

**THE MINUTES OF A MEETING OF EASINGTON VILLAGE PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON MONDAY 13<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021**

- Present: Councillor L Morton (Chair)  
Councillors L Birkett, W Day, J Devine, S Laws, A Lumsden, J Lee, T Murray and A Robson
- County Councillor D Boyes
- Staff: Mrs G M Crute (Parish Clerk)
- EVPC 21/22/101 **Apologies for Absence**  
Apologies for absences were received and accepted for Councillor W Day.
- RESOLVED:** that information given, be NOTED.
- EVPC 21/22/102 **Declarations of Interest on Items on the Agenda**  
There were no declarations of interest.
- RESOLVED:** that the information given, be NOTED.
- EVPC 21/22/103 **Exclusion of the Press and Public**  
**RESOLVED** that in accordance with Section 2 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve information prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.
- EVPC 21/22/104 **Co-option of Parish Councillor**  
The Clerk advised that there was one remaining Parish Councillor vacancy and there had been one expression of interest in becoming a Parish Councillor. The candidate met the qualification criteria and was in attendance at the meeting.
- Members interviewed the candidate.
- RESOLVED** that Mr S Laws be co-opted as Parish Councillor for Easington Village Parish Council
- Councillor Laws signed his declaration of acceptance of office and joined the meeting.
- County Councillor Boyes joined the meeting*
- EVPC 21/22/105 **Public Participation**  
There were no members of the public registered to speak.
- RESOLVED:** that the information given, be NOTED.
- EVPC 21/22/106 **Minutes of the last Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021**
- RESOLVED:** that the minutes be confirmed as a correct record, to be signed by the Chairman.

EVPC 21/22/107

**Matters Arising**

- EVPC/21/22/079 **Seaton Holme – Potential Lifting of Coronavirus Restrictions** – The building had been opened up to regular users and some small functions had been held and everything has gone well.
- EVPC/21/22/081 **Request to have Cockerels on Allotment Plot** – the Clerk had advised the tenant. An update would be provided at the meeting.
- EVPC/21/22/082 **New Planters** – A quotation had been received for the new trough planters which would be included in the Section 106 Funding application once it was ready to be submitted.
- EVPC/21/22/089 **Review of Funding of Electricity Supply for Church Floodlighting** – the Clerk had contacted the representatives from St Mary's Church regarding the Parish Council's offer to contribute £500 towards funding the supply of lights. Communications had been received and forwarded to Councillors. A further update would be provided at the meeting.

**RESOLVED:** that the information given, be NOTED.

EVPC 21/22/108

**Police Matters**

Members gave consideration to the report of the Police, which had been previously circulated.

**RESOLVED** that the information given, be NOTED.

EVPC 21/22/109

**Report of the County Councillor**

County Councillor D Boyes was in attendance and reported on the following:-

- Complaints regarding lack of bins around the Village Green. There was the potential to obtain these via Section 106 Funding and partnership working with the Parish Council
- Flash flooding problems near the Petwell Estate. Officers from Durham County Council had been to investigate the situation and were to consult with Northumbrian Water to improve the drains and sewers at this location
- The August Bank holiday horse fair seemed to have passed without any issues and he had not received any complaints
- A provisional meeting date had been organised for Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September with Parish Councillors, Highways Officers, Police and residents. Councillor Boyes asked members for suitable times and whether the meeting could take place at Seaton Holme. The Clerk confirmed Seaton Holme would be available on that date and Members suggested a preference for either 11 am or 1 pm. Councillor Boyes would confirm the time with the Clerk.

A Member asked whether the ditch at Petwell Lonen had been cleared. Councillor Boyes advised that remedial work had been undertaken

The Member then asked about the subsidence at the top of North Crescent and the telegraph pole in the middle of the road near Whitehouse Court. Councillor Boyes advised that both issues were in the works programme. Another Member enquired about the Safer Streets Campaign and if there would be any funding spent in Easington Village. Councillor Boyes informed Members that this scheme would be used to target the problems of anti-social behaviour in Easington Colliery particularly along the A and B Streets.

**RESOLVED** that the information given, be NOTED.

The Chairman thanked County Councillor Boyes for his attendance and he left the meeting.

EVPC 21/22/110

### **Seaton Holme – Alarm Response Service**

The Clerk advised Members of incidents when either herself or the Admin Assistant had been called out for the alarms at Seaton Holme. The latest incident was in the early hours of the morning and the Clerk had taken the call even though she was on holiday.

The Clerk contacted the Chairman and after discussing the issues regarding staff safety and alarm call outs it was agreed that under delegated authority Steadfast Security would be engaged to provide the Alarm Response Service for Seaton Holme at a cost of £395.00 per annum plus costs for additional call outs as detailed

Members agreed that this was an appropriate course of action to take.

**RESOLVED:** that the actions of the Clerk be ENDORSED.

EVPC 21/22/111

### **Review of Room Hire Fees**

Members gave consideration to the hire fees for Seaton Holme. It was considered whether the fees should remain unchanged this year to the coronavirus pandemic. The inclusion of the new fee for the flasks was approved.

The Clerk advised that previously a 15 minute set up and 15 minute clear up time had been given. Although Parish Council staff ensured that the rooms were set up prior to arrival and were then tidied afterwards. The Clerk provided details of affiliated groups and some regular users to Seaton Holme and the time they were allowed before and after their room hire charges.

**RESOLVED** that:

- i) no increase be made to the room hire charges
- ii) A fee of £7.50 per flask for tea/coffee making would now be included in the additional facilities available for hirers
- iii) That affiliated Groups be allowed to continue with their 15 minute set up and clear up time
- iv) That regularly long term users - specifically those with more than one weekly booking be allowed 10 minutes free time before and after their room hire

EVPC 21/22/112

### **Review of Room Hire Bookings**

The Clerk advised Members that there had been two small functions that had gone well and felt that it would be possible to enable the Parish Council

to accept bookings for all events. However, she advised that until the pandemic was over it would be advisable to take only weekend bookings when the Clerk, Admin Officer and Caretaker were all at work.

**RESOLVED:** that Seaton Holme be opened up for full room hire within the criteria advised by the Clerk.

EVPC 22/22/113

**Report of the Cemetery Superintendent**

Members gave consideration to the Cemetery Superintendent's report which had been previously circulated.

**RESOLVED** that the information given, be NOTED.

EVPC 22/22/114

**Review of Cemetery/Burial Fees**

The Clerk advised that there had not been an increase for the 2021/22 cemetery and burial fees. She had provided Members with a proposed increase of 1.5% rounded up for Members consideration which meant that if approved the fee for an interment of a body would be from £148 to £151 for a resident.

**RESOLVED:** that an increase of 1.5% rounded up be effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022.

EVPC 21/22/115

**Allotment Site Update**

The Clerk advised Members that she had received one complaint during the 3 week period that the cockerel was on the allotment site. Members felt that any future applications would be considered on an individual basis

The Clerk advised on a recent break-in at the Sunderland Road (Petwell) Allotment site. She also advised that the allotments at Easington Colliery had been broken into at the same time.

**RESOLVED** that the information given be RECEIVED.

EVPC 21/22/116

**Parish Council Financial Status – Bank Balances as at 31.08.2021**

The Clerk reported that the bank balances as at 31.08.21 were £1003.75 in the Current Account and £165,008.42 in the Current Account totalling £166,012.17.

**RESOLVED:** that the information given, be NOTED

EVPC 21/22/117

**Income and Expenditure Report to 31.8.21**

The Clerk updated Members on the Council's income and expenditure.

**RESOLVED** that the information given, be NOTED.

EVPC 21/22/118

**Bank Transfers**

The Clerk informed Members that the Transfers for July were £16,813.96 from the Savings Account and £2037.86 from the Current Account and the Transfers for August were £25,504.07 from the Savings Account and Nil from the Current Account.

**RESOLVED:** to ENDORSE the Transfers.

**Invoices for Endorsement for Payment****RESOLVED:**

- i) to ENDORSE the following invoices for payment, together with payments of donations/petty cash/payroll as previously agreed;

**JULY 2021**

DATE	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	CHEQUE NO/DD/ BACS
13.7.21	Pena Pat Test	PAT Testing	£51.	BACS
16.7.21	IOS	Xerox Paper 1 <sup>st</sup> Aid Suppl, Stamp	£148.37	BACS
18.7.21	TJ's	Repair taps, Elec Box, Wall rende	£587.	BACS
12.7.21	TJ's	Scaffold glass rem, window repair	£365.	BACS
16.7.21	TJ's	Clean, Rep. gutters inc scaffold	£470.	BACS
15.7.21	TJ's	Batteries,room, stats door closers	£553.	BACS
23.7.21	Glasdon	2 x seats, plaques,concrete fixing	£1242.28	BACS
16.7.21	Cateraid	Carbon Filter replaced	£45.60	BACS
29.7.21	IOS	First Aid Supplies	£40.07	BACS
18.7.21	Payroll	3 <sup>rd</sup> Party Payments Month 3	£2876.63	BACS
30.7.21	Payroll	Net Payments Month 4	£6122.11	BACS
1.8.21	EDF	Church F-L Electric	£85.	DD
3.8.21	Octopus	Cemetery	£12.36	DD
19.7.21	Barclays Bank	BACS Charges	£6.	DD
30.6.21	Chaser Comm.	Telephone Usage	£75.70	DD
30.7.21	Document Solution	Photocopier Usage	£7.65	DD
31.7.21	ITC	Cloud Mailbox	£7.00	DD
31.7.21	ITC	Cloud Back Up	£8.40	DD
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£12,703.17</b>	

DATE	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	CHEQUE NO/DD/ BACS
9.8.21	PB Skip Hire	Skip Hire	£312.	106566
31.7.21	C.D.S	Alarm Maint. Chg. Cem	£198.	BACS
13.7.21	Carrs Billington	12 x 25kg Fertilizer	£186.12	BACS
10.8.21	Geo. Robinson	Hardware Supplies	£80.80	BACS
13.8.21	Rickerby	Isaki Repair	£89.15	BACS
10.8.21	Crisp Clean	Carpet Clean	£50	BACS
19.8.21	Rickerby	Harness Plastic Socket- Tractor	£18.19	BACS
13.7.21	Rickerby	Iseki Compact Tractor	£15000	BACS
20.7.21	Mazars	Audit Fee	£480	BACS
25.8.21	Durham CC	SLA Website Hosting	£747.56	BACS
18.8.21	Payroll	3 <sup>rd</sup> Party Payments Month 4	£2876.63	BACS
31.8.21	Payroll	Net Payments Month 5	£6121.91	BACS
1.9.21	Rialtas	Software Management Finance	£607.20	BACS
2.9.21	Zurich	Inspection Contract	£346.08	BACS
1.8.21	EDF	Church F-L Electric	£85.	DD
3.8.21	Octopus	Cemetery	£12.36	DD
19.8.21	Barclays Bank	BACS Charges	£6.	DD
31.7.21	Chaser Comm.	Telephone Usage	£75.70	DD
9.8.21	BNP Paribas	Telephone Rental	£39.60	DD

31.8.21	Document Solution	Photocopier Usage	£15.57	DD
31.8.21	ITC	Cloud Mailbox	£8.40	DD
31.8.21	ITC	Cloud Back Up	£6.	DD
2.9.21	Octopus Energy	Electric Cemetery Sept	£12.16	DD
2.9.21	Zurich Municipal	New Tractor Insurance	£346.08	BACS
1.9.21	Cathedral Leasing Ltd	½ Year Hygiene Services	£187.20	BACS
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£27907.71</b>	

106567 Petty Cash Cheque. £250

EVPC 21/22/120 **Income Received**

**July 2021**

<b>Customer Number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
8	Burial Fees MI	£32.
12	Affiliation Fee	£30
12	Room Hire	£28.75
9	Room Hire & Affiliation Fe	£67.50
		<b>£158.25</b>

**August 2021**

<b>Customer Number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
12	Room Hire	£28.75
9	Room Hire	£75.
11	2 Plots 1 Burial	£360.
11	1 Burial	£148.
22	Rent	£600
6	Room Booking	£48.
		<b>£1259.75</b>

**RESOLVED:** that information given, be NOTED.

EVPC 21/22/121

**Audit for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021**

Members gave consideration to the external auditor's report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, a copy of which had been previously circulated.

**RESOLVED:** that the external auditor's report be APPROVED.

EVPC 21/22/122

**Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal**

Members gave consideration to a financial donation to the 2021 Poppy Appeal under Section 137 of the Local Government Act, 1973

**RESOLVED:** that a donation of £100.00 be GRANTED

EVPC 21/22/123

**Planning Applications**

Members had been sent copies of Planning applications during the recess period, in order that any comments could be submitted within the planning deadlines.

DM/21/02317/FPA – Proposed Conversion of Existing Garage to Bedroom Accommodation, Erection of Single Storey Side Extension and other minor alterations at 23 Hallfield Drive, Easington Village for Mr G Cummings

DM/21/02493/VOC – Proposed Variation of Condition 2 (approved plans) pursuant to permission DM/16/03647/FPA to allow the substitution of house types and minor site layout changes at Land to the North West of Dairy Houses, Little Thorpe for Mr George Simpson

DM/21/02564/VOC – Proposed Variation of Condition 2 (approved plans) to remove reference to the supporting statement and condition 7 to increase the number of dogs participating in dog training/agility to 10 and the hours of operation to 9 am-9pm pursuant to permission DM/17/00420/FPA for Miss S Kitching

DM/21/02601/VOC – Proposed Variation of Conditions 2 (approved plans) and 3 (tree retention and protection) of planning permission

DM/20/0092/FPA so as to remove trees within Tree Group 4 on western boundary of plots 31-42

DM/21/02687/FPA – Proposed Erection of One Dwelling at Land south of 1-3 The Grange, South Side, Easington for Mr and Mrs Pallister

DM/21/02741/TCA – Proposed Felling and Removal of Lawsons Cypress, Elm, Cherry, Crown Lift to First Folk Sycamore, Crownlift to 4m Maple, Reduce and Reshape by 2m Rowan, Crown lift to 2m and reduce crown to clear building by 2m and reshape Weeping Elm, Remove branch over building Apple, reduce into hedge line Pear at Manor House, South Side, Easington Village for Mr Goon

DM/21/02745/OUT – Proposed Erection of up to 2 No. Dwellings at Land West of Aireville, Loaning Burn, Easington Village for Mr M Savage

**RESOLVED:** that

- i) the information given, be NOTED;
- ii) an objection be made with regard to the removal of hedging on planning application DM/21/02601/VOC

EVPC 21/22/124

**Planning Approvals**

DM/21/02317/FPA – Proposed Conversion of Existing Garage to Bedroom Accommodation, Erection of Single Storey Side Extension and other minor alterations at 23 Hallfield Drive, Easington Village for Mr G Cummings

DM/21/02060/FPA – Proposed Dis charge of Conditions 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 14 of planning permission DM/20/0092/FPA (96 Dwellings) at Site of Former Easington Village Workingmens Club, Seaside Lane, Easington Village for Believe Housing

**RESOLVED:** that the information given, be NOTED.

EVPC 21/22/125

**Planning Refusal**

There were no planning refusals

**RESOLVED:** that the information given, be NOTED.

EVPC 21/22/126

**Planning Applications (Withdrawn)**

There were no planning applications withdrawn.

**RESOLVED:** that the information given, be NOTED.

EVPC 21/22/127

**Planning Appeals**

There were no planning appeals.

**RESOLVED:** that the information given, be NOTED.

EVPC 21/22/128

**Members reports of their Attendance at Meetings and Events on Behalf of the Parish Council**

Councillors Morton, Lee and Lumsden had been in attendance at the presentation to the In-Bloom winners.

**RESOLVED:** that the information given, be NOTED.

EVPC 21/22/129

**St Mary's Church Floodlights – Offer of Donation**

Members had previously been circulated correspondence from St Mary's PCC representatives regarding the Parish Council's offer of a £500 donation toward the electricity supply for the church floodlighting. The Clerk had received an email from Rev Lucy Moss stating that the PCC had agreed to take over the electricity supply for the floodlights and that a formal response would be sent soon from the PCC Secretary. The Clerk advised Members that the Parish Council were still paying for the standing charge for the electricity supply and that she had held off having the electricity supply disconnected as this would mean that a reconnection fee would be required once the PCC organised the new supply.

**RESOLVED:** that the Clerk write to the PCC to advise that if notification was not received within the next 2 weeks of the electricity supply being taken on by the PCC then the Clerk would arrange for disconnection of the supply.

EVPC 21/22/130

**Section 106 Funding Application**

The Clerk advised Members that she was awaiting an updated quotation for the works to the Form Seat and the painting of the railings in this location. She had been unable to obtain any other quotations for the work. Once this was received an application would be made for this work, together with the planters for the Village and an additional bin for the play area. Members considered that other improvements that could be made to the Village Green was the removal of the tree stumps, fencing around the smaller areas of Village Green and new planters around the Parish.

**RESOLVED** that the information given, be NOTED.

EVPC 21/22/131

**Speeding Traffic – Top of Village Green/Stockton Road**

Councillor Murray raised concerns about the speeding along the top of the Village Green and onto Stockton Road. He advised that this had been an on-going issue.

The Clerk advised that she had forwarded Councillor Murray's concerns over to the local Police team.



Members felt that this could be an issue that could be discussed at the meeting with the Highways Officers and Police next week.

**RESOLVED:** that this issue be raised at the meeting with the Highways Officers and Police.

EVPC 21/22/132

**Christmas Tree Lighting 2021**

The Clerk requested Members give consideration for a date for the 2021 Christmas tree lighting event. She had approached Grahame Morris, MP to see if he would be available to undertake the official switching on of the lights. He would be delighted to do this and would be available Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

**RESOLVED:** that Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December be agreed as the Christmas Tree Lighting date. The time to be confirmed after consultation with Easington Village CE Primary School.

EVPC 21/22/133

**Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 6.00 pm.

**RESOLVED:** that the information given, be NOTED.

CERTIFIED TRUE RECORD

Chairman .....

Date .....