

# EGERTON PARISH COUNCIL

**The meeting of the Parish Council was held on Tuesday 1 May 2012  
in the Committee Room of the Village Hall, Egerton at 8.00pm.**

**Present:** Alison Richey (Chairman), Richard King (Vice Chair), Roger Harper, Ambrose Oliver, Tim Oliver, Pat Parr, Peter Rawlinson, Richard Wall and Geraldine Dyer (Ward Councillor) and Claire Finley (Clerk). 14 members of the public were also present.

1. **Apologies:** Bill Smyth
2. **Declarations of interest:** None.
3. **The minutes of the meeting on 3 April 2012:** The minutes were approved and signed as a true record of proceedings. *Proposed: Peter Rawlinson; seconded: Roger Harper*
4. **Election of Officers:** Pat Parr proposed Alison Richey as Chairman, Tim Oliver seconded. Roger Harper proposed Richard King as Vice Chair, Tim Oliver seconded. The following sub-committees were agreed, **proposed: Roger Harper, Tim Oliver.**

Committee/organisation	Representatives
Finance	Alison Richey, Richard King, Peter Rawlinson, Tim Oliver
Local Needs Housing	Pat Parr, Ambrose Oliver
Youth matters	Alison Richey, Pat Parr, Peter Rawlinson
Highways/Traffic/Transport	Pat Parr, Tim Oliver
Development projects	Richard King, Alison Richey
Communications/Publicity	Pat Parr, Alison Richey, Peter Rawlinson
Maintenance	*Bill Smyth, Roger Harper, Tim Oliver
Games Barn	*Bill Smyth, Tim Oliver
Telecottage	Alison Richey, Richard King
EPFA	*Bill Smyth
KALC	Peter Rawlinson
Hall Committee	Alison Richey, Roger Harper
ABC Parish Forum	Pat Parr
Kent Police Forum	Lois Tilden^
Egerton School Governors	Ambrose Oliver
Footpaths	Pat Parr
Tree Warden	Michael Steed^
Parish Plan	Richard King, Richard Wall, Peter Rawlinson, Alison Richey

\*Already indicated acceptance, if proposed, in advance of the meeting

^ co-opted

## 5. Matters Arising from 3 April 2012

**a. Playground, Skatepark, Youth needs:** The clerk would arrange for an inspection of the play and skate park and would draw up an inspection schedule. **Action: Clerk**

**b. Welcome Pack:** Thank you to Pat Parr for her continued work delivering welcome packs.

**c. Housing:** Alison Richey and Richard King had not yet met with ABC and this item would be deferred.

**Action: Richard King, Alison Richey**

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**d. Footpaths and stiles:** Pat Parr had completed a 4 mile walk and reported that the area was in good order.

**e. Crocken Hill Steps:** Alison Richey reported that contact with the residents groups was a priority for all involved and Tim Oliver was tasked with contacting Nigel Watts.

**Action: Roger Harper, Peter Rawlinson, Alison Richey, Tim Oliver**

**f. Elm Close Signage:** The clerk would contact ABC to follow this up.

**Action: Clerk**

**g. Rural Fires:** It was agreed that dialogue with Kent Fire & Rescue would be worthwhile in order to answer specific questions such as water pressure and response times and that a meeting should be set up. Pat Parr reported that the fire hydrant signage down her lane was missing. It was noted that the over sixties club had already received a presentation and offers of smoke detectors and fire prevention advice at Elm Close.

**Action: Clerk**

**h. Cricket pitch drainage:** Bill Smyth will update the next meeting.

**Action: Bill Smyth**

**i. Fields in Trust (Lower Rec):** Roger Harper requested a copy of the Glebe deeds to continue the work on this.

**Action: Clerk, Roger Harper**

**j. Trees/TPOs:** Pat Parr reported that she and Kath Hilder had met in the lower rec where there were some trees in need of attention such as removing fencing around trees which is no longer required and requested a working party to assist in this. Peter Rawlinson, Tim Oliver and Roger Harper were thanked for volunteering.

**Action: Roger Harper, Tim Oliver, Pat Parr, Peter Rawlinson**

**k. Newsletter:** Alison Richey would forward the newsletter PDF so it could be uploaded to the website.

**Action: Alison Richey, Clerk**

**l. Parish Assembly 15 May** – the clerk has this in hand.

**Action: Clerk**

**m. Jubilee events:** The road closure application would be made shortly; the clerk needs to supply a map of the diversion caused by The Street being closed.

**Action: Clerk**

**n. Lettings Policy:** Pat Parr had received a thank you from ABC for EPC's input.

**o. Emergency planning:** Pat Parr, Bill Smyth and Peter Rawlinson will have a meeting to begin the process of collating information which would be of use in case of an emergency affecting the village.

**p. Village Sign:** The village sign has been repainted thanks to Mr & Mrs Bournes, the clerk would send a thank you letter.

**Action: Clerk**

**q. Letter to MP:** Lois Tilden would prepare a letter to Damian Green in support of the Sizewell-cum-X proposals re planning.

**Action: Lois Tilden**

**r. Risk Assessment:** The work on the generic risk assessments required for events such as the Jubilee, Fete and Glebe Xmas Fair continues.

**Action: Peter Rawlinson, Alison Richey**

**s. Glebe Furniture:** Bill Smyth had received a quote from Anthony Hicks and Alison Richey had also received a quote. Alison Richey will also ask Steve Parr. It was agreed that unless the other quotes were considerably cheaper, then Anthony Hicks would be used as he was available to complete the work in time for the Jubilee.

**t. Internal Audit:** The clerk reported that the internal auditor has recommended that the standing orders and financial regulations for EPC be reviewed and re-adopted. Richard King requested this information in hard copy.

**Action: Clerk**

**u. The George:** Roger Harper commented on the slow speed of progress. Alison Richey reported that Alison Cummings of the planning department and the landlord of The George are in communication, she concluded that it was ABC's responsibility to sort it out and that Alison Cummings should be encouraged to do so.

**Action: Lois Tilden**

**v. Parish Plan Group Costs:** Richard Wall reported that current expenditure consisted of £21 for photocopying and £25 for a number stamper.

## 6. Planning

There were no planning applications this month. Alison Richey introduced Karen Wydler and Michael Cunningham of Touchwood Trees to discuss the roundhouse in Frith Wood with concerned residents. Karen Wydler stated that their company was a not-for-profit organisation that had acquired part of Frith Wood (18.5 acres of 90 in total) approximately 7 years ago. She outlined Touchwood Trees aim was educational; to allow people to see what could be made out of the forest. The Roundhouse was a temporary structure made out of the materials of an acre's coppicing. In addition, Touchwood Trees had restored an ancient trackway that ran east to west in Frith Wood and restored medieval ditches and banks and regenerated ponds.

Alison Richey noted that the address was one of the main issues for residents. Karen Wydler agreed that the official access to the plot was via Bell Lane and apologised for the mistake on the website which stated Newland Green Road previously. She agreed to update the Touchwood Trees website with the correct address, postcode and directions for visitors. She confirmed that all educational visits accessed the site via Bell Lane.

**Action: Karen Wydler**

Peter Rawlinson asked about the temporary nature of the roundhouse and if Touchwood Trees plan to take it down in the future? In reply Karen Wydler said that it would collapse onto its own footprint within 8 years of construction due to the moisture taking its toll.

A resident raised the issue of pigs being kept on the site. In reply Michael Cunningham stated that there were 2 pigs and they were kept in a fenced area to stop contamination of the ponds. A well had been constructed which was 26 metres deep and approximately 1 metre wide to provide clean water for the animals, the well was protected by a man hole cover.

Alison Richey concluded the discussion by stating that a group of Parish Councillors would like to take up the invitation to visit Touchwood Trees in Frith Wood.

## 7. **Public Discussion**

Alison Richey closed the meeting at 9.14pm for public discussion. The meeting re-opened at 9.25pm.

## 8. Correspondence (previously circulated unless marked \*)

### Action

**Rural Conference** emailed 12/4– Making Localism Work (ABC) 1 May

Lois Tilden reported that ABC wishes to involve local communities more in the early stages of some planning applications. This has already taken place with some rural communities where significant new development has been

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proposed, to improve design e.g. through village design statements. Local plan workshops have already enabled local people to lead the identification of future development sites through the development plan and this is to be extended to other parishes where there are smaller-scale development proposals.

A study of ABC's data on planning applications, parish council comments and ABC's decisions has shown that in recent years, more decisions have followed the lines of the comments from parish councils than hitherto. ABC's analysis will include looking more closely at any variants or anomalies between the comments from a PC and ABC's decision, to look into the reasoning behind them, and to see if any trend emerges that needs to be addressed/ ironed out in discussion with parishes. ABC appears now to be more inclined to consider that the views of parishes may be more relevant, because they are in the thick of it, provided that they are within the scope of the published local plans and planning law.

Geraldine Dyer had attended a previous Rural Conference and reported that it had concentrated on aspects of localism, ie the outsourcing of borough council jobs to parish councils such as the maintenance of playparks, halls, allotments and some aspects of planning, there would be a budget at the PCs disposal. ABC is keen to know whether Parish Councils are prepared to pursue this idea and join with other parishes to buy equipment, for example. Alison Richey responded that EPC was interested in these ideas and Geraldine Dyer commented that EPC seemed to do many of the things being discussed, already.

**M20 Noise Action Group** emailed 12/4 - it was agreed that EPC were interested in becoming involved in this and the clerk would respond to Westwell PC. Peter Rawlinson and Richard King noted that when the M25 was partially resurfaced at Reigate Hill (between junction 7 and 8 of the M25) it became "silent" in places. Peter Rawlinson had a similar example from Lancashire, which the clerk had passed onto Westell PC. **Action: Clerk**

Mini PAG Notes from 7 Feb emailed 13/4

\*ABC Councillor Hicks re social housing – Ambrose Oliver and Pat Parr only

### Note

\*Kent Heritage Trees Project Workshops 2012

\*Countryside Voice – Spring edition

Rail Summit reminder 25/4 – emailed to Peter Rawlinson only on 18/4

KALC Chairmanship mentors – emailed Tim Oliver and Alison Richey only 12/4

Street lighting KALC response emailed 13/4

Beacon lighting update 13/4

Good Neighbour scheme emailed 13/4

KALC Fire Safety emailed 16/4

ABC Chilmington Green Consultation emailed 25/4

ABC Ashford 2030 Framework emailed 15/4

ABC Key decisions emailed 25/4

Fire Advice for Beacons – emailed to Bill Smyth only 15/4

Highways Programme emailed 15/4

KALC e bulletin and training update emailed 15/4

NALC people in action conference emailed 25/4

KALC committee notes from 4/4 – Peter Rawlinson only.

## 9. Accounts

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Expenditure	Cheque No	£
Clerk Salary for April	1081	633.69
HMRC payment due 5 May	1082	4.71
Village Hall heating donation for heating	1086	30.00
Wealden Wheels	1085	1000.00
Parish Magazine	1087	30.00
CPRE subscription	1084	29.00
EPFC/A donation	1088	300.00
Clerks and Councils subscription	1083	12.00
St James Church Clock donation	1089	50.00
Clerk Salary for May	1090	633.69
HMRC payment due 5 June	1091	4.91
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>2,728.00</b>

**Income:**

Street cleaning paid by BACs on 1 May	965.73
Precept and concurrent functions 50% BACs 1 May	8,063.00
<b>Total Income received</b>	<b>9,028.73</b>

Actual bank balance of the current account = £10, 152.12 as at 1 May 2012.

Pending income: VAT to be reclaimed = £1,983 and recycling credits, approx. £3,450 but won't be known until later due to tonnes and price per tonne which is variable each year

**Transfer from Deposit account:**

£2,030 transferred from deposit account to current account to allow for cashflow at the beginning of the month. The income from ABC to cover street cleaning expenses has been delayed by 3 weeks due to staff illness at ABC. Transfer letter countersigned by Alison Richey and Tim Oliver.

**Approval of the accounts for the month, for cheques to be signed: *Proposed Tim Oliver; Seconded: Richard King.***

**10. AOB**

**School:** Ambrose Oliver commented that as a Governor of the school he was glad to report that the school had good relationships with the wider community and that the school were happy to answer queries from the villagers. If the village had any local expertise, this would also be welcomed.

**Parish Plan:** Tim Oliver commented on the complicated nature of the parish plan questionnaire. Richard Wall responded by saying that it was designed for villagers to help prioritise and stimulate thinking. It was going to be taken round to clubs for their input. Alison Richey concluded that some of the form filled in was better than nothing and the Parish Plan committee was made up of 16 volunteers and would welcome any other villagers who feel they have expertise to give.

The meeting closed at 9.59 pm.