ENFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of 8th September 2020
Held in the Village Hall.

Present:	Cllr Richard Roberts	Chairman
	Cllr Mark Hiskett	Vice Chairman
	Cllrs Pat Holdway, Cllr D'Arcy-Irvine	Councillors
	Cllr Jane Young, Cllr Peter Cliffe-Roberts	Councillors
	Cllr Bruce Waight, Cllr Charlotte Clark	Councillor
	Mrs Elizabeth Harrison	Clerk
	Mr Ian Blair-Pilling	Wiltshire Councillor

Mr Simon Bragg
Mr Rhys Teasdale
Miss India Nichols

The meeting was opened at 7.40pm by Cllr Roberts.
As this was Cllr Clark's first attendance, all Cllrs introduced themselves as did Cllr Clark

20/054 Apologies
Cllrs Exley and Coulthard were unable to attend.

20/055 Public Question Time
There were no questions from those present.

20/056 Police Matters and Neighbourhood Watch
The August Police Report had previously been circulated to all Councillors. There were no reported incidents in Enford. Cllr Waight mentioned that the hare coursers were out and about already and would be until the weather turned cold and frosty. Cllr Roberts said the Community Speedwatch team were very active at present.

20/057 MOD/Army Matters
WO2 Jeff Payne was unable to attend and did not send a report. Anyone having any questions to ask of WO2 Jeff Payne should contact the Clerk in the first instance.

20/058 Unitary Council Matters
WCllr Ian Blair-Pilling had sent a report to all the Parishes but wanted to highlight a few points he felt were worth noting.

i. Come October there were likely to be more redundancies which would have a knock-on effect with the numbers applying for Universal Credit. As those who receive this benefit pay only a proportion of Council Tax, it was worth noting that come Precept discussions for 21/22 there would be less funding for both Wiltshire and the Parishes.
ii. Covid 19. Swindon is a known hot spot in Wiltshire.
iii. Wiltshire Council is now in the recovery phase and financially is alright though still finding it tough adapting to various constraints and demands. There have been new laws on restrictions since July and they are focussing on opening Leisure Centres, albeit slowly. They will be open for fewer hours/days and there may be other restrictions however there will be no Cafes or Creches open until next year. Libraries are also opening slowly, again with restrictions, as they are known to be a vital link for those who do not have computers at home.
iv. The Community involvement over the last few months has been very effective and WC are hoping to be able to continue these close ties

v. Council staff are not being pressured to return to work although some offices are running on skeleton staffing levels who rotate as and when needed. Generally, staff are being encouraged to continue to work from home.

Cllr Roberts raised a point about the household re-cycling facilities and the length of time one has to wait to get an appointment – not necessarily at one's nearest site. WCllr Blair-Pilling said that whilst the current 'slot' booking system is working well, he will report the situation back to WC.

20/059 Verification of the Minutes

The Minutes for the meeting of 21st July were proposed as a true record by Cllr Holdway and seconded by Cllr Waight.

20/060 Declaration of Interests

There were no Declarations of Interest.

20/061 Matters Arising

i. Parish Council website – The Clerk reported that whilst the 'end' was almost in sight, it was still not ready to be published. The hosting company have been extremely slow in responding despite being chased on a regular basis.

ii. Potentially hazardous leaning trees by the river. This was originally reported/discussed back in January (20/009 Matters Arising iv.) Cllrs Waight and Roberts had met with Landmarc to discuss dangerously leaning trees which could fall and block the river creating even worse flooding than usual. Landmarc agreed that work was required but the ground was simply too water-logged for any safe use of equipment let alone staff. An immediate local resident who is very concerned about flooding asked what was being done. Cllr Waight has again spoken with Landmarc and the tree work required will be done as part of the rolling Ash die-back removal of trees. This project is already underway and is due to run through to early next year. It is impossible to put a time on the expected work date.

iii. Barn construction in East Chisenbury. The PC was alerted to the erection of a large portal-framed barn at East Chisenbury. There was a concern that this could lead to an increase the volume of large straw carrying vehicles through the narrow village roads and an increase the straw debris blocking storm drains etc. The PC had not seen a planning application for this build, but this may be because it was covered under the terms of a 'permissive development'. A query has been raised with Wilts. Council to confirm the status of the construction.

iv. Location for the display of the 1696 window warrant. The framed document which appears to be an original has been returned to the Parish. The nephew of Beryl Bishop who lived in the Old Post Office before it burned down, contacted the Clerk recently having found it in amongst his Aunt's possessions and asked if the Parish would like to have it. A discussion was had as to where it can be displayed (possibly the Church or the Village Hall or the pub) and a decision as to whether exact copies should be made for display with the original being kept in safe storage. Copies could be made available for sale. The Clerk is currently in contact with David Dawson of the Wiltshire Museum in the first instance but more information on this will follow as soon as the Parish Council receives guidance on the document's best interest.

v. '20 is Plenty' sign. This is the third of the signs the Parish bought in an effort to try and slow traffic, particularly along the C32. It is now positioned on Cllr Young's land by the sign for Baden Farm. The other two locations are near the top of Enford Hill on Cllr Hiskett's land and entering Enford from East Chisenbury with kind permission from Mr Keith Sanders

20/062 Resident's issues Raised.

This is a new item for the Agenda and has come about because many residents contact various members of the Parish Council with an assortment of issues.

Cllr Roberts asked for it to be noted that all such matters should firstly be raised with the Clerk who will then distribute the matter to the relevant Cllr for addressing the issue.

i. Trees in Grants Road and Water Lane. A complaint had been made about the height of the trees (Conifers and a large Chestnut tree) along the right-hand side as you go up Water Lane. They are apparently casting shadow over the houses in Grants Road and blocking their view. A Councillor undertook to investigate this complaint and in his opinion the trees in question were on private land and could not cast such a shadow as reported. The large Chestnut tree further along the road could however be a problem but as this is on Aster's land there is nothing the Parish Council could do. The Clerk has written to the respondent to this effect suggesting they contact Aster themselves.

ii. The light at the bottom of Water Lane. This was surrounded by foliage and not working. The foliage has been removed and the bulb has been replaced with a very bright LED. However the glass surround was not cleaned and is still green. Cllr Roberts reported this again and was assured it would be done by 3rd September. It has not and he will attempt to do this himself.

iii. Filling of potholes in Water Lane. Nobody actually requested this to be done as the Lane disappears on to the Plain however all the potholes have been filled. It was a lengthy process and at the first attempt they had the wrong mixture and so had to return the following day with 5 vehicles and personnel. Cllr Roberts pointed out to WCllr Ian Blair-Pilling that this was a bizarre, unrequested occurrence which makes no sense when it takes so much effort to get potholes filled on the A345.

iv. Playpark – bin emptying and older children using the equipment. The Playpark bin was reported to be overflowing not just with rubbish but also broken glass and older children using the Playpark equipment. Cllr Young regularly empties the bin there every 2 weeks. Whilst it can be full on one occasion and can be virtually empty on others there is no simple solution. It was suggested that perhaps those who live nearest should keep an eye it themselves and 'do a good deed' when required. As for the older children using the equipment, no one incident has been witnessed or reported to the Parish Council.

v. Overgrown hedge from the bridge to the bus stop at the bottom of Enford Hill. This would normally be a job for the Parish Steward and is a regular request for attention. Cllr Roberts cleared this back himself.

vi. Sunken manhole cover beyond Compton. This has been reported to Wiltshire Council who say it does not meet the specific levels for their intervention. It is in a dangerous position as to avoid it, one has to swerve either into the oncoming traffic or into the roadside. Five Cllrs agreed that the impact to their vehicles raised concern for their suspension if nothing else.

vii. Pothole on the A345 outside Mr Heroys' house. Mr Heroys has reported this to Wilts. Council twice himself and has been told the pothole does not exist. It has also been reported by Cllr Coulthard (Roads & Highways) with photographs. WCllr Blair-Pilling has inspected it and asked the Highways Engineer to take a look at it. Initially they said they couldn't find it, then they agreed it was there but as it was on the edge of the tarmac it was not a danger 'in' the road. Mr Heroys has pointed out that two lorries are unable to pass each other on that particular stretch and so would need to use the verge/run-off area. The hole is now 15cm deep and nearly 60cm long. Any vehicle from a bicycle to a lorry who catches their wheels in it is in danger – a larger vehicle if dragged off 'balance' by it could leave the road altogether. Mr Heroys is very unhappy at the way he has been treated by a)

the reporting system, b) the people he has spoken with so far and c) the overall lack of communication.

viii. Storm Drain at the top of Enford Hill. This was report to Cllr Hiskett, the drain was completely full of straw which meant that any excess rainfall was simply running down the road instead of going down the drain. It has now been reported to Cllr Coulthard as a job for the Parish Steward on his next visit.

20/063 Finance

The Clerk reported that July's opening balance was £13,188.66 with outgoings of £1,711.60 for the month, leaving a balance at the end of July at £11,477.06. In August there was a total of cleared cheques in the sum of £1,526.50 leaving a balance of £9,950.56. The relatively high outgoings are still due to Donation cheques being cleared at the banks. On or around 21st September the second tranche of the Precept (£8,153.50) should be received. Whilst the figures sound quite high, there is a ring-fence around funds for the Playpark, maintenance or replacement of bus shelters, seats noticeboards etc.

Cllr Waight asked about the salt/grit supplies that are normally dealt with at this time of year. The Clerk explained that at the request of WC, she had done an audit on all the salt/grit bins. All the bins that WC would fill are already full however when the winter weather kicks in, supplies can disappear quite quickly. Cllr Waight said that if more were needed, he would be happy to collect it as before from the Marlborough depot. There were no questions.

20/064 Planning Applications

There were none.

20/065 New Playpark

Cllr Young reported there is a problem with gate into the Playpark which is coming apart and says the whole area should be re-fenced. Cllrs Roberts and Hiskett regularly keep an eye on such matters for health and safety reasons and agreed that rotting posts, possible nails sticking out and splinters are a problem. Cllr Waight knows a fencing contractor and will contact them to get a quote to re-fence the whole area. All Cllrs agreed. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact ROSPA (the body who inspects the Playpark annually) to find out whether there were any specific requirements in replacing the fencing and also let the Inspector know that this was being actioned. (This has now been done and we are awaiting a response). Cllr Hiskett also suggested the PC might apply to the Community Fund for a grant towards this expense which Cllr Young agreed to do.

20/066 Parish Hall

Cllr Cliffe-Roberts reported that the Planning Office was now off furlough and he had submitted a pre-application on a proposed layout for the garden and parking area – he is awaiting a response. Cllr Hiskett, speaking on behalf of a local resident Colin Hill, noted the frustration at the length of time this project was taking

20/067 Roads and Highways

Cllr Coulthard did not attend the meeting and did not send in a report.

20/068 Public Rights of Way (PRoWs)

-Cllr Hiskett reported that the Avon Valley Group (AVG)/ Paths for All now have two catalogued walks printed on a trifold leaflet and these will hopefully be distributed in the area soon. (Upavon Village

shop, the Swan, the Red Lion etc). They are also available for downloading from the Pewsey Vale website where there will eventually be five in total. He distributed the two currently available leaflets to interested Cllrs – the Lidbury Camp Walk (6.5 miles) and the Everleigh Parish Boundary Walk (long version 9 miles, short version 6 miles).

20/069 Correspondence

There was no Correspondence. Cllr Roberts asked Rhys Teasdale, Youth Liaison representative, if there were any 'Youth' issues to report – there were none. Cllr Young asked if he'd noticed any older children in the Playpark area, he responded that he had not particularly noticed any but then with children returning to school, there weren't that many children out and about in the village anyway.

20/070 Any Other Business

No matters were raised.

20/071 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 13th October 2020 at **7.30pm** in the Village Hall.

There being no other business Cllr Roberts closed the meeting at 20.50

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Richard Roberts - Chairman, Enford Parish Council

Date: 13th October 2020