



**Easebourne Parish Council
Community & Environment Committee
Minutes of a Meeting Held at
6.00pm on Wednesday 4th October 2023
At Easebourne CE Primary School**

Present – Mike Noble (MN) – chairman, J Macdonald-Lawson (JML), D Pack (DP), I Milne (IM)

In attendance – E Tremaine (ET) – Parish Clerk

- 1. Public Question Time** – No members of the public were present.
- 2. Apologies and Reasons for Absence** – E Roberts-Grimsey for personal reasons.
- 3. Code of Conduct**
 - a. No declarations of interest
 - b. No dispensation requests
- 4. Minutes of Last Meeting** – the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 2nd August were agreed as a correct record and signed. Proposed by IM, seconded by DP.
 - a. Tom Richardson attended the meeting on Wednesday 13th September and addressed the highways issues that MN was pursuing (see minutes).
 - b. Easebourne Street culvert – ET reported that there is a notification on one network website that the road will be closed to attend to this later in the year.
 - c. Owl box – IM has some options for review as reported at the meeting on Wednesday 13th September (see minutes).
 - d. All other actions completed without need for comment or will be addressed as part of the agenda for this meeting.
- 5. Verbal/Written Panel & Project Group Reports** –
 - a. **Communications (Volunteers and Staffing)** – MN noted that things are relatively quiet at the moment so there has not been a lot to put on the website. Following a short discussion, it was resolved that MN and JML will meet to confirm who is doing what for Communications. MN also mentioned that there is a potential new Councillor who will attend November's full council meeting.
 - b. **Easebourne Park**
 - i. Following the ROSPA report in which rotting timbers were mentioned, Lawrence from Wildwood has quoted to do a complete survey and remedial works. The survey will be £300+VAT. IM to request permission via email from CS.
 - ii. Police have been in touch asking to review CCTV footage following an incident in which 3 youths chased some others with a knife. The footage showed said youths climbing on the roundhouse and then chasing a group of girls as reported. The police will use this as evidence.
 - iii. The erosion of the steps is to be fixed by fitting a drain in the next 2 weeks at a cost of £650+VAT. The contractor will also check the ramp to the roundhouse following reports that it is uneven and the front of the toilets.
 - iv. One toilet has now closed for winter with the other set to close at the end of the month. However there has been community feedback received asking for them to be kept open. The costs have been calculated and this would be £1679 over budget. JML suggested that they could just be open

at the weekend. IM responded to say that Wettons may not accept just a weekend contract and that they will also not open or close in the dark. If the toilets are to be kept open IM proposed that he can keep an eye on the levels of waste with the laser and use that as a measure of usage to assess worth. Whatever is decided will need a proposal to full council. JML relayed her experience of Parish run toilets in Cornwall and suggested an honesty box for donations however there were concerns about vandalism/theft.

ACTION – IM to speak to Wettons for a quote to open and close at weekends only between November and February.

- c. **Emergencies and Winter Planning** – Councillor Jose Galego has been dealing with this.

ACTION – ET to chase JG for an update on the Winter Plan.

- d. **Footpaths**

- i. Footpath crossing A286 – JML has been speaking with Frank of FrEP and ROW officers with regard to this footpath crossing. Frank has assessed that the original footpath could be re-instated with steps and the Senior ROW official feels that the gradient is significant. They need to work out who the land belongs to and speak to them. JML reinforced that the crossing is very dangerous as visibility is poor and would be exceptionally dangerous for anyone who is hard of hearing.

ACTION – JML to continue liaising with Frank (FrEP) and ROW Officials.

- ii. The previous point then lead to a discussion around speed on the A286 through the parish. MN suggested that Tom Richardson (WSSC) is contacted regarding the 60mph stretch because if the Henley proposal goes through it would make sense to also reduce the limit here as others around it will be reduced to 40mph.

ACTION – DP to contact Tom Richardson about speed on the A286.

- e. **Highways** - DP raised that he has been asked to suggest that traffic islands could be put in at the end of Hollist Lane to mirror that end of Wheelbarrow Castle, to stop people from cutting the corner. A discussion took place and it was resolved that the road is too narrow there and so this would not be practical. JML reported that licenses have been requested for the Pointer signs.

ACTION – JML to chase Highways about licenses for pointers.

- f. **Parishes Environment Group** – ERG sent around an email update and there is nothing more to add.

6. **Planter Maintenance** – JML raised that the planters are looking messy again. When this was previously discussed the plan was to leave them until the Spring but they may need a tidy up in the meantime. She also suggested getting a group of volunteers or perhaps FrEP to help with maintenance. DP also suggested the Easebourne Garden Society. IM volunteered to speak to both.

ACTION – IM to raise at FrEP AGM and speak to the Garden Society.
ACTION – JML will go and assess the state of the planters properly.

7. **Proposals to Full Council** – none.
8. **Matters of Report** – DP has received a report of bins being left on the path and restricting access on Lutener Road. IM suggested putting a note through the doors on that road however MN believes that this is a civil matter rather than a council one.

ACTION – ET to email CDC to report the complaint to the waste department.

IM reported that the defibrillator phone box is being repainted this week as it is looking tired.

9. **Date of Next Meeting** – 6.00pm Wednesday 6th December

Meeting Closed at 7.02pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Chairman