

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF EAST WOODHAY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**30<sup>th</sup> September 2019**  
**EAST WOODHAY VILLAGE HALL**  
**@7.30pm.**

**Chairman:** Cllr James Mitchell (Chair)

**Present:** Councillors Mr P Hurst, Mr M Rand, Mrs S Cooper, Mr J Murdoch, Mr P Jarvis, Mrs H Teece

**In Attendance:** Cllr Thacker, Cllr Sanders, 1 Parishioner, 1 Prospective Councillor

**Clerk:** Amy White

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**Item 1: Apologies**

Cllr Lambert (holiday).

**Item 2: Declarations of Interest**

None

**Item 3: Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2019 were agreed, accepted as a true record and signed in the presence of the Clerk.

**Item 4: Matters Arising from June Meeting**

Action 14.2 from March minutes: Cllr Rand to circulate recreational equipment ideas for WHRG- **ONGOING ACTION**

Item From Previous Minutes	Action	Owner	Status
7.2	Cllr Rand to get more quotes for remedial work on ditches in rec ground.	Cllr Rand	Actioned
9.2	Cllr Hurst to ask BDBC if S106 allotment money can be used for community orchard.	Cllr Hurst	Actioned. See S106 report.
13.1	Clerk to send a cheque for £100 to Heartstart Thatcham.	Clerk	Actioned

<b>13.2</b>	Cllr Murdoch to investigate a defibrillator at the Post Office/Stores	<b>Cllr Murdoch</b>	<b>Actioned. See Item 8.3</b>
<b>14.2</b>	Cllr Hurst to let Clerk know where to send the minutes of the meeting to show approval was made at full council	<b>Cllr Hurst/Clerk</b>	<b>Actioned</b>

**Item 5: Parishioner Engagement**

**5.1** The agenda was altered to reflect the attendance of a Parishioner who attended to complain about the hedging along the Woolton Hill Road from the Milking Bridge to the Penwood crossroads. He had cleared some of the vegetation which had been growing across the pavement. The Councillors advised that hedges are privately owned and letters are sent out to residents reminding them to keep them trimmed. The hedge from the Milking Bridge to the Crossroads falls under Highclere PC jurisdiction and the Clerk will contact Highclere PC to report this complaint to the landowner. EWPC thanks the Parishioner for his vigilance.

**Action:** Clerk to contact Highclere PC to report hedging issue.

**Item 6 Planning including Neighbourhood Plan**

**6.1 Neighbourhood Plan**

See Cllr Hurst's report at the end of the minutes. The first edit of the NP has been done and published to BDBC. Cllr Hurst noted the huge help that BDBC has given the NP team. The next step is to re-edit the document after comments received. It is likely that public consultation will be in the New Year.

**6.2 Planning**

As Cllr Lambert was absent, please refer to the next planning minutes on [www.eastwoodhay-pc.gov.uk](http://www.eastwoodhay-pc.gov.uk)

**Item 7: Permissive Path**

**7.1** No recent complaints on the use of the Parish field have been received. Cllr Rand reported on behalf on East Woodhay Society that they are continuing to apply for funding for the path. The Clerk will investigate getting a dog poo bin at the Doctor's Surgery end of the field.

**Action:** Clerk to research dog poo bins.

**Item 8: Amenities including footpaths**

**8.1 Footpaths**

Please see Cllr Teece's report at the end of the minutes. The Councillors discussed the footpath consultation that had been sent to EWPC and voted on whether to change their decision on not supporting the footpath alteration (see attached pdf file).

5 voted against changing the decision, 1 for and 1 abstained. See Cllr Teece's report for further details. It was noted that part of the footpath falls outside of EWPC jurisdiction.

## **8.2 Ditch Maintenance**

A reminder on ditch maintenance will be added to Spectrum.

## **8.3 Defibrillator**

Cllr Murdoch has had a conversation with the landlords of the Rampant Cat pub in Woolton Hill about siting a defibrillator on the wall outside the pub. The landlords were enthusiastic about this and Cllr Murdoch will pursue this and report back at the next meeting.

**Action:** Cllr Murdoch to investigate a defibrillator at the Rampant Cat.

## **Item 9: Lengthsman Tasks**

**9.1** The Clerk is waiting for an update on the posts at East End and the kissing gates at Rookery Farm.

The Clerk will ask the Lengthsman about cutting hedges along specific footpaths in East Woodhay on the HCC Priority Cutting List, which need to be cut again before winter.

**Action:** Clerk to liaise with Cllr Teece and Lengthsman about footpath hedge cutting.

## **Item 10: Finance**

10.1 Please see Cllr Mitchell's report at the end of the minutes.

10.2 The Clerk has updated the new NALC financial regulations for EWPC and these will be added to the website. The changes reflect the new process for online banking. As well as getting the two councillor signatories to sign off all online payments, the Clerk will provide the finance committee chair with a screenshot of the bank balance at the end of every month to aid transparency. All online banking transactions will be processed after sign off and printed off once completed.

## **Item 11: Highways**

11.1 Cllr Murdoch gave an update on the Fullers Lane road sign which had gone missing. The complaint had gone to the wrong department but is now at the right one, EWPC

awaits a reply. Please also see Cllr Thacker's update in Members Reports re. Trade Street Widening.

**Item 12: Utilities**

12.1 Cllr Jarvis had nothing to report this month.

**Item 13: Police/Crime updates**

13.1 Please see Cllr Hurst's report at the end of the minutes.

**Item 14: Donations/Grant requests**

14.1 The Clerk has not received any requests.

**Item 15: Harwood Paddock/S106 monies**

15.1 Please see Cllr Hurst's report at the end of the minutes. EWPC thanks John Angle and Peter Stanley for their project management.

**Item 16: Members' Reports**

16.1 Cllr Sanders had nothing to report.

16.2 Cllr Thacker provided an update on Operation Resilience at HCC which includes the project for widening Trade Street. At the meeting Cllr Thacker said the project was likely to be pushed back to 2021/22. Cllr Mitchell expressed the Council's frustration at the continued delay of use of the S106 monies allocated to the widening of Trade Street.

**Action:** Cllr Mitchell to write to Cllr Ron Humby (responsible for Economy, Transport and Environment) of HCC to express EWPC's frustration at the delay to the project.

*Since the meeting Cllr Thacker has been able to progress the project to 2020/21.*

**Item 17 Co-option of New Councillor**

17.1 EWPC formally co-opted Cllr John Morris as a Councillor.

**Item 18: AOB**

**18.1** Cllr Murdoch asked if it was possible to get direct numbers for key staff at BDBC, rather than going through the switchboard. Cllr Sanders will give the information to the Clerk.

**Action:** Clerk to contact Cllr Sanders for phone list.

**18.2** Cllr Hurst, who was present at the Woolton Hill Village Market on 28/09/19 has received some positive feedback on the upgraded Church Hall facilities.

### **ACTION LOG SEPTEMBER 2019**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Owner</b>
<b>5.1</b>	Clerk to contact Highclere PC to report hedging issue on Woolton Hill Road near crossroads	<b>Clerk</b>
<b>7.1</b>	Clerk to research dog poo bins	<b>Clerk</b>
<b>8.3</b>	Cllr Murdoch to investigate a defibrillator at the Rampant Cat.	<b>Cllr Murdoch</b>
<b>9.1</b>	Clerk to liaise with Cllr Teece and Lengthsman about footpath hedge cutting.	<b>Clerk/Cllr Teece</b>
<b>16.2</b>	Cllr Mitchell to write to Cllr Ron Humby (responsible for Economy, Transport and Environment) of HCC to express EWPC's frustration at the delay to the project.	<b>Cllr Mitchell</b>

### **Councillor Reports September 2019**

#### **Item 6.1: Neighbourhood Plan Report- Cllr Hurst**

##### **NP Edit**

The edit of the NP was completed in early summer and has been reviewed in walkthroughs with BDBC planning and the PC. The NP was also distributed around the various planning teams in BDBC and they have all now given their comments. These were reviewed in a meeting in September.

The document was positively received by BDBC and all the feedback has been very constructive and will enable a good quality NP. A good relationship has now been developed between BDBC and the NP team, ensuring our policies will be compliant with the BDBC Local Plan.

BDBC also gave access to the Examiners comments for recently published NPs in the Borough. These documents have proven very informative.

The next step is to incorporate the extensive set of comments into the NP. This edit will take place over the next few months (allowing for the fact all members of the team are volunteers) and we will look to start public consultation in the new year.

### **Kick off for Update of Local Plan**

During the NP reviews with BDBC we were given an update on progress of the new Local Plan. The Local Plan helps define the planning policies for the Borough (and the NP needs to be in line with this). An update process to the Local Plan has been kicked off by BDBC. This will take place over the next year and BDBC have committed to ensure relevant changes are fed back so that they can be included into the NP. They confirmed we should still move ahead with the NP.

One of the key parts of the NP is determining the number of houses that need to be built over the Plan period. It was confirmed that at present the parish has met its housing requirements under the present Local Plan. However, the new Plan will review the housing requirement and we will be informed of any changes to our housing numbers over the coming months.

As part of the new Local Plan process, developers and land owners have been asked to submit land to be included in SHELAA database (Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment) of potential land to be considered for development. These can be viewed on the BDBC website [Basingstoke.gov.uk/SHELAA](http://Basingstoke.gov.uk/SHELAA)

The PC have been informed that Thakeham Development has re-submitted a Mount Road plot to be included in this database. Inclusion in this database does not mean the area will be developed, but is the landowner submitting availability of land for consideration if future housing development is required.

### **North Wessex Downs AONB**

An article published in the NWN 12/9/19, concerning the acceptance of the updated AONB management plan by BDBC cabinet, resulted in some confusion in the community and a number of emails asking for clarification. As part of our NP review with BDBC we clarified the AONB decision and impact.

For clarification:

The updated AONB management plan for the North Wessex Downs has been approved by BDBC. The NP team were aware of this plan and the details have been considered and included in the draft NP. Indeed one of the key comments in the cabinet report states the importance of the role of the NP in articulating the protection of the AONB and the impact on local planning policies.

The management plan covers the area of the AONB coverage of the Parish not only Woolton Hill (Woolton Hill was only mentioned in the article).

The funding mentioned in the article is not a grant available to councils in the AONB, but a fund to support the AONB management team. The total budget mentioned in the article is £322,604 and this is correct, but this is not the total funding for the life of the plan, but for 2019/20. It does not all come from BDBC and has no impact on the Parish Council finances.

The fund for 2019/20 is £322,604 with £248,604 from DEFRA and the remainder funded by the Council of Partners (bodies that support the AONB, one of which is BDBC), including a contribution made by BDBC of £3939.

### **Item 8.1 Footpaths Report- Cllr Teece**

#### **Footpath 26 Revisited:**

Due to some previously unknown disclosures when we registered our objection to suggested changes on August 13, confirmed by HCC Aug. 16, 2019.

On Sept 10, I was told that, in the first round, only 3 parties were consulted. These were: Open Spaces, The Ramblers, and EWPC.

Both National Organisations, Open Spaces and The Ramblers, agreed with the proposals. I was very surprised and impressed to see a change supported by the Ramblers as they are normally always campaigning to get more footpaths established. The Ramblers is the largest walkers' rights organisation in the UK and aims to represent the interests of their 123,000 members, to protect and expand places to walk and to promote walking for health and pleasure.

This should all sound quite familiar to us because our EWPC is run in accordance with the ethos of the Ramblers – we are offering free installations of gates replacing stiles to all our landowners. Since cutting down the 1<sup>st</sup> broken stile years ago and creating an easy passage, and replacing another broken stile with the first gate, we have financed 9 gates in the Ball Hill area, another 6 more recently at Hollington Farm, and 3 more to be built soon for Rookery Farm. And we also support a thriving Walking for Health Group.

The situation as I see it, is now:

Would we, as the EWPC, have taken the same vote had we been aware of these facts, or should we discuss and possibly reconsider our decision.

HCC is trying to get approval for these path diversions and the Definitive Map modification order to be included in the next Ordnance Survey issue which will become effective in 2 years.

The attachment shows the proposed alterations of Footpath 26, and the climb from the start of the path certainly looks quite a bit shorter than it used to be.

### **Item 13.1 Police Report- Cllr Hurst**

#### **Woolton Hill Recreation Ground CCTV Upgrade Completed:**

Following completion of the implementation of the new CCTV system in WHCH, we took advantage of this and upgraded the CCTV for the Recreation Ground. We have now linked the Recreation Ground CCTV to the new technology being used for the Church Hall CCTV enabling new functionality to be used. In the past the Recreation Ground CCTV could only be accessed

by a linked computer in the infant school. This meant if incidents were reported it took time to access the required playback, resulting in delays in getting key information to the police. The new new technology allows immediate access by a mobile device (of course with strict security) enabling a rapid response to any reported incidents. This will enhance the security of people and equipment in the Recreation Ground.

### **Item 15.1 S106 report – Cllr Hurst**

#### **Meadowbrook S106 monies:**

Village Hall Refurbishments £92,828 approved fund.

Church Hall fund £27,828, project manager John Angle.  
Project nearing completion.  
New CCTV in place.

The diseased tree by the entrance has been removed and the relandscaping has created extra open space by the front door. The Church Hall have also added funds, enabling a new wall to be built at the front of the entrance.

Resurfacing of car park complete - removing the gravel and laying a new surface supporting much improved accessibility for all. At the village market, we were thanked by a wheelchair user for the changes.

East Woodhay Village Hall fund £65,000, project manager Peter Stanley.  
The work in the Hall has commenced with the removal of the stage. Next phase of work is planned for October.

Well done to both John Angle and Peter Stanley. Articles, covering the above, published in Spectrum.

#### **Sports clubs**

The sports clubs will be contacted for an update on their progress and reminding them they have until the end of March 2020 to complete their projects.

#### **Meadowbrook Community Land**

In August there was a further inspection of the site by the BDBC landscape officer and a review with some of the residents to get their feedback. I attended this meeting and the site inspection by Sooh Boocock, landscape officer, from BDBC.

Unfortunately again Bloor Homes had not completed the remedial planting to specification. As the landscape officer felt the next review would have to be in March (after replanting in Autumn) we agreed the handover of the Community Land could not keep being pushed back. Bloor Homes and BDBC have therefore accepted to decouple the handover of the land with the final sign off of the site.

All parties have agreed we will now move forward with the legal process to handover the land. BDBC have commenced the negotiation with the first step being the legal agreement of the area of land to be transferred. It is hoped handover of the Community Land will be completed early in the new year.

BDBC are having further discussions with Bloor Homes to ensure they complete the remedial planting for the rest of the site, trying to enable sign off at the next inspection in March. During the meeting, residents also raised concerns over the responsibility of future maintenance of the remaining open space areas. BDBC advised that the maintenance for these areas will not be the responsibility of BDBC or EWPC. They advised the residents should consider forming a residents committee to discuss these contractual issues with Bloor Homes.

#### **Tennis Club, Local Infrastructure Fund (LIF)**

During the Tennis Club presentation to EWPC for S106, we suggested they apply for LIF for some of their projects and the Parish Council and Clive would support this. Working with the Tennis Club, I can confirm they have submitted their letter of intent for the projects, to apply for LIF, to BDBC. This was formally copied to EWPC and Clive. Two projects have been submitted:

- mini court
- new drains, to support continued expansion of the club.

The Woolton Hill Church Hall has also informed me they have applied for LIF.

A reminder to all potential projects, LIF is designed to support community projects and must demonstrate they support community activities (some of the Church Hall proposals did not meet this criteria). I have asked for a copy of the Church Hall submission for EWPC. The final submission will require EWPC and Clive's approval.