

ENFORD PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Wednesday 29th April 2009 – 7.30pm

Present:

Chairman, Enford Parish Council, Mr. Ken Monk

Vice-Chairman, Enford Parish Council, Mrs. Tessa Manser

Councillors; Mrs. Anne Merrett, Mr. Stan Bagwell, Mr. Norman Beardsley, Mr. Martin Webb,
Mr. Adrian Orr, Mr. Frank Horsford, Mr. Michael Fay.

PC Graham Wilkins, Major Peter King, Mr. Alan Merrett, Mr. Andrew Marx, Cllr. Alan Wood, Judy D'Arcy-Irvine, Mr. Michael Hadfield, Mrs. Jeni Scott-Dalgleish, Rev. Colin Fox and four other members of the public.

Mr. Bill Vergette, Clerk to Enford Parish Council.

Chairman of the Parish Council opened the meeting at 7.32 p.m.

- 1. Apologies** – Mrs. Sara Everett, Mr. Steve Becker.
- 2. Chairman welcomed all present and thanked them for attending.**
- 3. Minutes of meeting on 23rd April 2008** were proposed a true record by Cllr. Beardsley, seconded Cllr. Bagwell, passed.
- 4. Matters Arising** – None
- 5. Enford Parochial Church Council** – Rev Colin Fox thanked council for bringing forward his contribution as he had a further meeting in Figheldean later in the evening. Enford Church had had a good year with some new faces in the congregation. The building itself had been upgraded with new toilet facilities and small kitchenette. Rev Fox said that this made the Church more flexible to other uses and it had hosted a Jazz Evening and a Mexican Evening in the past year. He touched on the new village hall and thought that all venues would have different uses without competing. Rev Fox commented on the beauty of the church and the standard of care in the churchyard. Much was due to the efforts of the wardens, Michael Hadfield and John Poole-Warren and their helpers. He noted that Henry Middleton would be taking over from Michael in the coming year and wished him well. Rev Fox mentioned that Rev Mark Zammit of Durrington would be taking services in the Benefice and would occasionally be seen at Enford Church. Rev Fox said that the cost of the Churches in the Benefice was considerable, £9-£10K was the current Parish Share for Enford, and this was to provide Clergy and pensions nationally. Rev Fox said there were still spare seats in the Church but they were kept dusted in the hope of future use!
- 6. Report by Police Liaison Officer** – Police Constable Graham Wilkins introduced himself to the meeting, saying that he had served 16 years as a police officer, 7 in Salisbury and the last 9 in Tidworth. His latest job was covering Enford and other villages. Others involved in this task at Tidworth were Sgt Mark Freeman, a PCSO, and a special constable who had a particular interest in traffic problems. At the moment crime in the villages appeared to be at a fairly low level and it was his job to see this did not increase. There was a question from the floor about Neighbourhood Watch communication problems and Constable Wilkins said he was unsure of the avenues but he would talk with Coralie Nash, the previous contact, and make sure communication continued. Councillor Bagwell asked how many parishes PC Wilkins was covering as our last Liaison Officer had 19, PC Wilkins said he had 9 parishes but some were considerably larger, Ludgershall for example. Jeni Scott-Dalgleish said the new village hall was situated outside the main village and asked if it would be possible to have occasional drive-bys. She added that the hedge had been cut and lights installed but children congregated naturally in the area. Councillor Horsford said it would also help if the police could drive through the village occasionally. Constable Wilkins said he would try to arrange a more frequent presence. Chair thanked Constable Wilkins for his time.
- 7. Report by Army Liaison Officer** – Maj Peter King introduced himself as the new Liaison Officer, he had just retired from the Regular Army after 40 years service, much of it with 7 Regiment AAC at Netheravon, which had now disbanded. As a civilian he was now working at Westdown Camp and he wished to stress that he considered himself to be our representative with the Army, in other words he would fight our corner. He felt that his background with Aviation gave him a better understanding of the problems, and the fact that he lived in a nearby village added to his appreciation of our concerns. Maj King stated that he would come to our meetings as often as possible and he considered it a pleasure to be part of our village. Chair thanked Maj King for his time.
- 8. Report by Chairman of Parish Council – Mr Ken Monk.**

Thanks to all the councillors who had served in the last year. In particular Cllr. Bagwell's work on C32 and A345 speeding and the A345 road surface, and Cllr Beardsley's work on footpaths and rights of way. In July council had received a letter from Rosie Taylor tendering her resignation. Council were all dismayed to hear this news as Rosie had done such valuable work in the past and would be missed. Council welcomed new members in the persons of Adrian Orr and Martin Webb.

The C32 "Swan Sign" Accident – Council had been in correspondence with the Chief Constable about the handling of this incident. A potentially fatal incident where the victims had been made to pay and the culprit escaped scot-free. Council were still not satisfied by Chief Constable's response.

Playpark restoration and purchase of new Toddlers Swing. This had been achieved with no additional cost to parishioners. Thanks to those involved and to Clerk for wheedling money out of Kennet.

Future projects:

- Continuing work on roads.
- Investigation into the need for some form of BMX track or Skatepark in the village.
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Council applaud the work done in bringing the new Village Hall into being and hope that villagers will ensure this major project is successful.

In general: The change to a Unitary Council is in full swing. This has resulted in the administration side of council work being made less efficient and more detached. This parish is now connected to other areas like the Chutes where we have little in common and no contact. We should have been involved in the North-South axis of Pewsey/Amesbury, and council fought hard to achieve this – to no avail.

Chair handed over to Clerk for a financial report. At the end of March 2009, the current balance was £3449.52. This was nearly £1000 higher than the estimate used for the Precept, the main reason being that grants covered the whole cost of the improvements to the Playpark. In addition expected outlays for traffic measures now seemed unlikely.

9. Enford Village Hall Judy D'Arcy-Irvine

It is now ten years since Dominic Campbell and Michael Hadfield started the ball rolling for a new hall! We are on target for completion of the new hall by the end of May. We have tried to keep the village informed on progress with regular reports in the Newsletter, but if any one has any questions I will do my best to answer them.

I do hope that everyone who has been up to see the hall is pleased with the result, and will use the hall or attend functions in due course.

We went out to tender last July, and started building work at the beginning of September. We are now on the downhill hill towards completion. The ground source heat pump equipment is being installed this week, which will heat the building as well as providing all the hot water. The building has under floor heating throughout controlled with timers and thermostats. It will mean the hall is always warm even during the winter months without someone having to come in to put the heating on ready for an event or function.

The system extracts heat from beneath the ground through the coils inserted in the three 100 metre boreholes. They are connected to a heat exchanger in the plant room which in turn is connected to the underfloor heating system and the hot water tanks. The running costs will be a quarter of those which would have been incurred through conventional systems such as oil or electricity.

We have six regular user groups booked covering various activities, with others expressing an interest in coming to the new hall. We are hoping the new Youth Club will be starting in the autumn on a fortnightly basis. There are some new clubs starting up, and about 8 private bookings already including one for 2010! On 9th June we will be showing 'Slumdog Millionaire' and on 8th July 'The Young Victoria' – all this information will be in the May Newsletter.

I have a separate report for the Football Club – the County FA have provided a lot of support and will continue to help Enford provide youth football in addition to the senior teams – and partnerships are being explored with Durrington College and Amesbury Junior Football Club.

The hall has been fully funded by Kennet, Lottery, Football Foundation, Viridor Waste Management, and Wiltshire CC. Money raised by fundraising events over the past few years was ring fenced, and is now going towards providing the hall with tables, chairs etc. and installing kitchen equipment. We still have a few items left on our "Wish List" – curtains, sliding door between the two rooms, equipment for the Youth Club and children's groups, and hopefully shrubs and trees around the car park and building. I hope that we will be able to continue to fund raise for these.

We have security grilles on all the back windows and have roll down steel shutters on all doors and windows at the front and on the side. The police were consulted on all measures last year, and we are installing everything they have suggested. I would like to thank everyone for their continued support and hard work.

10. Enford Parish Hall Cllr. Jane Young said that the Parish Hall was still ticking over, some minor repairs were needed in the coming year but no major problems were anticipated. Cllr Bagwell asked if the repairs could be done by volunteers? Cllr Young said Yes, and would welcome his paint brush!

11. Enford Football Club No representative present, but a letter from Ollie Stagg was read out by Judy D'Arcy-Irvine as follows:

Enford Football Club is hoping to move back to their home pitch at the newly built Village Hall for the start of the new football season 2009/2010.

The village hall has all the facilities required to run a successful club, including changing rooms, showers and referee's changing rooms.

The club will start training at the new facility in July in preparation for the new season. We have two newly qualified Level 1 Football Coaches at the club who will be taking the coaching sessions. We will advise when these will start.

To take the club forward, we also hope to set up a junior section of the club and are currently looking at funding for this project. We need volunteers who would be prepared to help out at sessions throughout the summer. If anyone is interested, then please contact Ollie Stagg on 01980 670634 or 07831 392035. We will ensure that any interested persons attain the proper qualifications and clearance to supervise and organise the sessions. Enford Football Club will offer a safe environment for youngsters of all ages to come and enjoy themselves whilst keeping fit and become part of a successful club.

We are organizing an under 10's tournament for schools and clubs at the grand opening of the new village hall on 27th June, so come along, show your support and enjoy yourself at what we hope will be a great day for the village and the community as a whole.

The Football Club would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who have worked towards making this day possible with their tireless efforts over the last few years.

Mrs. D'Arcy-Irvine added that Ollie had worked really hard over the last few years to achieve the status necessary to run the club and should be applauded for his efforts. Chair asked about the slope of the pitch and whether this was a problem. Mrs. D'Arcy-Irvine replied that County FA officials were happy with the layout of the pitch for the present level of competition. She stated that should the club become involved at a higher level, steps would have to be taken. She anticipated that grants would be available should this become necessary and said that the cost of such an exercise was in the region of £150K - £200K. Hamish Scott-Dalgleish was bringing the pitch into a suitable condition for the next season.

Chair thanked Mrs D'Arcy-Irvine.

12. All Saints School **Mr. Andrew Marx** said that Netheravon school continues to have healthy NOR of 176, enabling 7 single year group classes to continue - projected NOR 180 - 185 (2010). He said that 40% of the pupils were from service families (Tidworth, Upavon, Larkhill, Bulford, Netheravon) and 50% were out of catchment area. It was a popular school and the catchment had been extended to include Upavon to be shared with Rushall CE Primary (following closure of Upavon Primary & LA consultation)

Very good 2008 SATs results had been recorded last year (94% Level 4 and above in English & Science; 77% Level 4 above in Maths). Improvements were on-going with all hardware being upgraded in the ICT suite. Fund-raising was continuing for new-build replacement of 3 mobile classrooms, toilet & cloakroom block and group teaching space. Provisional allocation of funding was in place for 2010-2011 (fingers crossed!)

Avon Small Saints Pre-school was now housed in permanent purpose-built premises on school site providing excellent facilities & closer liaison between pre-school and Reception Class, thereby benefiting induction of children into Reception. A shade canopy was being installed in May at the rear of the premises. This would allow younger children to have outside lessons in summer and a sheltered play area.

Chair thanked Mr. Marx for his input.

13. Millennium Playpark – in the absence of Cllr. Everett Chair said that he had little to add to his previous statement other than the new equipment had been vandalised within a few days of installation. He expressed the opinion that this type of behaviour was not a surprise.

14. Enford Newsletter – Mrs Tanya Becker began by thanking the Parish Council for their continued support. The cost of producing the newsletter rose yearly, it was now £1800 - £1900. 46 businesses were now advertising in the newsletter, contributing to the revenue and a yearly envelope collection raised £700 - £800.

Tanya said that as well as being Chair of the newsletter she was also the writer and she tried to cut down costs by keeping the pages short. The newsletter had now moved into the 21st Century with a web-site. This was instigated by Steve Becker who controlled it under her direction! This was meant to complement and not replace the paper version. The electronic version will contain no additional information. Back copies of the newsletter will be added as time permits. Tanya asked Chair if the minutes of council meetings could be published on the web, Clerk said yes, but not until such minutes had been approved as a true record.

Judy D'Arcy-Irvine said that on line booking for the Village Hall would be available, thanks to the efforts of Steve & Tanya.

Chair thanked Mrs Tanya Becker for her time.

15. Neighbourhood Watch – Mr. Steve Becker was unable to attend. Chair said that Mr. Becker and the police were concerned by the apparent lack of response from villagers. There were admittedly few notifiable events, but communication was poor.

16. Matters of concern to residents of Enford –

- Cllr. Bagwell spoke on the continuing state of roads and traffic in the villages. The condition of the A345 was still a concern. Repairs that had been done had in one instance resulted in the signage being damaged. Stan had written complaining about this.
- The bridge closure at Upavon will result in increased traffic using the C32. Stan foresaw that lorries with time constraints would not take the longer route when a short-cut through Chisenbury and Enford was available.
- The A345 Request by Residents for a reduction of Speed at Newtown and West Chisenbury:
In reply to a Parish Council letter requesting for a review of the National Speed limit between the 30mph zone at Enford to Newtown (South) and West Chisenbury (North) a letter had been received telling us to wait for the official review on "A" & "B" roads which is due out shortly.
- The C32. Request for Traffic Calming for Coombe/Enford/Littlecott/East Chisenbury.
Following a meeting in August 08 with Highways Engineers and the Parish Council and local residents who live along the C32 the P.C. set aside part of the precept anticipating action as agreed. Still no action on this.
The Community Speedwatch is continuing. As a result there has been a small reduction of speed in the 30 mph zone. The planned "metro-loop" was sited in Chisenbury, but unfortunately in the wrong place. It is hoped to resite the loop in the near future.
- Mrs. Scott-Dagleish asked for more information on the BMX/Skatepark project. Cllr. Horsford said this was still in the early stages, but representations from some parish youngsters had been made at a Parish Council meeting and he and Cllr Young were looking at possibilities. One of the sites under consideration was adjacent to the Playpark, although ownership of the land had still to be definitely established. In general discussion it was agreed that there was a need for more involvement with teenagers and young adults. One suggestion was that the newly resurrected Youth Club should have a Youth Council involved in running the club, and that this might be extended to a BMX track.

17. Date of next Annual Parish Meeting: One year's time.

There being no other business Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40 p.m.

Bill Vergette, Clerk to Enford Parish Council 29th April 2009