

ENGLISHCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL.(EPC)

DRAFTMINUTES

**EXTRAORDINARY MEETING DATED TUESDAY 5th OCTOBER 2021 1930H,
OLD SCHOOL HOUSE, ENGLISHCOMBE ROAD, ENGLISHCOMBE VILLAGE,
BATH BA2 9DT.**

PRESENT: Robert Law (Chairman); Will Pow; Brian Scurlock; Brian Huggett
(Minutes)

Ward Councillors: Neil Butters; Matt McCabe.

7 Parishioners.

The Chairman welcomed Councillors & Parishioners.

A Parishioner at this juncture, under a Point of Order, challenged the Lawfulness of the Meeting asking who had called the Extraordinary Meeting. The Chairman confirmed that he had called the meeting (in accordance with Standing Order 6.a), the appropriate Agenda having been placed on the Parish Notice Board in a timely manner. The Parishioner further challenged the notice, which was unsigned by the Chairman.

Councillors were satisfied that Standing Orders had been complied with, and that the Meeting was indeed Lawful allowing the Meeting to continue.

There being no Parishioners Matters on the Agenda, the Chairman asked that only Parish Councillors be heard during the consideration of the Agenda items (effectively suspending Standing Order 3e). This in the light of a highly critical personal attack on the Chairman at the Parish Council Meeting of 20th September 2021, and to prevent the possibility of obstruction of the business of the current meeting – Standing Order 2).

Members were in agreement and the business of the Meeting was allowed to proceed – Lawfully.

1. **Apologies & Dispensations:** Apologies received from Annie Watson. There were no Dispensations.

2. **Vote of Confidence in the Chairman:**

This item was considered in camera, Chairman, Ward Councillors and Parishioners were invited to withdraw from the meeting. Will Pow was elected Acting Chairman. Following a short discussion the Motion of Confidence was

proposed by Brian Huggett, seconded by Brian Scurlock **and unanimously approved**. The full meeting was resumed.

3.The Chairman proposed taking items 3.1 & 3.2 be taken after items 4 – 6.
Agreed.

4. Financial Report: The chairman reported that the balance of funds as at 05/June at £10375.57 and that all outstanding charges have been paid.

Budget and precept for 2022/2023 are under consideration and will be brought forward at a future PCM. Further statements have been received by Brian Huggett from the previous Clerk Kathryn Manchee; apologies were offered for not bringing them to the meeting.

Action: Chairman to Contact Bath branch of HSBC amending arrangements for all correspondence to recognise current temporary arrangements. The letter of authority signed by members. Confirmation of signatories for the bank accounts for EPC & Millstream and Wheelwright's Orchard.

5. Progress on recruitment of Clerk/RFO and Auditor: Chairman reported that the Audit will be undertaken by Audit Solutions of Melksham, as recommended by Corston Parish Council – fee to be agreed. Papers to be delivered this week, with Audit completed and Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) returned to Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments during w/c 11th October.

Chairman reported that the advertisement for the Clerk/RFO had been prepared and would be placed on notice boards. It was suggested the HR department of B&NES be contacted to see if the position would be of interest to a recent retiree, or part time employee looking for additional hours.

Action: Chairman to speak with B&NES HR

6. Email & Web Status: Agreed that Web Site domain be changed to recognise current position; Web site in good order and should be left alone at present with the exception of the addition of current EPC Minutes.

3.Englishcombe Times (ET):

3.1 Status & Future Publication: Members agreed that ET has proved a valuable and welcome source of Community communication and every effort should be made to continue its publication under the current Editorship.

3.2 Continued Financial support by EPC:

Views were expressed for and against continued support by Will Pow, Brian Scurlock, with the Chairman wanting EPC to review third party proposed articles prior to publication as a condition to financial support. It was felt that this would be unacceptable to the Editorship of Englishcombe Times. Other Parish News Letters are independently produced, some charged for, others funded by advertising and sponsorship. Brian Huggett spoke in favour of EPC funding regarding ET as a highly desirable community asset; with ET maintaining its independence with a disclaimer along the lines of - "Englishcombe Times is supported and funded by Englishcombe Parish Council, but views and opinions expressed are not necessarily supported and/or agreed by the Parish Council".

No decision was reached in respect of this item. It was agreed that the matter should be discussed further by councillors and parishioners, to be discussed with the current Editorship with the objective of establishing a mutually acceptable method of operation to the benefit of all.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting, with thanks to Councillors and Parishioners, at 2023H