



**The meeting of Egerton Parish Council was held on Tuesday 14th January 2025
7pm Committee Room, Millennium Hall, Egerton**

Present

Cllrs: John Lawton, Jeff Hopkins, Claire Foinette, Simon Palmer, Pat Parr, Susan Stone, Richard Wall, John Harper. Peter Rawlinson, Clerk Sonia Young. Borough Cllr Kayleigh Brunger-Randall

Four members of the public were present.

1) Apologies

County Councillor Charlie Simkins.

2) Declarations of Interest

Cllr Parr: Neighbour to the Orchard Nurseries site proposed for development and neighbour to one site put forward for consideration for the Ashford Borough Council Local Plan 2041.

Cllr Harper: Neighbour to the Orchard Nurseries site proposed for development.

Cllr Palmer: Neighbour to the Orchard Nurseries site proposed for development.

No councillors have a pecuniary interest in any of the sites put forward for consideration in the Ashford Borough Council Local Plan 2041

3) Minutes of the Previous Meeting – 3 December 2024

The minutes were approved and signed as a true record of the proceedings.

Proposed: Cllr Harper. **Seconded:** Cllr Wall. **All in agreement.** Cllr Rawlinson abstained as not present at the 3 December meeting.

4) Matters Arising from 3 December 2024 (not covered by the agenda below).

- **Trees**

All work on EPC land completed bar work to raise the crown of the oak on the Glebe. Cllrs agreed that the areas around the recreation area were looking very tidy as a result.

- **Cricket steps**

Work completed to a high standard by R James and extended at the top to aid health and safety.

- **Installation: French drain**

Cllr Hopkins confirmed work to install the French drain around the cricket field continued to be delayed wet weather. Works expected to start again at the end of January.

- **Protection of the verges at Harmers Way and New Road**

Cllr Stone will organise for logs will be placed to prevent any more lorries and cars driving over the wet ground/ parking on the verges and causing deep ruts, ruining the entrance vistas into the village from New Road.

- **Hedges**

A number of the hedges encroaching onto the highways have been cut but a number remain to be cut before nesting season commences.

Action: Clerk to write to the landowners to ask them to address the overhanging foliage. The editor of Egerton Update will also be asked to potentially include an article in the February edition to remind homeowners to complete the necessary works before the nesting season commences.

- **Computer Centre**

The Computer Centre is working to formally de-couple from the Film Society. When that is complete, EPC will look to fold in the day-to-day activities of the Computer Centre at the start of the new financial year and manage it via a new EPC Working Group. In the interim, the Computer Centre will renew its annual insurance.

5) Chair to close the meeting for public discussion

Meeting closed at 19.16pm

Meeting re-opened at 19.28pm

6) Footpaths Report 175 (See Appendix 1)

Cllr Parr reported that the fallen tree on the footpath behind Elm Close is the responsibility of KCC and has referred the matter back to them.

7) Highways Report

Chair Cllr Lawton thanked Cllr Stone for her efforts to address the flooding at Harmers Way/New Road and on Greenhill Lane as well as reporting numerous blocked drains.

In advance of the meeting Cllrs were sent a detailed report by a resident that outlined a number of unresolved issues relating to Greenhill Lane signage and verge repairs. EPC wrote to KCC about the issues in October 2023. The Clerk will write again as KCC state they have no knowledge of the communications.

Chair Cllr Lawton proposed that the communication to KCC should request signage to limit vehicular traffic on Greenhill Lane to 7.5 tonne (other than access only).

Proposed: Chair Cllr Lawton. **Seconded:** Cllr Hopkins. **All in agreement.**

Cllr Lawton said the other issues covered by the report will be considered within a Highways Improvement Plan (HiP) covering all highways issues in Egerton and being gathered by Cllrs Stone and Harper and of a meeting with the East Kent highways steward.

It was also agreed that Cllr Stone should ask residents (those who were unable to report the drains direct to KCC themselves) to notify her of blocked drains using what3words to better pinpoint the locations. Cllr Stone thanked one resident for creating a detailed plan of all the blocked drains on Rock Hill Road.

8) Planning and Development

Planning applications submitted to Ashford Borough Council this month for Egerton Parish Council to consider, details of which may be accessed online at:

<http://www.ashford.gov.uk/onlineplanning/>.

No new applications received for comment.

Chair Cllr Lawton proposed that under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960 that the press and public leave the meeting at the end of the main business so that non-conflicted Cllrs could approve the minutes of the closed session held at the December meeting and be updated by the Egerton Working Group on Housing and Development on a commercially confident matter.

Proposed: Chair Cllr John Lawton. **Seconded:** Cllr Stone. **All in agreement.**

9) Parish Plan and Future Projects Working Group – update

No update available.

Action: Clerk to diarise next meeting

10) Ashford Local Plan 2041 Working Group update

EPC will function as necessary when required and when ABC moves to the next stage of consultation.

11) Village Websites Working Group – update

No update to report.

12) Correspondence

Following the Government's plans to devolve more powers to local authority level and create larger, combined authorities, and since Kent County Council and Medway Unitary Authority had expressed interest in taking part in the Government's Devolution Priority



Programme, Cllrs agreed that the role of KALC would need to be heightened. EPC will ensure it works as closely as possible with KALC to understand what the changes will mean for Egerton and for the expectations of the Parish Council.

13) Accounts for payment (in accordance with EPC Financial Regulations)

January 2025		METHOD	£
5.25 hours overtime to manage Tribunal submissions relating to an appeal lodged by a resident vs an ICO decision to uphold the EPC decision to refuse the resident's request for information under the Freedom of Information as Section 14 (1) Vexatious	Clerk	BACS	103.22

EPC Reserves

Statutory reserve	10,000.00
Specific reserve – tree works	2736.00
General reserve	1,429.75
Total	14165.75

13.1 Proposal to approve the expenditure for Jan as presented and ratify the decision taken by email to maintain Adobe software for the current year of subscription.

Proposed: Chair Cllr Lawton. **Seconded:** Cllr Rawlinson. **All in agreement.**

As per the EPC Financial Regulations, the chair approved all other budgeted expenditure as circulated to him by the clerk prior to the meeting.

14) Additional items

- Unremoved event notices

It was agreed that if old event notices were spotted, Cllrs would remove them as there was nothing else that could be done to ensure event organisers take them down themselves. This has been a longstanding issue for the village.

Welcome Packs. Cllr Parr has distributed four packs and more will now need to be printed.

Cllrs Parr, Palmer, and Harper left the meeting due to a conflict of interest.

15) Closed session

Present: Cllrs John Lawton (Chair), Peter Rawlinson (Vice Chair) (both also Chair and Vice Chair of the Housing and Development Working Group), Claire Foinette, Jeff Hopkins, Sue Stone, Richard Wall, and Clerk Sonia Young. Also, Lois Tilden, member of the H&DWG to report information only as required and with no voting power.

The Clerk read the minutes of the Closed Session held at the 3 December meeting to discuss a commercially confident item relating to the development of housing for older people on the land known as Orchard Nurseries.

Proposal to approve the minutes as a true record of the item discussed.

Proposed: Cllr Foinette. **Seconded:** Cllr Stone. **All in agreement.** Cllr Rawlinson abstained as not present at the December meeting.

The minute will be held in a Confidential file.



A minute of the session relating to the update from Egerton Housing and Development Working Group at the January meeting will be read in a Closed Session at the February meeting.

The meeting closed at 20.53pm.

Next meeting: Tuesday 4 February 2025.

Appendix 1

Report No 175 of the Egerton footpaths representative for January 2025

4 Outstanding Items remain from the December 2024 report.

0 Closed Items

1 New Item

The outstanding items below are listed with the KCC Reference, the date reported, the footpath number, the location, the difficulty experienced and the status of action.

1. PROW211126930. 09/11/21. Part of AW87 to the west of the church behind the Glebeland houses where the path is quite narrow has collapsed due to badger activity. Status: Still Work Scheduled but it is accessible with matting in place until a more permanent solution is found. Status: Still In Progress.

2. PROW230732955. 28/07/23. AW96. Barhams Mill Road, before Frasers, on the right-hand side from Egerton village end. Broken stile at the entrance to the footpath from the road. Status: Still Awaiting Allocation.

3. PROW240835559. 04/08/24. AW74 Wanden Lane. Reported by Egerton Running Club. This short footpath starting/ending part-way down the side of the property Heronsdale (but not within that property boundary) is obstructed at the gate entrance. The footpath exits/starts further down Wanden Lane but is completely obstructed at both ends, the Heronsdale end gate is obstructed and the Wanden Lane end with tall thorny hedging and tree overgrowth which is completely hiding the footpath sign and the small metal gate attached to the locked 5-bar gate. Status: Still Awaiting Allocation.

4. PROW241298717. 03/12/24. Part of AW87 to the west of the church (see Outstanding Item Number 1 above for previous item on this issue). Further subsidence at the edges of the rubber matting placed there in 2021. Because of the danger it has been reported to KCC, and it has been taped off either end with red warning tape until KCC can get there to close it officially. Status: In Progress.

NEW ISSUE

1. PROW250137234. 02/01/25. AW88 Stone Hill to Elm Close (Greensand Way). Fallen tree over footpath. Status: Awaiting Allocation