerk, all**

g. Noise from M20: Viv Foulds reported that KALC would be raising this again at the next meeting with a view to getting all parishes to join forces in putting pressure on the Highways Agency to resurface the motorway with better sound-reducing properties. **Action: Viv Foulds, all**

h. Local Needs Housing: No further news had been heard from Alison Thompson (ERH) about the start of the work. GSE Builders were expected to have put up hoarding. The Clerk had again been in touch with SW about concerns that the sewers were taking in surface water (resulting in the Forstal pumping station not coping with the excess) and was aiming to get SW to resolve the situation in the short- and long-term. She would press SW for a response. It was also agreed that lessons learned from the experience in the building and management of Harmer's Way made it essential that EPC should maintain a strong link with Alison Thompson, to avoid pitfalls and remind ERH of its duties as a good landlord. **Action: Pat Parr, Clerk**

i. Older people's accommodation in a "cluster" settlement to serve several villages. Councillors had distributed questionnaires to relevant households and awaited the analysis from ACRK. ABC's preferred builder had not responded to a tender invitation and another was being approached. An example of that builder's development in Margate was open to a visit on 24 March; ABC & Tim Lee would report back. **Action: Pat Parr, Tim Lee**

j. 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**

k. Sanctuary Housing: Charges to residents in Harmer's Way: The Clerk, Pat Parr and Tim Lee had found out more information from Sanctuary Housing, ABC and the Tenant Services Authority about rent levels, service levels, monitoring reports on housing associations (SH was rated across all categories as meeting the standard) and complaints procedures, but the exact rent applying in Harmer's Way had not yet been revealed. Notwithstanding that, the Clerk pointed out that if SH were within the rent and charges levels set centrally, it would be difficult for EPC to make a successful challenge on behalf of the residents; and moreover it would be more advantageous if the residents feeling aggrieved could catalogue their difficulties and follow the procedures to which they were entitled. However it was pointed out that the residents might benefit from EPC acting as a facilitator and that EPC should lend its weight to them. Armed with the guidance and background material collated by the Clerk, Roger Harper agreed to contact the residents to ask if they would like EPC to arrange a meeting with the intention of helping them prepare their approach to Sanctuary Housing. **Action: Roger Harper**

l. EPC's role/ publicity/Newsletter/ Welcome Pack/ Parish Assembly: Ideas were needed for the next Newsletter due in April, in advance of the next **Parish Assembly**. 18 May was provisionally suggested **but this was altered to Wednesday 19 May**. Agreed ideas for inclusion were: decisions following the questionnaires; local walks (Claire Foinette's leaflets); new bus route; pavilion update; cricket week; telephone kiosk, school council, Hall play area, housing, website. **Action: All**

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

n. Signposts: Bill Smyth had painted the EGERTON sign and would soon re-install it. **Action: Bill Smyth**

o. Footpaths and stiles: Pat Parr had circulated a report; she would also attend a KCC Footpath (Access) Wardens course. This would support her with more guidance and back-up. KCC still had not acted on stiles at end of Pleasant Valley/Newland Green and in between Link Hill and Rock Hill farm. Two stiles on Poplar farm will be replaced with kissing gates, taking a while to complete. Pat would keep this under review. **Action: Pat Parr**

p. Frith Wood - noise disturbance: In better 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. **Action: Richard Hopkins, Clerk**

q. Red Telephone Kiosk at Stonebridge Green – EPC to adopt and BT to Decommission: The Clerk had just received the signed contract from BT with confirmation that the adoption was complete (a cheque for £1 to BT was due to be sent off). BT would continue the electricity supply for a while and would give good notice to EPC if they wished to change the arrangement. BT had provided templates of notices to display in the kiosk and had also issued detailed guidance about maintenance (lead paint warnings). The Clerk had made up the poster and would place a copy on the noticeboards too. The next step is for the Clerk to add it to the insurance policy, and contact the people who volunteered to maintain the kiosk or contribute funds. **Action: Clerk**

r. Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator & Police matters: More names had been added to the email circulation list; Lois Tilden would categorise them by road to identify gaps in the emailing list and gain further support from existing members, to encourage others to join or to provide paper information or calls. The Police Forum meeting at Tenterden had been cancelled due to bad weather but when it is rescheduled, Lois will query if it is true that PCSOs are no longer able to take calls on their mobile phones. **Action: Lois Tilden**

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s. Website: The Clerk had attended a day's training course hosted by KCC to use their website facility. It would gradually be filled with EPC material, in parallel with the existing Egerton village site; eventually the KCC/EPC site would be the only one with EPC material on it, but both sites would co-exist with links. **Action: Clerk**

t. Playground and Skatepark: Bill Smyth confirmed that the rope bridge needed lashing with cord; it was not dangerous and no wires were breaking through. He would deal with this himself. Following the meeting on 19 January, councillors recognised that teenagers lacked facilities – and that older children in the junior school as well as secondary level pupils should be consulted further. Councillors would look at ways of achieving something to benefit teenagers. This could be explored with the School Council. **Action: Bill Smyth, All**

u. Winter gritting and snow clearance: Richard Hopkins was due to consider the practicality of a sweeper/spreader arrangement for clearing snow on the bricked area and would talk to Graham Palmer about this; the Clerk reported that KCC were about to provide replacement salt bins and replenish them, but they would be inadequate for both Elm Close and the car park. EPC would need to decide on future policy, taking into account other priorities for expenditure on contractors/equipment. **Action: Richard Hopkins, Clerk**

v. Local Authority consortium: Richard King's proposal was to be taken forward (a group consisting of, say, six local parishes, plus the relevant local Borough Councillors and the local KCC Member, to get together from time to time to discuss common concerns and try to reach conclusions on workable solutions across the three tiers of local government). **Action: Richard King**

w. Small Circus proposal by Friends of the School: Bill Smyth and Roger Harper confirmed that EPFA would be happy with the circus taking place on the football pitch on 11 June. **Action: Alison Richey**

x. Guy Fawkes' Night proposal from Friends of the School: An update on enquiries of other villages and any developments was needed. **Action: Alison Richey**

y. Village Spring-Clean Saturday 27 March: The Clerk confirmed that ABC would provide kits just before 27 March; Pluckley's spring clean was two weeks earlier (Pluckley Churchyard was holding its own spring clean on 27 March.) The Clerk had made up posters and would display them on noticeboards as well as circulate the information via the NW group. The Clerk would deliver the kits to Pat Parr. **Action: Clerk, Pat Parr**

z. overhanging trees in Crockenhill Road: Richard Hopkins agreed to contact the landowner about this. KHS had been cutting back some trees in the area and might include those. **Action: Richard Hopkins**

aa. School Council: It was agreed that the suggestions for the meeting with the School Council would be 1. To get to know each other, outline respective roles, responsibilities and how each Council was established; 2. To explore matters of common concern; 3. To try to find mutually agreeable solutions. [The Clerk advised the School of this and the meeting was due to take place on 10 March, but the School had to postpone the event.]

4. CORRESPONDENCE

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

ABC Community survey at www.ashford.gov.uk/haveyoursay and at gateways & civic centre – it was agreed that there was a need to highlight that KCC should give roads/transport higher priority by encouraging residents to indicate this in their own responses.

Leader of ABC's Budget presentation

KALC Agenda for 13 April (direct to Viv Foulds); KALC planning info day 13 March (no takers)

KALC newsletter containing info on standing orders & action points

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Kent CAN membership opportunities for organisations – paper with Clerk if req'd
 Petition to set national speed limit of 30mph through villages; NSPCC Charitable request – no, not a local charity

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

KCC Speed limit review update; KCC Kent Link Bulletin; Kent Police matters news
 Kent Fire & Rescue - update on risk management plan (paper copy with Clerk)
 ABC Forward Look on key decisions ; ACRK funding fairs 2010 – papers with Clerk if req'd
 Society of Clerks – employment updates and training courses – papers with Clerk if req'd
 South East River Basin Newsletter; KALC minutes of meeting 2 Feb; Clerks & Councils Direct;
 Power of well-being information; CPRE Campaigns update; Ashford Rural Trust newsletter; Channel 4 rural series

5. Accounts

Income: Nil (except minimal interest on bank accounts)

Expenditure: cheques to be signed: £

26-Mar	889	L Tilden clerk sal end mar	429.10
31-Mar	890	HMRC tax & NI end mar	125.86
2-Mar	891	Broxap - bin for recreation ground	190.29
2-Mar	892	L Tilden reimburse telephone end mar	15.00
2-Mar	893	BT adopt fee for red phone box	1.00
3-Mar	894	Hall committee heating costs	30.00
31-Mar	895	petty cash (Lois Briggs)	48.92
31-Mar	896	Rob Hopkins street cleaning Sep-mar	437.75

	Current £	Deposit£
Balance at 2 March 2010	3702.60	13866.59
Balance per Cash Book	3702.60	13866.59
Bank Statements	6363.56	13866.59
Add bankings not credited	0.00	0.00
Total cheques not presented	2660.96	0.00
Actual balance	3702.60	13866.59

The Clerk pointed out that there would be additional payments to be made towards the end of March and in April, before the precept is received. These would include:

Tree work	£1600	HMRC April	£130
Dennis Harper/mower service	£200	Subscriptions	£400
Miscellaneous	£300	Heber	£300
Clerk salary April	£430	Insurance	£1580
Playschool area paving	£2,500	Total	£7440

It was therefore recommended and agreed that a transfer of £4,500 from the deposit account to the current account should be arranged to ensure a reasonable credit balance is maintained.

The Clerk had sent a reply to ABC about concurrent functions grants, as set out in the previous minutes.

Accounts approved: proposed: Bill Smyth seconded: Roger Harper

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The Chairman closed the Council meeting at 9.31 pm, for

6. PUBLIC DISCUSSION – the only question arising was about Sanctuary Housing and its standard of performance, covered in item 3k above.

The Chairman re-opened the meeting at 9.33 pm for:

7. PLANNING

Note: EPC is consulted by Ashford Borough Council 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/

Consideration of applications submitted to Ashford Borough Council and noting any ABC decisions recently taken:

Case No	Application Type	Registration Date	Location and Description
10/00113/AS	Full Planning Permission	3 Feb 2010	Fairview Bungalow, Egerton House Road, Egerton, Ashford, Kent, TN27 9BN: Replacement dwelling together with a new double "Cart Lodge" style garage. <i>EPC Comment: Object, as the scale and image of the proposal would be out of proportion, and style not in keeping, with the surrounding properties</i>
10/00134/AS	Full Planning Permission	8 Feb 2010	Hope Cottage, Kingsland Lane, Egerton, Ashford, Kent, TN27 9ET: 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. <i>No comment by EPC</i>
10/00152/AS	Listed Building Consent	10 Feb 2010	Stone Hill, Stone Hill Road, Egerton, Ashford, Kent, TN27 9DU: Repair of chimneys involving rebuilding of top section of stack, provision of en-suite within bedroom and replacement bay window/door and window: <i>Supported by EPC</i>
10/00184/AS	Full Planning Permission	16 Feb 2010	Barling Manor, Stone Hill Road, Egerton, Ashford, Kent, TN27 9DU: An orangery to northern elevation. <i>Supported by EPC</i>
10/00016/TP & 10/00009/TC	Tree work in conservation area/TPO applies	10 Feb 2010	Egerton Grange, The Street Egerton TN27 9DJ: 1 chestnut tree, cut back branches overhanging the Cottage ; 1 damson tree cut back to 1.5 metres above ground. <i>Supported by EPC</i>

Decisions taken by ABC:

08/01116/AS : HERONSDALE FARM WANDEN LANE : Approved: two storey extension and other work – notice of consent required by conditions – detailed drawings.

09/00657/AS: THE HALT, FORGE LANE – Approved: replacement chalet bungalow and car port in place of single storey bungalow – notice of consent required by conditions as set out in details. *The Clerk was asked to check if the building was going up in accordance with the approved plans as residents had suggested it was larger than they had envisaged.*

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LETTER FROM ABC 22 FEBRUARY – SUBMISSION OF TENTERDEN AND RURAL SITES DPD – ABC LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK. In response to comments received, ABC has agreed a schedule of proposed amendments to the submitted version of the DPD and can be seen on a CD and via the ABC website www.ashford.gov.uk. On the basis of these changes, public examination by Government inspector is expected to begin May/June 2010.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Wendy Payne said that the Chapel Lane sign at the junction with Crockenhill Road was now completely demolished. The Clerk would follow this up with ABC. It would need to be set back from the corner to avoid being hit again.

Roger Harper said there was a Cricket Club Dance on 17 April, “60s and 70s night”, for which tickets were £5 each. Cricket Week 3-9 July would end with a Dance on 10 July with “Peter, Paul and Mary’s Brother”.

Tim Lee asked the Clerk to check if Richard King would be available to chair the meeting on 6 April since he would be unable to attend himself.

Tim Lee also mentioned that the drain near the church wall was blocked with debris – he would clear it.

The meeting closed at 9.59 pm