**EASTON GREY PARISH MEETING**

MINUTES OF MEETING 9th July 2024

Meeting AT 18.00hrs Church Farm House

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| **Attendees:** | **Apologies:** |
| Henry Jodrell (HJ) – Chair | Sheila Chapman |
| Tina Jodrell | Keith Waterhouse |
| Helen McLeish | Garth Chapman |
| Doug McLeish | Viv Tremayne |
| Martyn Leyfield | Jocelyn Denhert |
| George Clarke |  |
| Jane Clarke |  |
| Becky Vale |  |
| Nick Vale |  |
| Poppy Shadbolt |  |
| Anthony Wright |  |
| Ken Camerier |  |
| Edward Harford |  |
| Rosie Harford |  |
| Martin Smith |  |

| **Minute** | **Action** |
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| **Previous minutes**  Review and Sign off of 2023 Minutes.  Proposed by Becky Vale  Seconded by Poppy Shadbolt  Minutes signed and dated by Henry Jodrell | Outstanding Items:   * The Easton Grey plain crossroads is still a concern and Chair to discuss with Foxley and Norton PCC to consider making it a STOP and look at tasking the council to repaint the road markings. Becky Vale reported it has been better since we moved the road signs last year. Currently there is no sitting Chair of the Parish for Foxley and Norton. * The verge posts that have been put in on the green and by the telephone box and general tidying up of the village does appear to be slowing traffic down a bit. We will look at where else we should add verge posts. Potentially consider opposite Ruckley Cottages * WattsApp group – need to ensure everyone who wants to be on it is on it especially for things such as flood warnings etc. Chair to create master list of village names confirming who wishes to be on the group. |
| **Accounts**  Balance at 30 Mar 2024 = £2190  No interest is payable on the charity account held at Lloyds Bank.  Expenditure for 2023 = £2,491.99  A £825 precept was paid into the account in the year 0n 24th April 2024  Current Balance = £2,367.54 on 8th July 2024  Accounts accepted:  Proposed: Edward Harford  Seconded: George Clarke | 1. Defibrillator donations = £2,760. There is a cost of £380 for the electrical works which will appear in next years accounts. We were grateful for a large donation of £1500 from Malmesbury MLOF as well as generous donations from the residents. 2. A payment of £267.50 was paid to Garth Chapman to cover the costs of verge posts between the telephone box and Bees Cottage. He kindly made a personal contribution to the cost of the posts of £100. 3. With regards to signage around the bridge and bridge road straightening we are hoping to get LHFIG funding for this work. The road work is being sponsored by Wiltshire Council. The village will be asked for a £1,700 contribution which was agreed. 4. We will need to build some future reserves to pay for village gates to warn of narrow bridge ahead unsuitable for HGV and long vehicles and reinforce the 30 mph speed limit. 5. CCTV it was agreed that this is being put lower down on the priorities list as we hope the adjustments to the bridge will reduce the potential for bridge strikes in the future. 6. Budget maybe required to reassess the Easton Grey plain crossroads signage and a golden river to calculate the traffic density and speed following expansion of Westonbirt School and Dyson at Hullavington site. This would need to be done in conjunction with Foxley and Norton Parish |
| **Lime Down Solar Farm Vote**  The Lime Down Solar Farm proposal has caused much debate and divide amongst the local community. Although it will not be located within the Parish, it may will have an effect on the Parish in terms of traffic during the build phase for a project that will end up covering land that can be used for production of food and may have a negative impact on the Cotswolds National Landscape (AONB <https://www.cotswolds-nl.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/AONB-Simple-Map.png> ) in terms of tourism and people visiting the local area. Generally, the sentiment was supportive of solar and renewable energy but this scheme is considered too large and located in the wrong location by many people. A vote was put to those in the room on whether they would give the Parish Chair authority to speak on behalf of the village when it came to responding against the Lime Down Solar Farm proposal. An overwhelming majority vote in favour of the Chair representing the Parish in objecting to the solar park, meant the motion was passed.  This does not mean that individuals are unable to have a personal view and to represent that view in any future planning consultations.  The new South Cotswolds MP Dr Roz Savage (Liberal Democrat) will be campaigning against it. | The Chair to keep the village up to date on developments in the Lime Down Solar Farm planning applications and to respond when asking for comment on behalf of Eaton Grey Parish. |
| **Easton Grey Road Bridge**  Wiltshire Council Highways have been very helpful and have identified a scheme to help prepare traffic approaching the bridge by getting better site lines before crossing form the South. The proposal is to straighten the road before the approach and hopefully this should reduce the incident of future bridge strikes. Martin Leyfield raised the concern that cars may just speed up if they get a clearer view of the bridge and we should be mindful of this when undertaking the scheme. The scheme is estimated to cost £25,000 which will be funded by £1700 from Easton Grey and the rest from Wiltshire Council.  The question was raised by Edward Harford if we can get the bridge weight reduced to 7.5 tonnes. This has been investigated but currently it is not possible.  The proposal is to change the alignment of the road approaching the bridge from the south not a widening of the road. Martin Leyfield asked if a speed bump could be added to the approach to slow vehicles approaching the bridge as well.  General consensus was that the large potholes south of the bridge were a good thing to keep as these helped to slow the traffic down and it was agreed we should try and keep them unrepaired.  It was agreed that bright chevrons on the bridge would ruin the look and feel of the bridge and were not supported by the villagers. | The Chair to raise the increased speeding concern with Steve Hind of Wiltshire Council and to ensure that the new signage is included as part of the scheme.  To circulate a copy of the proposed plan. |
| **Flood Warden**  The Chair thanked Doug and Helen McLeish who have taken this role on. They provided an update on the plan that is being developed for the village. It is noted that the works on the bridge will need to be mindful of the need to not increase the height of the road to the south of the bridge, as this is an important flood relief mechanism for excess water. It was noted that the gully next to the bridge needs to be regularly dug out by the Parish Steward and this is to be raised with him. | Doug McLeish to circulate the flood plan.  Chair to meet with Parish Steward and point out gully to be kept clear.  Chair to work with Wiltshire Council to ensure road height is not increased when they do the bridge work. |
| **Single Track Road between Norton and Easton Grey**  The Chair has been asked to work with Wiltshire Council to look at identifying better signage and passing places along this road as it is a single-track road that is getting turned into a wider road as a result of drivers destroying the verges rather than using the passing places. This will also become important as we start to get Lime Down Solar Farm traffic.  The adding of hardcore to the verges has in fact made the situation far worse and what is needed is a large amount of topsoil to cover the hard core so the grass can grow again on the verge. Maybe when the Council has a big build with excess top soil this could be considered as a suitable location to dump it. | Chair to work with Wiltshire Council highways and local councillor, Martin Smith to identify how this can be improved. |
| **Village Gates**  A discussion was had on whether or not to install village gates to help slow the traffic down and discourage large vehicles from using the route across the river. Martin Smith identified the cost per gate experienced by Sherston who have erected 7 was very high. The evidence is that they do help to slow traffic down. It was agreed given the expense this should be a multi-year project and we would look to start at erecting a set of gates at the southern Easton Grey village sign. In time we would look to add to the two roads that lead into the village from the B4040.  Martin Leyfield highlighted the importance of not getting sight lines wrong and then causing more accidents due to poor siting. An example sited was the Shipton Moyne north gates by the junction.  It was agreed that this project would be funded by the village through a precept increase. | Chair to look into costs and put together a proposal to install gates at the southern end of the village. We have raised the precept for 2025 to start to build up a reserve to install up to 3 sets of gates for the village. The precept to remain at a higher level until the gates have been all installed. |
| **Precept**  It was proposed by Henry Jodrell that we should raise the precept to purchase gates for the South end of the village and keep ahead of inflation and the Treasurer to apply for a precept of £1,500.00 for FY 2024-2025.  Proposed by: Doug McLeish  Seconded by: Nick Vale | The Treasurer to apply for 2025-2026 Precept of £1,500. **This is to be submitted by 18th January 2025.** |
| **Planning**  It was noted there had been the following planning applications in the year:   * Ruckley House – fell dead trees * Unit 4 Whitewalls – change of use   Also to note 2 planning applications New Barn Farm which is under the Sherston PCC | No objections have been received. |
| **Wiltshire Council matters**  GP SURGERY  Martin Smith provided a current update on the Sherston surgery and the next steps to ensure that a new one is built to replace the current one which closes in 3 years.  ROAD SURFACE  The road going south away towards Norton has fallen into terrible repair. In addition, the verges have been severely damaged, and we need to investigate protecting them particularly along the river to avoid another need for expensive gabion reinforcement. George Clark has proposed a scheme to nominate protective status and has offered to investigate this. The road is a single-track road with passing places which needs better signing to this effect and the passing places need to be properly maintained. Many of the marker posts have lost their reflective bars and these should be repaired.  Edward Harford raised the issue of the road to Westonbirt and the flooding that occurs at the junction with the B4040. Martin Smith identified that this has been raised to Highways and is on the list to be resurfaced. The drain issue is a more difficult problem to solve and would need a redesign of the road drainage |  |
| **Election of Officers**  George Clarke was proposed as Chairman and Treasurer for 2024-2025  Proposed: Jocelyn Denhert  Seconded: Edward Harford | George Clarke provide thanks to the outgoing chair and the outgoing chair has agreed to act as a deputy to the new Chair for a period of 1 year. |
| **AOB**   1. Change to a summer meeting rather than mid-winter. | It was agreed that the annual meeting would be held as a summer meeting going forward. |
| **Meeting ended at 2000 hrs** |  |

Signed Date 13 July 2024

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Henry Jodrell

Chair of Easton Grey Parish Meeting

**Parish Steward Scheme Tasks – 2024**

* + hand clearing and cutting of growth from drainage grips and drain gully covers.
  + hand clearing of blocked gullies.
  + rodding of drainage systems
  + clearing of small culverts, pipes, and pits
  + clearing storm debris
  + trimming encroaching hedges and vegetation from around road signs and railings
  + cleaning and straightening small road signs.
  + hand cutting small visibility areas.
  + reactive emergency repairs including pothole repairs (In accordance with Wiltshire Councils Highways Inspection Manual 2018)
  + find, fix & record potholes (cold repairs only)
  + responding to road closure requests from the emergency services
  + removal of ragwort (hand pulling or strimming of defined areas)
  + treatment/removal of weeds
  + graffiti and fly posting removal.
  + clearance of debris and materials from scenes of road traffic collisions including clinical waste.
  + siding out of footways and carriageways
  + clearance of storm damaged trees from the Highway including the use of a chainsaw

The following works cannot be undertaken by the Parish Steward without support as they require a two-person operation. These works can be undertaken on an ADHOC day, which is typically a Friday, but this is flexible.

* Minor Carriageway repairs including vehicle overruns.
* Works requiring traffic management (including Stop and Go or manual controlling of temporary traffic signals in accordance with Chapter 8)

Examples of types of emergency reactive local highway work which is to be undertaken by the Highway Stewards includes (but is not exclusive to). These issues can take the steward from their programme:

* resolving flooding issues – clearing drainage grips and drain gully covers, clearing of small culverts, pipes, and pits etc.
* placing emergency signage and traffic management
* fence and pedestrian barrier safe
* clearing structures and fixings and make safe.
* hand cutting vegetation in visibility areas.
* reactive pothole repair
* responding to road closure requests from the emergency services
* small masonry type works such as repairs to slabs and damaged kerbs.
* clearance of debris and materials from scenes of road traffic collisions including clinical waste
* clearance of storm damaged trees from the Highway including the use of a chainsaw – requires additional operative.