

# EGERTON PARISH COUNCIL

**The monthly meeting of the Parish Council was held on Tuesday 5 October 2010  
in the Millennium Village Hall, Egerton at 8.00pm.**

**Present:** Tim Lee (Chairman), Viv Foulds, Pat Parr, Alison Richey and Bill Smyth. Lois Tilden (Clerk) Hugh Ellison (ABC Ward Councillor – arrived at 8.45) and 13 members of the public were also present.

- 1. Apologies:** Richard Hopkins, Richard King (Vice-Chairman), Wendy Payne; Roger Harper absent
- 2. Declarations of interest:** Pat Parr (item 6)
- 3. The minutes of the meeting on 7 September 2010** were approved and signed as a true record of proceedings.  
*Proposed: Bill Smyth; seconded Alison Richey*
- 4. Special item: Denis Harper** - The Chairman wished it to be noted with sadness that on Sunday 3 October, Denis Harper, former parish councillor, parish gardener, popular and loyal villager of long-standing had died. His funeral was yet to be arranged [*update - 26 October*]. He would be sorely missed.

***The Chairman proposed that the agenda be re-ordered to take matters arising from the previous meeting first, until Hugh Ellison arrived for the item on the agricultural development off Stonebridge Green Road. This was agreed.***

## **5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES 7 September 2010**

### **a. Recreation ground:**

**Lower rec:** Viv Foulds had been in discussion with Mr Northcroft of Rockhill House about the situation following the agreement in April that silt from his garden pond would be used to help even out a few patches on the lower recreation ground and save high expense of disposing of it elsewhere. EPC had agreed that this could be of mutual benefit, on the basis of Mr Northcroft's affirmation that the Environment Agency were satisfied with the plan and subject to this being acceptable to Ben Hope, under lease to graze sheep on the lower rec.

Ben Hope had confirmed assent, depending on timing to avoid sheep grazing while the spoil was deposited. Mr Northcroft's contractor (Tom Hope) began dredging in September. Mr Northcroft explained that the amount of spoil turned out to be far greater than anticipated- the silt was over 10 ft deep. The pond was dredged successfully, but to the dismay of some villagers, in addition to the volume of the spoil that ended up being spread over much larger tracts of the ground than was planned, its substance turned out to be potentially hazardous – there was a great deal of inorganic/ non-biodegradable debris within it. EPC was concerned that the work had caused detriment; Mr Northcroft apologised profusely, fully recognising and regretting this outcome and said he was taking steps to remedy the situation. This included clearing the ground of debris and installing a wider replacement gate, at his expense. (EPC decided that the Clerk could have the old gate for no payment, although she promised to make a donation of £25 to the Sports Pavilion fund.) It was agreed after further discussion on management of the land that the Clerk would place a "No access" sign on the gate to ensure public safety. She would itemise EPC's requirements in writing to Mr Northcroft, to avoid any misunderstandings and so that EPC, as title holder of the land for the benefit of the village as a whole, did not have to bear negative financial, environmental, agricultural or recreational consequences of what actually occurred; and to give instructions to restore the land in consultation with EPC in a timely way, at his expense, to an acceptable standard to meet ecological, agricultural and leisure aims.

**Action: Clerk**

**Trees:** Kath Hilder had sought advice from Tree Warden Michael Steed about types of trees to plant in the lower rec. His view was there were enough trees already (the Clerk held the plan he had drawn up) and he advised EPC to establish a clear strategy – and take action. The Clerk also suggested more regular inspection, pruning or shaping of trees and hedges to avoid unplanned expense of large-scale tree work. It was agreed that a sub-committee of Bill Smyth, Viv Foulds, the Clerk and Michael should reach conclusions and make recommendations to EPC on both matters. In the meantime Alison Richey's plans for work already identified for tree surgeon Jeremy Ault were going ahead on 19 October. She would consult Ambrose Oliver about his concerns.

**Action: Clerk, Bill Smyth, Viv Foulds, Alison Richey, Michael Steed**

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**Football field and other rec areas:** Heber continued to mow & strim in line with the growing conditions. The Clerk had obtained a quote for weedkilling; it was agreed that a group of councillors would inspect the areas and consider if this was needed; if so they would seek another quote and report back. **Action: Viv Foulds, Alison Richey, Bill Smyth**

**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**

**Playground, Skatepark, Youth needs:** The needs of local youths were still being followed up including gauging interest in the KCC Youth Bus and a shelter; the existing playground equipment was in the process of being re-painted by Bill Smyth and Stuart Pearson of the Cricket Cub was making a picnic bench. **Action: Pat Parr, Alison Richey, Bill Smyth**

**Dog fouling:** Bill Smyth had put up another sign as a reminder to dog owners about managing their dogs. The Clerk had again spoken to the ABC Dog wardens about dogs continuing to run loose and had made undercover visits to catch the culprits. The suggestion of additional signs to caution against dog fouling was raised but it was questionable if they would make any difference. The Clerk would affix more laminated signs to see if they might help. **Action: Clerk**

**Benches in need of painting:** Anthony Hicks was sanding down and treating the benches with preservative and so far he had produced excellent results. He had recommended oiling them every other year. Although one councillor suggested this could be done by one of them, it was agreed that this should be carried out by a local contractor.

**Sports pavilion:** The timetable was still on track; footings due to begin. Grant applications were still outstanding to provide funds - and donations had been received- for fit-out. **Action: Bill Smyth, Richard Hopkins, Richard King**

**b. Traffic calming/disabled people's bays in the car park:** Bill Smyth had fitted a new sign – “Please slow down – Children at Play” to the main car park sign. So far it appeared to have had a good impact. The sign to the car park was yet to be straightened. **Action: Bill Smyth**

**c. the Glebe and other land matters:** The grass would be inspected again over the next few months before a decision would be taken to re-engage Green Thumb for more treatment. Investigation on land titles for Pemples Cross and Stonebridge Green would be fitted in when time permitted. **Action: Bill Smyth, Clerk**

**d. Highways:** Pat Parr and the Clerk met KHS on 23 September and - during the Clerk's conducted tour of the village - jolted along all the offending road surfaces (notably Stonebridge Green Road, Link Hill and Coach Road and Elm Close, breaking out in kerbside patches again). Other individual potholes had been reported on-line and KHS had marked up tracts of Stonebridge Green road for KHS action the day before. KHS explained that sub-contractor Walkers had carried out quality work but had been stood down by contractor Jacobs before all scheduled work had been completed. Pat Parr had emphasised the need for KHS to get the schedule of works under control and the Clerk had asked KHS to record accurately the status of reports. This had had some good effect; all listed work was now due to be completed by the end of October. The Clerk had received a (not unexpected) negative reply from KHS about the suggestion of designating roads via Charing Heath towards the A20 as “unsuitable for heavy vehicles”; it was agreed she should pass this to Richard King for any possible follow-up. The Clerk reminded everyone to use the KHS hotline 08458 247 800 to report potholes or problems instantly. The Clerk had requested EPC's involvement in KHS' salt bags pilot; it was necessary to establish the duties of EPC and to make sure there was adequate & secure provision to store salt. If a proper salt bin was not also provided, the Clerk offered to store it, subject to volume, delivery & collection arrangements. The Clerk was due to attend a KHS seminar later in the month and would report back. **Action: Clerk, Pat Parr**

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**e. Winter gritting and snow clearance:** It was agreed that it was necessary to set up a sub-committee to determine EPC's duties and devise a strategy for EPC to manage its own land in time for the Winter. It was decided this would consist of Richard Hopkins, Pat Parr & Alison Richey. The outcome of KHS' review of winter maintenance was still awaited - and a salt bin for Elm Close was unlikely. **Action: Richard Hopkins, Pat Parr, Alison Richey, Clerk**

**f. Traffic Management forum:** In place of Alison Richey, Bill Smyth had attended a meeting at Brabourne on 14 September. 38 parishes supported the motion for a reduction in the national speed limit in rural areas. Pluckley PC had reviewed a speed "gun" and was satisfied with the test results; Bethersden PC had successfully campaigned for a reduction of the speed limit from 40 to 30mph on the A28 through the village. **Action: Bill Smyth, Alison Richey**

**g. Bus route 523/new route to Headcorn:** It was reported that only between 1 and 6 people regularly used it. Richard King's enquiry about a minor change to connect with the No 12 bus to Tenterden was awaited. **Action: Richard King**

**h. Noise from M20:** A response from the Highways Agency to more recent letters was still awaited.

**i. Housing: i. Local Needs:** All the allocations for rented and shared ownership had been notified to the applicants. ERH would be inviting them to visit the premises soon, and EPC would be invited too. The Clerk had written to ABC to seek an amendment to the local housing criteria, for fairer advantage to Egerton residents, as previously agreed. **Action: Clerk**

**ii. Older people's accommodation in a "cluster" settlement to serve several villages:** There was no news to report. **Action: Pat Parr, Tim Lee**

**iii. Older people's accommodation in Egerton:** Richard King was due to look at options. **Action: Richard King**

**iv. Sanctuary Housing: Charges to Harmer's Way residents:** Councillors were due to visit Harmer's Way tenants in 2 weeks' time to compile a catalogue of concerns. In the meantime Tim Lee had seen that the houses were not well maintained and he felt that this should be taken up with Sanctuary Housing more immediately. Others thought this should be added into the mix of detailed complaints, for more meaningful impact. The Clerk was asked to provide Tim with contact details. **Action: Roger Harper, Wendy Payne, Alison Richey, Clerk, Tim Lee**

**j. Red Telephone Kiosk at Stonebridge Green – EPC adoption:** Steve Parr had nearly completed painting the phone box; the templates for wording were on order. It was looking immaculate and Steve's view was that it needed cleaning at least every year to keep it fresh. Tim Lee would contact those interested in forming a preservation group, to seek volunteers for cleaning and contributions towards the cost of paint. **Action: Tim Lee**

**k. EPC's role/ publicity/Newsletter/ Welcome Pack/ Parish Assembly on Wednesday 19 May /website:** The Clerk was still trying to find out which household still had the paper version of the minutes of the Parish Assembly for amendment so she could issue a revised version. Pat Parr had given copies of the Welcome Pack to new residents at Rose Cottage, New Road & Sharon in Forstal Road and was due to deliver one to The Laurels & Mundy Bois Road; Water Villas; other properties sold or for sale were Church Cottage, The Street; Water Villas & Homemeir, and others in Rock Hill Road, Crockenhill, Forge Lane and Forstal Road. **Action: Alison Richey, Hugh Ellison, Pat Parr, Clerk**

**l. Risk management:** The Clerk had updated the memory sticks, one being retained by Alison Richey. The Clerk said that she would revise the job specification for the Clerk ready to advertise her post, with an appointment target date of 1 April, to allow overlap at a critical and demanding time of the year until her departure on 31 May. **Action: Clerk**

**m. Footpaths and stiles:** Pat Parr provided a monthly written report. To summarise: The stile on the footpath on Stonebridge Green Road opposite Willow Farm was to be replaced with a metal gate on 29 September. Overgrown vegetation along the Stour Valley Walk from Tram Hatch towards Field Mill had been noted by

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KCC, who would try to get contractors out soon. The stile opposite Northend Cottage, Rock Hill has been replaced. Mr Harmer's stile on the footpath from New Road had been repaired. KCC agreed to replace the missing fingerpost there but signs are not given a priority at the moment. The "Beware of the Bull" signs had been removed at Greenhill Lane after requests from the landowners, then Pat Parr and finally KCC intervention. Overgrowth on part of AW93 at Shepherd's Cottage off Iden Lane was reported; although Pat went to clear this, it had already been dealt with, apart from stinging nettles she then cut.

**Action: Pat Parr**

**n. Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator & Police matters:** Lois Tilden said that the most prevalent cases seemed to be thefts from outbuildings and stolen vehicles. Flytipping had diminished following the departure of the travellers' Festival, but Richard King was due to muster support for some kind of co-ordinated action in the event of an influx of travellers. Other than that there was a continued trickle of emails on general circulation, describing ever more bizarre incidents where public-spirited people were allegedly being mugged (or worse) by people staging something to make drivers stop and get out of their cars. The Clerk had checked these out with Kent Police, who said there was no foundation for these "reports". The message is therefore: be vigilant, but never get out of your car in a remote area if you see something suspicious – note the precise details and call the Police to report them at the most safe opportunity. Only one other incident locally caused concern: this involved a person in combat gear carrying an unprotected gun on the public highway. The Police were sending their Firearms officer to investigate this apparent breach in the law. On public property, gun holders must only carry them, unloaded, in a proper case. Members of the public should be vigilant and report incidents immediately – if a crime is in progress dial 999 or if less of an emergency, 01622 690 690. Both numbers will be answered any time of day or night. The Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator must not be called instead of the Police. If anyone hears in advance that a festival or rave is to take place, the Police should also be contacted.

**o. 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**

**p. Survey of trees worthy of TPOs:** The Clerk was awaiting a response from ABC's Trees officer following her and Michael Steed's survey of trees outside the Conservation Area, with a view to establishing more TPOs. ABC would be consultation with the owners on whose land the trees were situated if they wish to go ahead with more TPOs. This would be chased up.

**Action: Clerk**

**6. At 8.45pm the Chairman closed the Council meeting, inviting the public to participate in an open discussion about:**

10/00575/AS Agricultural notification April 2010	<b>Agricultural buildings on land east of orchard nurseries, Stonebridge Green road</b>	<i>EPC's comments to ABC in May were that it had reservations – exact site and design to respect Conservation Area, minimise visual impact and consider highway safety - though was supportive of sustainable agricultural activity</i>
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As the Clerk had set out in emails and on noticeboards, the Chairman underlined that this had been the subject of considerable concern to residents and a number of letters of objection had been sent by residents to ABC, copied to EPC. The Clerk had established that ABC had taken into account the detailed points EPC had made in May, following ABC's formal notice of the proposal (and which had been included in EPC's May agenda) but because the proposal fell within the scope of permitted development under the General Development Order, planning permission was not required. There was no right of appeal by objectors (even if planning permission had been applicable and granted instead) and the only recourse by aggrieved parties in this matter would be to seek a very costly judicial review, or an application for investigation by the Local Government Ombudsman, with no guarantee of the outcome they desired. The Parish Council had no locus other than to act as a facilitator, to aid clarification of the facts and promote a better understanding of the situation. The matter was in the hands of Ashford Borough Council.

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Members of the public, John Lumley & Joshua Lumley, outlined their concerns about the siting and scale of the development - which they said would obscure views from the dwellings opposite and would adversely affect the adjacent Conservation Area – that had begun without apparent notice; they had duly consulted a professional planner. The advice was that one of the criteria for permitted development had not been met, since the road was classified, contrary to ABC's belief. ABC had therefore been asked to look into this and the Clerk confirmed her understanding that afternoon from ABC that this was being investigated. ABC Ward Councillor Hugh Ellison said he had been in touch with Martin Vink, Chief Planner, and re-asserted that this aspect was under scrutiny. John Lumley asked the landowner, Rev. Canon Houston, if he would not proceed further with his development until and unless the matter was resolved.

For his part, Rev. Canon Arthur Houston explained that he and his wife had bought the land a year ago from the widow of Sandy Bruce-Lockhart. They were pleased to own a top quality fruit farm that could be enhanced and also be enjoyed by ramblers on the footpaths through it. It came as a shock to hear of a campaign against his agricultural development, which he had taken considerable effort to research. He had arrived at a design that would be as sympathetic to the area as possible within the constraints of his agricultural needs and budget. He emphasised that ABC's letter confirming permitted development rights stated that the building would not be harmful. He had not been instructed by ABC to halt his activity. He wished to respond to points that had been made to him by villagers (some of which were anonymous and some of which he had found hurtful and erroneously speculative) to put the record straight:

- *The entrance had been necessarily made wider to accommodate today's larger vehicles –initially lorries bringing in mulch for the trees, hedging for windbreaks and wooden stakes, and later, construction vehicles and lorries with apple crates; the width would be reviewed and may be reduced after construction work was complete;*
- *The new buildings will be obscured by a new windbreak and re-instated hedging*
- *The buildings' foundations were not at the highest point; they had been dug deeper into the ground by 1-5 metres, depending on the natural gradient of the land – this had not been the easiest option but it was an indicator of intent to reduce the visual impact*
- *Buildings that size for 22 acres, 17 of which were for intensive fruit farming, to accommodate 2 tractors, 2 sprayers, 2 mowers, one trailer, 1 fork lift truck, 10 pickers and 400 bins were appropriate in scale and met minimum requirements, according to his research*
- *Storage space, a toilet, washing facilities, safe chemical store and office space was necessary to meet strict hygiene and quality assurance standards and maintain records for an audit trail of production*
- *The development was not over-ambitious for the desired fruitful outcome – his aim was that the finished buildings and landscaped site would be an asset to the village*

John Lumley responded to the effect that he was a fruit farmer himself, and had been in partnership with the late Sandy Bruce-Lockhart: on acreage twice the size, they had managed with far smaller buildings. He added that it would have been more useful to have heard of the plans well before the development had begun and he could have given advice that, if heeded, would have resulted in a more modest and less obtrusive development. Joshua Lumley said that he had circulated an unsigned note to villagers about the undesirability of the development; it had been composed on behalf of several neighbours who were anxious about its effect. His own aspect would be marred by it. Liz Westbrook pointed out that she too was troubled by the development, which would be a deleterious change to the landscape and character of the village.

Hugh Ellison said there was little more to add to the Clerk's rendering of the legislative position and background, except to say that he had asked ABC for the application to be put on hold pending a resolution on the matter of the road classification. He advocated that the landowner and concerned residents should try to arrive at a compromise and amicable outcome. He stressed the need for residents to approach him in all planning permission application cases where there was a perceived difficulty, so that he could seek to secure a decision by the planning committee rather than by officers; but that had not been applicable in this case. The Clerk added that it was important for villagers to be vigilant at all times about planning (or other) matters and to read the notice boards and parish council website

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for the monthly agenda, making best use of opportunities to raise concerns. The Chairman thanked members of the public for their openness and the responsible way in which they had expressed their views. He reiterated that the Parish Council encouraged active participation from the public in matters of concern; where appropriate and timely, the Parish Council would take them into account and weigh up the arguments when carrying out its duties to make observations to higher authorities or when it had limited powers to take decisions. Whilst that had not been applicable in this meeting, the Parish Council was glad to have provided a platform for public debate.

**At 9.20 pm the Chairman re-opened the Parish Council meeting for:**

**7. 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/](http://www.ashford.gov.uk/online_planning/))

One new application:

<a href="#">10/01090/AS</a>	Full Planning Permission	<b>Fairways, Rock Hill Road:</b> Entrance lobby to side elevation	<b>Supported by EPC</b>
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**Decisions taken by ABC: Permitted by ABC:**

<a href="#">10/01049/AS</a>	Full Planning Permission	<b>3 The Forge, Forstal Road:</b> Conversion of garage to living accommodation
<a href="#">10/01104/AS</a>	Full Planning Permission	<b>Hazeldene Farm, Egerton House Road:</b> Demolish damaged agricultural building and replace with new general purpose agricultural building
<a href="#">10/01135/AS</a>	Listed Building Consent	<b>Potters Forstal Farm, Chapel Lane:</b> Installation of satellite dish on south west facing wall
<a href="#">10/00975/AS</a>	County Deemed Permission (Reg 3) Raise No Objection	<b>Egerton Cp School, Stisted Way:</b> Replacement/extension of fencing, additional outdoor activity play areas, replacement windows to kitchen area, alterations to bin area and replacement cladding to various areas
<a href="#">10/00836/AS</a>	Full Planning Permission	<b>Breeches Field Oast, Green Hill Lane:</b> Replacement of windows and doors with internal changes

### **8. CORRESPONDENCE (emailed or circulated to all Councillors or both unless otherwise stated)**

**For action:**

KCC invitation to Second Rail summit 21 October – any takers? None

KCC/KHS – parish pilot project – provision of salt bags – Egerton PC said yes to be considered as one of the pilots

KCC Kent minerals and waste core strategy – consultation by 19 Nov

KCC countryside access service data base, projects eg volunteer walks database/destination signs – to Pat Parr

ABC Parish Forum next meeting Weds 20 Oct – Pat can't attend, any takers? None. Clerk to advise ABC

KALC Ashford Area Cttee meeting Wednesday 6 October - Viv Foulds to attend

NALC request for info on parish polls – Nil return from EPC; Warm Front promotion for 65+ - sent to Over 60s club

Kent Victim support request for donations – no, not an Egerton-based charity?

Sussex, Surrey & Kent ALC joint training on Health & Safety 17 November – any takers? – passed to Hall Committee

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**For noting:**

Office of National Stats -Govt publication on 2011 census – councillor handbook  
 KCC/KHS survey for on-line reporting – outcome (Pat Parr/Clerk responded); KCC bus route update (nothing for 523)  
 Kent Police Reform Proposals; Kent Link Bulletin; Kent Arts listings service via email; Kent casework – creative writing course – on noticeboards  
 ABC Forward Plan of key decisions; ABC Housing News;  
 KALC Parish News; NALC advice note on internal audit arrangements; NALC events bulletin  
 English Rural Housing bulletin; CPRE update and news bulletin

**9. ACCOUNTS**

***a. Monthly Accounts @ 5 October 2010***

**Income:**

	£
Mr & Mrs Cornwell, peppercorn rent	0.05
Donation from Jane Tapp coffee morning Hall extn	60.00
VAT reclaim	642.94 (£128.47 & £ 125.86 to be transferred to Telecottage & Games Barn accounts)

**Expenditure:**

Bill Smyth maintenance, repairs (shortfall from last sum)	1.29
Bill Smyth petrol for mower	8.00
Heber Horticultural	317.37
Lois Tilden Petty cash	50.00
Lois Tilden reimburse KALC finance day fee	70.50
Welcome Pack copies – Telecottage	10.85
Rob Hopkins Street & Rec Cleaning	437.75
Lois Tilden Clerk sal end Oct	491.78
HMRC Tax & NI end end Oct	165.68

**Approval of the accounts for the month, for cheques to be signed: Proposed:Bill Smyth; Seconded Alison Richey:**

***b. Mid-Year audit and budget review and preparation for 2011/12 budget and precept***

The Clerk produced the cashbook reconciliation with the bank account for councillors’ inspection and would be submitting the mid-year accounts to EPC’s internal auditor, Colin Newnham, for scrutiny this month. In addition the Clerk outlined the status of the accounts as at 5 October 2010:

	CURRENT	DEPOSIT	
Balance b fwd	7389.76	9367.67	
Total Income	11131.73	2.01	
Total Expenditure	12995.15	0.00	
<b>Balance per Cash Book</b>	<b>5526.34</b>	<b>9369.68</b>	
Bank Statements	8130.41	9369.68	
Add bankings not credited			
	coffee donation	60.00	
	coffee donation	78.00	
	138.00	0.00	
Less cheques not presented			
	943 rj hopkins	437.75	
	942 dwsmyth	1.29	
	941 heber	317.37	

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940	l tilden	70.50	
934	heber	350.74	
935	ltilden	41.11	
936	green thumb	66.00	
937	l tilden	15.00	
938	l tilden	491.78	
939	hmrc	165.68	
930	l tilden	491.78	
931	hmrc	165.67	
932	dwsmyth	127.40	

	2742.07	0.00	
Actual balance	<b>5526.34</b>	<b>9369.68</b>	
Difference should be zero	0.00	0.00	
	TRUE	TRUE	

The Clerk said it had not been worth switching funds from the current account to the deposit account, as the interest received is not enough to justify it – only a few pence per month. The 50% remainder of the precept and concurrent functions grant, amounting to £6,911 from ABC, was expected to have reached the bank account (the statement was due). This would amount to £12,437 in the current account.

The Clerk invited councillors to give some thought to expenditure this year against the budget and what should be in the budget for next year, to aid the deliberations of the Finance Committee, who would need to meet over the next few weeks. This would enable the Clerk to calculate, and help the Committee present, a proposed budget and precept for 2011-1012. Details of expenditure to date and how this might turn out by the end of the financial year were circulated with the (very tentative) effects on the precept for next year. The Clerk emphasised at this stage it was only thought-provoking. The Clerk said that the reserved funds amounted to nearly £12,000, including generous donations, mainly from the coffee club, and from the accumulation of recycling credits. Some of those credits could be used to cover new projects and ought perhaps to cover future major repairs instead of allocating anything more in the contingency budget, and keep the precept as low as was reasonable. The Clerk flagged up the following additional points:

- ❖ Newsletter frequency (prior to Election but not this calendar year)
- ❖ Publicity for the Election?
- ❖ Training for possible new Cllrs and new Clerk & overlap with new Clerk from April 2011
- ❖ Any change in levels of donation/organisations to benefit?
- ❖ Sports pavilion contribution/loan?
- ❖ More/regular maintenance of Recreation ground beyond mowing: weeds, trees, hedging?
- ❖ Youth needs eg shelter?
- ❖ Do we still need to keep back £2,000 for the access road since it was repaired at SW's expense recently?
- ❖ Is there a need to have such a high level of contingency?
- ❖ Risk of reduced grants – incl concurrent functions grant from ABC
- ❖ Any other projects?

Councillors were invited to comment; those absent would be sent copies.

**Action: All**

***At 9.46pm the Chairman again closed the meeting for further***

## **10. PUBLIC DISCUSSION:**

Sheila Palmer flagged up the need for maintaining **public safety** if EPC decided that spraying weedkiller was necessary on the recreation ground. This was noted.

Norman Cornwell emphasised unease about the state of the **lower rec** and stressed the need for competent management of the situation. EPC reiterated that this would be well covered. He also asked for a more obvious “**no dog**



**fouling” sign** near the lower Rock Hill entrance to the recreation ground since he had witnessed dogs being allowed to foul right by the sign itself. It was agreed that more signage would be unlikely to deter the irresponsible dog owners but an incognito visit by the dog warden was awaited, to see if culprits could be caught. **Action: Clerk**

Kath Hilder asked if a date had been agreed for the **Glebe Fair** this year. Pat Parr confirmed that the first meeting of the Glebe Committee had taken place on 4 October and the event would be on Saturday 4 December. The Clerk was given copies of the minutes. **Action: Pat Parr**

Kath Hilder suggested that the **Parish magazine** might be used to publish **planning applications** but given the copy deadlines, publication date, the requirement to give adequate notice on the Agenda prior to EPC meetings, and that this was primarily a Church magazine for Pluckley and Egerton, it was decided this was not practical.

Tim Oliver stated that there were plenty – if not a growing forest - of **trees in the lower rec** and no more should be planted. He also said that the **village sign** was in need of refurbishment and ideally should be replaced with a more stylish, less clumsy design. It was agreed this would be considered. **Action: All**

Hugh Ellison reminded those present of his intention to step down as **ward councillor** in May 2011 and invited anyone to contact him if interested in standing – whether for a political party or independently.

***At 9.57 The Chairmen re-opened the Council meeting for:***

#### **11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Bill Smyth said that the new landlord at the **George Inn was aiming to put up new signage** for the pub and had invited views on his ideas. These were thought to be out of keeping with the village; Bill would convey this to the landlord.

**Action: Bill Smyth**

Alison Richey reported that one of the two **village marquees** (currently kept safely at Groome Farm along with Egerton Fete kit) was no longer fit for use and ought to be replaced; whilst this was not a parish council responsibility – she had sole “custody” of the marquee on behalf of the village and took the bookings - she felt she should seek views about a replacement and ensure there was a record of the matter. Funds from each £50 private rental have accumulated to £1,700 and a new one would be in the region of £140. It was recommended she should go ahead and pick the most suitable (bearing in mind ease to set it up). **Action: Alison Richey**

***The meeting closed at 10.05 pm***