

EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL

Email clerk@ebpc.co.uk – Website: www.ebpc.co.uk

EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2021, 7:30PM, REMOTE/ZOOM ATTENDANCE

ATTENDANCE

Parish Councillors: Cllr Marie Brewer (Chairperson), Cllr Mark Tomkins (Vice-Chairperson),
Cllr Joan Conner, Cllr Kathy Ellison, Cllr Gavyn Lugsden,
Cllr Adam Richardson, Cllr Mike Simkins

Public: 6x General Public

Others: Parish Clerk, Cllr Philip Spicer (CBC)

The Chairperson presented the rule regarding remote/Zoom attendance.

(1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Cllr Helen Chubb. Cllr James Melzack was not in attendance.

(2) SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Cllr Mark Tomkins declared an interest in agenda item (10)(10.1) of the meeting. No other declarations of interest were made at this point in the meeting.

(3) PUBLIC OPEN FORUM:

(3.1) Village Flooding: Concern was expressed about the recent flooding which affected many parishioners. People felt very strongly that there needs to be an investigation into the cause of the flooding. Cllr Brewer proposed to bring forward agenda item (8)(8.4)(i), all agreed.

(3.2) Agenda item (8)(8.4)(i) / Flooding:

(1) Cllr Mark Tomkins was on site during the flooding, during the evening and the following day, helping to organise emergency services/support. The Parish Council wished to thank Cllr Tomkins for all his support during this incident.

(2) Determining the cause of the flooding is not the Parish Council's responsibility, however the council understand the importance of getting the appropriate agencies involved and to fully support the investigation. The Environmental Agency visited the site of the flooding to investigate the potential cause and investigate issues arising from the floods. The investigation will be co-ordinated between CBC, Environment Agency and the Internal Drainage Board [IDB]. Cllr Spicer to enquire as to whether the findings of the investigation will be made public. The Parish Council asked if residents could forward any photos/videos of the flooding to the Parish Clerk, to enable the council to put together an information sheet for CBC to help with the investigation. Cllr Brewer and Cllr Tomkins are meeting with the IDB regarding a separate matter however will use this meeting to raise the flooding issues with them. Cllr Spicer to advise the Parish Council on the CBC investigation and to let the council have the report number for the incident which was logged with the Environment Agency. All agreed.

(3) It was proposed the Parish Council write formally to CBC Chief Executive, expressing concerns about the recent flooding and would like to know what is happening and who is

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investigating this matter. IDB/Environmental Agency to be copied in on the communication. All agreed.

(4) SIGNING OF MINUTES: Eaton Bray Parish Council Meeting, 11 JANUARY 2021

It was proposed to unanimously accept the minutes. All agreed. The Chairperson will sign the minutes when Covid-19 restrictions allow.

(5) MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES: 11 JANUARY 2021

All matters arising to be discussed under Agenda items for 8 February 2021 meeting.

(6) REPRESENTATIVES:

(6.1) CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL [CBC]:

Cllr Phillip Spicer addressed the Parish Council.

(6.1.1) January report submitted by Cllr Philip Spicer.

(1) Sewage Pump Station (The Rye): This has been backflowing into neighbouring gardens and streams/ditches. Cllr Spicer to investigate this further.

(3) Fix My Street: Now up and running, details on FixMyStreet are available on the Eaton Bray Facebook page and the Parish Council's website <https://www.ebpc.co.uk/>

(4) Road Improvements: Patching is being carried out in the parish. Some areas have been missed, Cllr Spicer to find out why some areas were not patched. Cllr Spicer reminded residents to report any highways issues, via the FixMyStreet app.

(5) Blocked Drain (The Rye): Despite being reported to CBC, the drain is still blocked and not been cleared.

(6) Vermin Control: Cllr Spicer to forward relevant contact details to Parish Clerk.

(6.2) BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE: No police were in attendance.

(7) PLANNING REPORT:

(7.1) No matters raised.

(7.2) Planning Applications/Appeals received:

(7.2.1) CB/21/00036 - 40A The Nurseries, Eaton Bray, LU6 2AX - 1st floor side extension, single storey side extension & internal alterations: Parish Council comment – all agreed.

**Parish Council comment: No objections, subject to planning conditions.*

(7.2.2) CB/21/00328 – Great Green Farm, 1 The Rye, Eaton Bray, LU6 2BQ – installation of a wood stove and associated works: Parish Council comment – all agreed.

**Parish Council comment: No objections, subject to planning conditions.*

(8) BUSINESS MATTERS:

(8.1) MILL END CLOSE:

(8.1.1) Waterside/IDB: Cllr Brewer and Cllr Tomkins are having a meeting with the IDB to discuss the riverbank, the Parish Council has raised the following questions with IDB, awaiting a reply:

(1) What was the reason for the initial investigation?

(2) to supply a map showing where the water goes to after it passes through this piece of land. To be able to understand the impact further down the water course.

(3) To forward a schedule of your maintenance/clearance visits that have taken place over the last 10 years.

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(4) To see the incident logs of problems caused by the water course over the last 5 years.
(8.1.2) Trees: Under emergency powers, the Clerk authorised the removal of a large tree root that had gone under the neighbouring fence, damaging the fence, raising the patio area and shed. All approved.

(8.1.3) Fencing: Due to the recent removal of trees adjacent to the waterway, the area is now open/accessible. It was proposed the Parish Council look at fitting fencing in this location. All agreed. The Parish Clerk to obtain quotes for this work. All agreed. In addition, it was proposed to put two 'Danger, Deep Water' signs in this location. All agreed. Clerk to action.

(8.2) VILLAGE YOUTH PROJECT:

Cllr Chubb has been speaking with Simon Bailey, CBC Youth Engagement Office regarding setting up the Youth Council. She is waiting for a notice to be put together than can go out to the parish regarding interest in joining a Youth Council. Cllr Simkins suggested contacting local youth organisation's within the community who may like to work alongside the Youth Council and get involved. Matter ongoing.

(8.3) VILLAGE RECREATION GROUNDS:

(8.3.1) School Lane:

(1) Skate Park footpath/repairs/drainage: Quotations received to date presented to the Parish Council, Parish Clerk to chase up the remaining contractors for their quotes. All agreed. It was proposed the Parish Council replace the old Skate Park bench with two new benches. All agreed. Cllr Brewer to action.

(2) Play Equipment: Cllr Brewer is currently speaking with contractors and is now received designs/plans for replacement equipment and will forward information/costs received to the Parish Council. Matter ongoing.

(8.3.2) Holmans Field:

(1) EB Lions: Despite informing the Parish Council that the old goal posts will be removed in January 2021, they are still in the hedging at Holmans Field. It was proposed the Clerk write to EB Lions asking them to remove the old goal posts, giving them a two-week time frame from the date of communication. Failure to remove the goal posts will result in the Parish Council organising their removal/storage and any costs incurred to the Parish Council to be paid for by EB Lions. All agreed.

(8.4.3) The Rye Ground:

(1) Outdoor Gym Equipment: The Parish Clerk has submitted the S106 application to CBC. A question was raised as to whether planning permission is needed for this equipment. The Clerk has enquired with CBC Planning, sending them plans/equipment specifications, we are awaiting a reply.

(8.4) HIGHWAYS MATTERS:

(8.4.1) Flooding: see minutes page 1863, item (3)(3.2).

(8.5) FLIGHT PATHS:

(1) Cllr Mike Simkins forwarded details regarding the consultation to the Parish Council for information. It was proposed the Parish Council responds, no comment regarding the changes raised in the consultation. All agreed.

(2) It was recommended the Parish Council write to the Airport authority and ask them to confirm the recommended emergency procedures/protocols for the parish, as the Parish Council have a responsibility to understand what to do should aircraft get in trouble over the parish. All agreed. Clerk to action.

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(8.6) WATER GENERATOR/HYDRO POWER:

(1) Cllr Ellison looked into this further, however the parish does not have enough flow (head) of water to facilitate a water generator.

(2) It was suggested the Parish Council look into what can be done to support Climate Change initiatives in the parish, i.e., solar panels/small wind turbines/recycling. Cllr Ellison to investigate further. All agreed.

(8.7) CBC SALT BAG SCHEME:

It was proposed that Cllr Gavyn Lugsden contact the school to enquire if they would be interested in taking on this scheme. All agreed. The Parish Clerk to forward the CBC Salt Bag Scheme details to Cllr Lugsden for information.

(8.8) PARISH TREES:

(8.8.1) St. Mary's Churchyard:

(1) Phase 1: The works to the trees has been completed. It was proposed that when the invoice is received by the Parish Clerk that payment should be made at that time. All agreed.

(2) Phase 2: Together with the approved works to the main churchyard trees, an additional request (by the Church) for work to the Leylandii Confiders be added. The Church agreeing to contribute half the costs for this additional work. The Church will look at replanting this area with natural species hedging. All agreed. It was proposed the Clerk check with planning if the Leylandii need to be included within the planning application and then put in the application based on the tree works that are required to go through planning. All agreed.

(8.8.2) CBC Tree Planting:

(1) Cllr Richardson walked round the parish to look at suitable locations for planting new trees (minimum of five trees). Possible locations for trees are replacements for trees damaged/vandalised, Mill End Close. It was suggested the Parish Council put out a request to residents, asking them to put forward suggestions for suitable locations within the parish and for help in watering these newly planted trees. Cllr Tomkins/Cllr Richardson to put a report together. All agreed.

(2) Wildflowers: It was suggested the Parish Council look into whether there is the option of having wildflowers planted in the parish, through the CBC scheme. Cllr Richardson to enquire. All agreed.

(8.9) VILLAGE ENHANCEMENTS/EVENTS:

(8.9.1) Hanging Baskets: A sample basket was hung outside The Coffee Tavern; the overall view was that the basket was small and needed to be bigger. Cllr Simkins to look at purchasing a larger sample. All agreed.

(8.9.2) Sprucing up the village: An option put forward is for wildflowers to be planted on road grass verges/hedgerows, Cllr Simkins to look into this further.

(8.9.3) Village Calendar 2022: Cllr Ellison looking at finding original prints/photos from the parish. Cllr Simkins to speak with Peter Mayne for possible photos. Parish Clerk to contact ex-Parish Councillor, Glenn Wigley re old photos used in the Neighbourhood Plan. It was suggested that a request for old photos goes out to the parish, informing them that the council are looking at putting together a Village Calendar 2022, theme 'Historic Eaton Bray', to see if anyone holds old photographs that could be used in the calendar. Cllr Tomkins to put together an advert and forward to Clerk to action. All agreed.

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(8.10) TENDERS/QUOTATIONS:

(8.9.1) (1) Litter Pick Equipment/EB Academy: Quotation presented to the Parish Council, it was proposed to accept the costs put forward, with the option of a sponsored Hi-Viz Vest. All agreed. Clerk to action.

(2) Replacement sleepers/The Orchards: A breakdown of the quotation was presented to the Parish Council. It was proposed to accept the costs put forward. All agreed. Clerk to action.

(3) St. Mary's Trees: see minutes page 1866, item (8)(8.8)(8.8.1)(2)

(4) Skate Park-footpath/repair/drainage: see minutes page 1865, item (8)(8.3)(8.3.1)(1)

(9) REPORTS:

(9.1) PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON:

(9.1) No matters to report.

(9.2) Correspondence:

(1) Email – tree removal: Presented to the Parish Council. It was proposed the council write to the resident letting them know that the council are looking to replant trees within the village, also explaining that these trees were removed due to this species of tree not being the correct type of tree for this location. Cllr Tomkins to draft a full reply and forward to Clerk to action. All agreed.

(2) Anonymous letter – Mill End Close: Presented to the Parish Council. It was suggested that the council remind residents that anonymous correspondence may not be investigated unless there is clear public interest in doing so and that a fair investigation can be carried out. That the Parish Council wished to reassure residents that any correspondence of a sensitive nature forwarded to the council will be kept confidential and not made public (as outlined under the Data Privacy Law 2018). All agreed. Clerk to action.

(3) Email – EB Lions/goal posts: Presented to the Parish Council. Clerk to respond back to resident informing them of the steps the council are taking to bring this matter to a conclusion. All agreed.

(4) Email – Flooding, Eaton Park/Knights Close: Presented to the Parish Council. Clerk to let resident know the actions the council will be taking in the matter. See minutes page 1863, item (3)(3.2)

(5) Email – Local Plan / Flooding: Presented to the Parish Council. Cllr Brewer has updated the resident on CBC's Local Plan, with regards to the flooding the resident was made aware of the actions the council will be taking in the matter.

(6) and (7) Email – 30MPH sign/The Rye: Presented to the Parish Council. Cllr Philip Spicer. Cllr Spicer has responded to the resident.

(8) Letter – Flooding: Presented to the Parish Council. Cllr Brewer to respond to the resident informing them of the actions the council will be taking in this matter.

(9.2) PARISH CLERK: No matters to report.

(9.3) PARISH AMENITIES/VENUES:

(1) Cottage: No matter to report.

(2) The Coffee Tavern: The boiler was repaired, however appears to still not be working correctly, the contractor has been called back to sort this out.

(3) The Village Hall: No matters to report.

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(9.4) PARISH BURIAL GROUNDS:

(1) Bower Lane Cemetery: No matters to report.

(2) St. Mary's Churchyard: No matters to report.

(9.5) PARISH ALLOTMENTS:

(1) Holman's Field: No matters to report

(2) Allotment Renewals: The deadline for final payment reminders for outstanding allotment payments (1 February) has gone, there will be 4 half-size plots available to re-let. Clerk to contact those on the waiting list.

(10) MONTHLY ACCOUNTS:

(10.1) TO RESOLVE TO PAY JANUARY 2021 ACCOUNTS: Proposed, seconded, all agreed.

A copy of the Parish Council monthly accounts can be obtained by applying to the Parish Clerk.

(11) ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA:

(11.1) Next Meeting: It was recommended that the next meeting for Eaton Bray Parish Council be on Monday 8 March 2021. All agreed.

(11.2) Agenda items: Wildflowers

Meeting closed at 21:35hrs.