



EWHURST PARISH COUNCIL WITH ELLENS GREEN

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PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of a **Meeting** of the Parish Council held at
8.00 pm on **Monday 21st February 2022** at the EYSC

Present: Cllr V Henry (in the chair), Cllrs N Clowes, J Lilley, L Tingley
County Cllr L Townsend
2 members of the public

In attendance: The Clerk, Mrs J Cadman

Cllr Henry proposed a vote of thanks to those people in the Parish who had helped their neighbours during the storm over the weekend, when the village had lost power and water and a number of people had suffered storm damage.

018 (2022) **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** were received from Cllrs Bloomfield and White.

019 (2022) **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** none were made

020 (2022) **MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 17th JANUARY 2022 :** were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman

021 (2022) **MATTERS ARISING**

005 (2022) Cranleigh Health Centre: the Clerk has asked for information to communicate to residents but this has not yet been received.

014 (2022) *Freezer at hall:* this has been installed

015 (2022): Sayers Croft: tree planting: the volunteers were unable to help on this occasion, but are keen to work with the Parish Council on future conservation projects. The trees will now be planted by LEAP.

016 (2022): *Footpath 70:* the Clerk has asked SCC to attend a site meeting with Cllr Bloomfield.

022 (2022) **ADJOURNMENT:** - During the adjournment members of the public may speak on matters of concern

Solar Streets: Mrs Breeveld explained how this initiative works:

- it is imperative that annual greenhouse gas emissions are cut in half by 2030, - every person, family, institution, company has to cut their emissions by half in this decade.
- annual emissions in UK per person ~10-14 tonnes/CO₂
- One way is to reduce emissions associated with fossil fuels
- UK electricity grid already has ~40% renewables, but the rest is nearly all fossil fuels
- Better to use wasted roof space than our beautiful fields for massive solar arrays?
- New black frameless panels that blend in better.

History of Solar Streets

- Solar Streets started 2018 - Frome - local council declared a climate emergency - residents together to get discounted solar panels.
- IDDEA, a solar company operating since 2007, came up with the best scheme and added a community fund benefit
- Frome campaign was very successful - saved residents money - saved carbon emissions - AND with the community fund, paid for half of the cost of installing solar panels on the local **Youth Club**
- Since then the scheme has been rolled out in other areas one at a time. Now running in over 20 areas, mostly small towns or groups of villages
- LEAP and Cranleigh Climate Action group to work with Solar Streets in Cranleigh and Ewhurst.

What the deal is

- Discounted prices for solar PV systems - economies of scale by having many installations in a small area at roughly the same time.
- Each property is dealt with individually, so that people can choose exactly what they want e.g. do they want a battery storage, or charge points for an electric car?
- A typical system saves 0.9 tonnes of CO₂ per year i.e. ~10% carbon footprint.
- A £50 Community Fund is donated for each residential households; £100 for each business
- So far: over 175 installations
- saved ~150 tonnes CO₂
- raised > £9000 for community funds
- saved > £150,000 for customers

Different from Solar Together:

- both discounted prices through economies of scale but
- solar streets using well-established installer rather than just getting the cheapest bidder.
- saving by using volunteers to promote the scheme
- community orientated with the donation as well.

Recent prices and trends

- During 2021 prices started at 5p/kWh but ended 2021 at 12p/kWh, so more than doubled. Prices are still going up. Now ~30p/kWh.
- Unfortunately solar panels are also getting more expensive because of the costs of energy to produce them, transportation etc.
- but the prices are not going up as fast as electricity prices, and of course the electricity generated by the panel is free to the household.
- so it's getting to be a better and better deal.
- Panels are getting more efficient so you only need 10 now compared with 12 in 2019. And the cost for 10 would be £4460.
- Payback time ~12 years for typical use, but would get better as electricity prices rise.

County Cllr Report:

- a) *Rural Community Energy fund:* Cllr Townsend advised that Cranleigh Parish Council have applied for this grant, which funds studies into ground source heat pumps.
- b) *Firethorn entrance:* technical drawings are being progressed. Once the design has been safety checked, these will be shared with the Parish Council. Cllr Townsend was advised that a lorry was parked at the entrance today, very close to the dangerous corner. She recommended that events such as this should be reported to the police.
The Chairman advised that the Parish Council has not yet received details of the planning conditions. Cllr Townsend undertook to check.
- c) *Chanrossa:* WBC's Enforcement Officer is visiting the site on a frequent basis to keep an eye on operations. Cllr Townsend believed it important to keep an eye on the verges, to ensure that they are properly restored before the developers leave the site.
The ditches opposite the site are not working at present.
- d) *Hunters Rest:* this is almost finished.
- e) *Gadbridge Lane:* a TRO has been issued for Gadbridge Lane
- f) *Traffic Calming:* The recent speed surveys had shown that most speeds were well below 30mph, but not within the 24mph mean speed bracket which would allow 20mph signs. Without street lights there is no traffic calming that can be installed.
In response to a question, Cllr Townsend undertook to explore the possibility of solar lighting.
Cllr Townsend advised that SCC are undertaking a rural speed review, but Ewhurst had not been included in the recent round.

023 (2022) **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN:** Cllr Clowes reported on the current status of the plan: an Independent Examiner has been appointed and has reviewed the Plan. He has undertaken a site visit and has asked for clarification on a few points, from the NP Steering Group and from WBC. These points are being addressed at present and the Examiner will receive the replies at the beginning of March.

024 (2022) **THE PLANNING COMMITTEE :**

- a) Minutes of planning meeting held 17th January 2022: were noted.

- b) Planning update on meeting held 21st February: The Chairman gave an update on decisions made on planning applications at the meeting held this evening.
- c) Update on Planning development:
 - i. Land adjacent to Pennings: appeal dismissed
 - ii. Barn Hall, Shere Road: granted
 - iii. Bulls Head cellar: granted
 - iv. Lower Orchard House: granted.
 - v. Pollingfold Farm: refused

025 (2022) **FINANCIAL REPORT:**

- a) Receipts and Payments January 2022: expenditure of £5,828.25 was noted and agreed.
- b) Cost centre report to end January: noted
- c) Bank reconciliation to end January current and savings account: noted.
- d) Application for grant funding from Ewhurst Players: members agreed a grant of £500 towards the total cost of £693 for refurbishment of the stage. Proposed by Cllr Clowes, Seconded by Cllr Henry, all in favour.

026 (2022) **SOLAR STREETS:**

Following the discussion in the adjournment, the following statement of support was agreed by all present and will be posted onto the Parish Council website:

Ewhurst and Ellens Green Parish Council is fully supportive of Solar Streets, a community approach to providing renewable energy. We are delighted that neighbours will now have an opportunity to benefit from discounted solar panels and battery storage, so they can become part of the renewable energy revolution. Especially with the current rise in electricity prices solar energy provides a good deal for householders and the environment too

Proposed by Cllr Clowes, Seconded by Cllr Henry, with all in favour.

027 (2022) **TRAFFIC CALMING:** this was discussed during the Adjournment. Members agreed that the findings of the survey and next steps should be discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting.

028 (2022) **JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS:** The Clerk reported that responses to the letter to village organisations were coming in slowly. To date, the Fabulous Nobodies have agreed to play on the Thursday evening, and an event will be organised around them on the recreation ground, to include a beacon and a barbecue, and some entertainment for children. The footballers have offered to help. The village club have expressed an interest in getting involved and it is hoped to organise an event with their input on the Friday. On Saturday the Players will present an anthology in the village hall. Street parties on Sunday 5th are being discussed but have not yet been firmed up.

029 (2022) **GLEBE CENTRE:** The Clerk reported that the Centre is nearing completion now.

030 (2022) **WELCOME PACK:** The Clerk asked members to approve the letter to village organisations which had been circulated earlier. The letter requested all organisations to provide one A5 page of text, with a picture, for the booklet. The intention is that new residents of the village would be able to find out where to access services and information on events and societies in the parish. The letter was approved.

031 (2022) **WAR MEMORIAL POSTS AND CHAINS:** The Clerk advised that the posts will be soft wood, as hard wood is very expensive. It is estimated that the soft wood posts will probably last 15 years. Members agreed to proceed on this basis, with a cost of £500. Proposed by Cllr Henry, Seconded by Cllr Tingley, all in favour.

032 (2022) **PARISH UPDATE FROM CLERK:**

- a) *Annual Parish Meeting:* to take place on Monday 25th April The evening to include traffic calming, the welcome pack and the Neighbourhood Plan, as well as latest plans for the Jubilee weekend.
- b) *Defibrillator at the Glebe:* the Parish Council have received a grant from our County Councillors allowance towards a defibrillator for the Glebe .
- c) *Storm Damage:* part of a tree in the cemetery had fallen on the garage of a property in Mount Close. Other than this, damage had been surprisingly slight.

- 033 (2022) **PARISH BUSINESS:** other matters to be noted or included on a future agenda
- a) *Defibrillator at the Bulls Head:* the Clerk reported that the insurance claim had been accepted and the funds paid to the Parish Council. She would postpone purchasing a new defibrillator until the pub is open, as it proved too vulnerable in its position on the fence. She has asked the owner to take the cabinet down until that time.
 - b) *30 mph gate at the Green:* One had fallen over . The Clerk will ask the village handyman to reinstate it.

034 (2022) **NEXT FULL MEETING ON THE PARISH COUNCIL: Monday 21st March 2022 at the EYSC**

The meeting closed at 21.03.