

East Drayton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at 7pm on Monday 20th November 2023 in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs S Manson (Chair), P Darlow, A Stanley, R Bond, G Small, S Purnell; Cllr J Ogle; Dcllr L Stanniland; the Clerk; Members of the public - 2.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr I Stephens; Dcllr E Griffin; Mr S Ellis
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 18th September 2023** - approved and signed.
3. **To consider matters arising from the above minutes:**
 1. "Leading by Example" - Cllr Manson thanked everyone for their input.
 2. Highways - the Clerk had reported the extensive potholes on Low St/Long Lane . Cllr Ogle had done the same.
 3. "Your Village, Your Guide" - Cllr Darlow was thanked for arranging the printing of these information sheets, which had now been delivered to the households in the village. New residents would receive a copy as they arrived in the village.
 4. Lamp post poppies- Cllrs Manson, Small and Stanley were thanked for helping the Clerk with putting these up, along with Clare Small and Neil Stanley. Mr Stanley had taken down the ones on Low St and North Green, owing to the exceptionally windy conditions after Armistice Day. Cllrs Small and Manson to take down the rest before 1st December - ACTION - SM, GS
 5. There were no further matters arising.
4. **Declarations by Councillors of any disclosable pecuniary interest(s) in any agenda item.** None
5. **Planning -**

Application 23/01178/FUL - EDPC had no objection to the application from Vine Farm. BDC informed.

Regarding the application from The Paddock - this is still "awaitng decision" on the BDC Planning Portal.

6. **Correspondence** - by email, plus BDC's "Keep Warm, Keep Well" leaflets which were in the book exchange. A notice to that effect had been posted on the village Facebook pages.

7. **Urgent Business** -

a. Flooding - Cllr Ogle asked if any homes had been flooded during Storm Ciaran. Cllr Manson confirmed that although there had been extensive flooding in the gardens of The Limes (Mill Lane) and The Old Post Office (Top St), neither home was flooded. The owner of The Limes to be reminded of his responsibility to clear the ditches around his property. ACTION - Cllr Manson

8. **Meeting adjourned for public discussion**

a. Cllr Manson welcomed James Westwood, landlord of the Blue Bell Inn. James explained the difficulties he had faced since taking on the pub in the spring. He had underestimated the work that needed to be done, however he now had funding in place for the refurbishment of the exterior, interior and kitchen. Additional staff would be employed; opening hours extended; food offered (similar to The Reindeer). In the discussion that followed, James was made aware of the core support and of the success of quiz nights; race nights; charity events. As James is the chef at The Reindeer he is unable to visit the Blue Bell as often as he would like, but Jordan lived above the pub and was available. James is open to suggestions and will share information with Cllr Purnell for the Village Newsletter. He was thanked for keeping the pub open and a warm space. James will update the PC in the new year.

b. Dcllr Stanniland - Regarding National Grid power lines - the NG have been asked to provide an update to the full Council meeting of BDC on 9th December. Cllr Small had attended a consultation meeting and was reassured that the NG intended to avoid villages.

9. **Finance**

a. Income : 2nd BDC precept - £1,789.50 on 25th September.

b. Accounts for payment

- Clerk's quarterly salary, (December) 35 hours - £313.95 APPROVED
- HMRC - £78.40 - APPROVED
- Clerk expenses - £10.74 - APPROVED

- Website - £157.56 - APPROVED
- c. Balance of accounts, as at 1st November 2023 - £14,886.20, including the NP grant (£10,000), therefore PC balance £4,886.20.
 - d. Budget update - previously shared by email - after above expenses £667 remains available.
 - e. Signatories - Cllrs Manson, Darlow and Stanley, approved in principle (not yet confirmed in writing), with the Clerk having access for day-to-day running of the account.
- 10. Neighbourhood Plan** - "Community Drop-In" to update villagers - Monday 27th November from 7-8:30. Attending - Helen Metcalfe (Consultant "Planning With People") and 2 BDC Neighbourhood Planning Officers. Displays, reports, maps available. The event has been posted on the noticeboard, website and village Facebook pages and flyers delivered to homes.

11. General Business

- East Drayton Festival 2024 - Cllr Stanley has contacted a number of villagers with a view to them taking the lead on aspects of this. Subcommittees will be established. Date - end June/early July- to be confirmed. More details to follow. ACTION - Cllr Stanley
- Cottam Power Station Group - Mr Stanley reported on the Open Forum held on 4th November. He was disappointed to note that of the 70 attendees, there was only 1 ED resident. Attendees were asked to vote as to whether they "Agreed/Disagreed/Neutral" on the following key proposals for the 561 acre site, identified by the Forum team - Green electricity; Housing; Light industry; Sport and Leisure; Small Modular Reactors; Nature Reserve. The results will be collated for the next Forum meeting and shared with local villages.
- Clerk - The Clerk informed the meeting that she was moving from East Drayton in December. This would not affect her clerical duties nor her role as Responsible Financial Officer, however the Councillors would need to take on some "on the spot" roles.

Cllr Purnell - Defibrillator and Book Exchange. Cllr Small - reporting of potholes to NCC. It was suggested residents could report streetlights directly to NCC. Leafleting etc - team work. The Clerk thanked the PC for their support.

- Dates 2024 - previously circulated by email and to be posted on the noticeboard and website.

15th January; 18th March; 20th May (with APM, but subject to change);
15th July; 16th September; 18th November.

- Dcllr Griffin to be approached regarding a discretionary grant for the Children's Xmas Party on 20th December. - ACTION - Clerk
- Village Hall - Cllr Purnell confirmed Lorna Garfoot had been appointed Treasurer. Sarah Hilditch arranging Children's Xmas Party. A grant to help with this would be appreciated (see above).
- No other matters.

12. **Date of next meeting - MONDAY 15th January 2024 at 7:00pm.**

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:20pm and thanked everyone for attending.

Signed.....

Cllr S Manson, Chairman, East Drayton Parish Council

Dated.....