

Stanford Rivers PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Meeting: PARISH COUNCIL

Date: 14th September 2023

Time: 5.30pm

Toot Hill Village Hall, Toot Hill Road, Toot Hill, Essex

PRESENT:

Councillors (6) Cllr Glover (Chairman), Cllr Adams, Cllr Mrs Jackman MBE, Cllr Hollington
Cllr Jackson, Cllr Tallon

Also in Attendance (1) - Adriana Jones – Clerk

Members of the Public (4) Members of public were present

Members of the Press (1)

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A local resident of Little End who had lived in the parish for three years expressed his concern at the extremely large crane which had appeared at the London Hoist site, which was both noisy and unsightly. The resident advised he had raised this matter with EFDC Enforcement and spoken to a member of the Enforcement Team who had advised that based on her enquiries the crane was there for Health and Safety reasons. The resident stated that one of the neighbouring properties has old metal work piles precariously high on their boundary, so to suggest it was a Health and Safety concern is farcical. The local resident advised that he had invited local district Councillors to attend his address and view the matter from his garden. Cllr Jackson advised there was no reason why the resident couldn't contact his local MP. There was some discussion regarding the lack of representation from ECC Cllr McIvor and it was suggested the Clerk write and ask for better representation. It was suggested the London Hoist site was a listed building, however after checking online it was confirmed it was not. After further discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would write to London Hoist to advise there was concern locally regarding the crane, and to try and obtain further information concerning the need for the crane and how long it was expected to be there. In addition, the Clerk would try and ascertain what the current planning permission was for the site.

Another local resident advised that he had recently purchased land adjacent to Jubilee Green and confirmed he had started to clear this area of land that was previously overgrown. The Chairman advised the Council had expressed concern to ECC in the past about the mess in this location, so it was nice to see this was being cleared. Cllr Adams stated that previously his idea had been to extend Jubilee Green into this area to ensure it was retained for public benefit and kept clear, and asked if the resident intended to use this patch of land long term. The resident advised he intended to place some hedging around the area and incorporate it with the property.

P14.1080 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Cllr Saridja. EFDC Cllr Brady had also given her apologies.

P14.1081 OTHER ABSENCES

Councillors expressed concern that ECC Cllr McIvor rarely attended meetings, and that this had left them feeling inadequately represented from a County perspective. It was suggested that a separate meeting could take place to address these concerns.

P14.1082 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

P14.1083 MINUTES

Councillors **APPROVED** the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13th July 2023 as attached to the agenda.

P14.1084 MEMBERS REPORTS

- Chairman's Report – The Chairman advised the items he wished to cover were included within the main body of the agenda.
- Vice Chairman's Report – Cllr Jackson advised the items he wished to cover were included within the main body of the agenda.
- District and County Councillor Reports – No reports
- Parish Councillors Reports – Cllr Adams advised he had been contacted by the previous Clerk who

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had corrected an error in the last News and Views publication, in that the defibrillator at the Woodman was actually located in Hare Street, and not Little End. There was some discussion as to where Little End finished and Hare Street started, and it was **AGREED** to clarify this error in the next News and Views.

P14.1085 CLERKS COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

Members **RECEIVED** a verbal report from the Clerk as follows:

- The Defibrillator at the Woodman had been added to the Parish Councils insurance schedule at no extra cost.
- Following notification by the Chairman, a protruding Fire Hydrant Drain located near the telephone box in Toot Hill had been re-fitted by Essex Fire Service. This was actioned in less than 7 days, and an email of thanks had been passed to the fire service for the speed in which this matter was dealt with.
- The Pantry at Toot Hill Golf Club – License Application granted.
- PFCC public meeting in Ongar, 7pm on Monday 18th September at the Zinc Arts Centre, Chipping Ongar, will be hosted by Roger Hirst, Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) for Essex. The meeting is expected to last one hour.
- EF Branch EALC Meeting took place on 8th September. Questions going to 21st September EFDC Local Council Liaison Committee. Councillors noted that a presentation was given at this meeting regarding a new Rural Prosperity Fund, where Parish Councils can apply for funding for up to £10,000 (before 31st March 2024) or £30,000 (for 2024/2025) for urgent works in the community. This would be needed to be secured before 31 March 2024. It funds capital projects for small businesses and community infrastructure. This will help to improve productivity and strengthen the rural economy and rural communities. The Rural Fund provides capital funding to:
 - support new and existing rural businesses to develop new products and facilities that will be of wider benefit to the local economy. This includes farm businesses looking to diversify income streams.
 - support new and improved community infrastructure, providing essential community services and assets for local people and businesses to benefit the local economy.

Councillors were asked to consider if there were any projects that the community could benefit from, and it was **AGREED** Councillors would contact the Clerk with any ideas. If necessary, a Zoom meeting could be held to discuss said ideas.

- New Public Health Accelerator Bids (PHAB) - Funding for new projects that deliver services to help everyone in Essex live a healthy life and achieve their full potential. Funding up to £10,000. Parish and Town Councils can apply, as can community groups. Revenue only. It will support projects designed to improve residents' health and tackle health inequalities. The programme will fund projects supporting the aims of the new [Essex Wellbeing, Public Health and Communities Plan](#). PHAB will offer organisations funding across two grant funding streams, these are:
 - small grants under £15,000
 - major grants over £15,000

Grants are available to voluntary organisations, charities, schools, councils and more. Applications for the small grants and first round of the major grant will open on Monday 4 September.

- Fly tip in Church Road w/c 20th August – identifying paperwork sent to EFDC.
- Renovation works are being undertaken to the metal finger post on Toot Hill Triangle by EFDC.
- Large number of tyres were dumped in Toot Hill Road late August - reported to EFDC. The Chairman advised these had still not been removed and it was agreed the Clerk would chase this up.
- Report of overgrown Footpath number 62 – Both Cllr Jackson and the Clerk had visited site and there is some overgrowth at the main access point to the footpath. To clarify this is the path that goes along the side of the White Bear. Cllr Jackson advised that a 6ft fence had been built and that one panel had been left out which provides access. The Clerk advised that according to the paperwork she had the footpath should remain open. Cllr Jackson advised that only part of the footpath that is overgrown is just before and after the bridge – a small section. It is confusing as to where the footpath actually is. Cllr Jackson advised that he wanted to know if the original footpath would be reopened. It was **AGREED** the Clerk would check the planning permission to establish what had been agreed. Cllr Jackson asked who should be clearing this path, to which the Clerk advised it was ECC. Cllr Jackson asked when the small strip of land by the Traceys Farm layby would be cut as it was very overgrown, to which the Clerk advised it was on the grounds maintenance contract to be cut every two weeks. It was noted that fly tipping occurred in this location, so it was essential the strip was cut back. It was also noted the Jubilee Green grass cuttings were dumped in the corner at that location, and that the grass never seemed to be cut back to the edges.

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- Report of finger post down and footpath uncleared between Greensted Road and the Green Man. Matter was dealt with between the Chairman and the Clerk, and it was noted the finger post was removed each year to allow access to the field by farm machinery.
- The Clerk confirmed she had spoken with ECC regarding the small square of land adjacent to Jubilee Green, who confirmed to her that land had already been leased to the purchaser of the property.
- Query about funding for St Margarets Church – The Chairman had received a query regarding a project they were looking to do by way of creating a space within the church that could be used for community events and open to all the community. The Clerk had advised that guidance from NALC was that Parish Councils could not give funding to churches. The Chairman had gone back to the Vicar and asked for his comments on this however no response had been received.
- Brentwood Borough Council has granted permission for the Shonks Mill Storage Area

P14.1086 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Cllr Adams reported that very rarely is Stanford Rivers mentioned on the police reports, however the prior week there was a report of number plates stolen from Garden Field. If this happens, residents should report it quickly otherwise they could be liable for any parking fines, etc. It was **AGREED** the put this in the next News and Views.

P14.1087 ECC BUS NETWORK CONSULTATION – CLOSING DATE 5TH OCTOBER 2023

Councillors noted that Essex County Council was reviewing its support of 162 local bus services which primarily serve rural areas across Essex, and wanted to hear from residents to ensure that their future bus network is ready to meet new levels of passenger demand and is providing value for money. ECC was conducting a public consultation which closes on 5th October 2023. Councillors were advised that there was only one service currently serving the parish - the DaRT7 service, operated by EF Community Transport. The Clerk had a meeting with members of Community Transport team on 16th August to discuss concerns about the DaRT service. Councillors noted that following a full two page spread in the News and Views distributed in July, this resulted in only 1 enquiry about the service, and that this service was on the 'At Risk' list of the consultation. In summary, unless there is a considerable take up in the service, it is likely that the service will be withdrawn by ECC for lack of interest. This will leave the Parish without any viable bus service. Councillors were asked to consider two matters:

1. The response from this Parish Council to the bus consultation
2. If the Parish Council would consider funding the DaRT service should it be withdrawn

A couple of Councillors agreed to distribute some leaflets that had been created by the EF Community Transport Team. The Chairman asked how much it was to run the service for a year, however the Clerk advised she had not been notified of this. Councillors felt that at this stage there was no increase in uptake of the service, they would not be willing to fund the service, however agreed to wait and see if there was any update after the leaflet drop. A local resident raised the matter of the overgrowth between Little End and Marden Ash, to which the Clerk reported this had been raised with ECC on numerous occasions, stating that there was creeping growth over the footpath itself, and overgrowth from the hedging on the side. The Chairman suggested that perhaps the Parish Council could cut the hedge itself. It was **AGREED** the Clerk would look at if there was any way the Parish Council could try and address this matter. It was also **AGREED** this could be one of the issues raised with Cllr Mclvor.

Councillors noted that as part of this, the Clerk had written to Alex Burghart MP about supporting the extension of the DaRT7 bus service to Passingford and beyond, and the response received was as follows:

"Bus services in Essex fall within the responsibility of Essex County Council so, if TfL have stated they will not extend the service into Ongar because it would be too expensive, your best course of action would appear to be to go back to Essex County Council to ask what service they might be able to provide to link up the gap in the route from Ongar to Romford or Passingford Bridge. Your Essex county councillor should be able to help with this, or you can contact Cllr Lee Scott, who is the Essex County Council Cabinet Member responsible for Highways and bus services in the county. Alex hopes you find this information helpful, but please do write to him again if Essex County Council is unable to offer a solution to this transport issue."

A copy of the letter was also sent to the Clerk for Ongar Town Council who advised he would put this to members. Cllr Jackson asked that it be recorded that in future we have the opportunity to go back to Alex Burghart MP if needed.

P14.1088 VEHICULAR SPEEDING AND SAFETY MATTERS IN THE PARISH

a) Community Speedwatch

Cllr Jackson advised that the speedwatch team joined with the police in the layby near Jubilee Green, and the police had one of only two TruCam cameras in Essex, which takes a picture, records speed and

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issues a ticket without any intervention. There were roughly 20 tickets issued. Cllr Jackson stated that it was good for drivers to see people with Community Speedwatch jackets on that was very much a team approach with the police. It was noted that when you see a policeman people slow down, however the police can see 750m down the road which the Community Speedwatch team could not do. Cllr Adams advised that the two police officers who were present were full time dealing with speeding issues in Essex.

b) Speederbot

Cllr Adams advised that he had spoken to the police team about the data the Parish Council obtains from Speederbot which they were unaware of, stating that the Parish Council can identify the best times for the police to come out. The Police advised that we simply needed to let them know and they would come out. Cllr Adams stated that looking at the data, between 3-4pm is the worst time for speeding. Cllr Adams had written an article which he hopes to be able to pass on to Everything Epping Forest to publish. Cllr Jackson suggested that no times were mentioned as to when speed checking would be taking place.

c) Signage through Little End

Councillors **AGREED** to the purchase of some additional signage for Stanford Rivers, the cost of which was £146.47.

d) Overgrowth through Little End

The Clerk confirmed she had met with the Council's grounds maintenance contractor however a quote had not yet been received. She had chased this up again.

P14.1089 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

1. To CONSIDER any planning applications submitted to the Parish Council for comment as detailed below			
NIL			
2. To NOTE any planning applications that have been responded to via the Clerks delegated powers			
EPF/1700/23	Four Elms, Mutton Row, Stanford Rivers, Ongar, CM5 9QQ	Construction of single storey side conservatory	NO OBJECTION
3. To NOTE any planning applications upon which EFDC do not normally accept comments			
NIL			
4. To NOTE any other planning matters			
1. Neighbouring Consultation (Brentwood) – Application: 23/01059/FUL. Construction of a new practice ground featuring a contoured outfield with target greens. Covered bay building with 9 bays together with a water storage lagoon, rainwater harvesting scheme and extensive native planting program. ADDRESS: Stapleford Abbotts Golf Club Horseman Side Navestock Romford Essex RM4 1JU 2. Notification of a large crane erected in Little End – EFDC notified as it was unclear if planning permission was required. ENF/0223/23 3. Query about fences erected on property in Berwick Lane 4. Query about additional velux window in Steers Farm property. Reported to enforcement. 5. Concern was raised as to the length of time it was taking and method of construction for the barn near Tawney Common. It was AGREED the Chairman would keep record of progress and the Clerk would check the planning permission in place.			
5. To NOTE the following planning decision by EFDC			
EPF/1679/23	Clarks Farm, Mutton Row, Stanford Rivers	Agricultural Steel Portal frame barn	14/08/2023 LAWFUL
EPF/1348/23	Alista, Toot Hill Road, Ongar,	TPO/EPF/01/19 T1: Oak - Crown thin by up to 60%, as specified.	24/08/2023 APPROVED with conditions
EPF/1470/23	Clarks Farm, Mutton Row, Stanford Rivers	Grade II listed building application for alterations and conversions of outbuilding to the south of Clarks Farmhouse to be used as an annexe.	24/08/2023 REFUSED PC had no objection
EPF/1105/23	Elm Cottage, Cumley Road, Stanford Rivers, Ongar	Loft conversion including raising of ridge and four dormer windows.	30/08/2023 REFUSED PC had no objection

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EPF/0994/23 & EPF/0995/23	40, Berwick Lane, Stanford Rivers	First floor extension to extend the existing flat roofed dormer to provide a first floor bathroom and ground floor alteration internal alterations and extension to existing outbuilding to create kitchen/living space with glazed roofed link to the house, and Grade II listed for same.	04/07/2023 REFUSED PC had no objection
EPF/1280/23	Four Elms, Mutton Row, Stanford Rivers	Application for approval of details reserved by condition 3'Surface Water Disposal' on planning permission EPF/0678/23 (Change of use from Agricultural Land to Equestrian Manège, Stables and Paddock, Construction of Manège and Construction of Stable	11/07/2023 GRANTED
EPF/0812/23	Little Orchard, Colemans Farm, Toot Hill Road, Stanford Rivers	Outbuilding. Constructed with same materials as existing House. Barn doors for access and side window.	20/07/2023 REFUSED PC advised plans unclear

P14.1089 TREE ON JUBILEE GREEN

The Clerk was advised on 6th September that the newly planted tree on Jubilee green looked in a terribly poor state. This tree was purchased and planted in October last year. After liaising with the nursery from which the tree was purchased, they have advised it was because it wasn't watered during the extremely dry summer months (specifically mentioning June) and it was now suffering and he was unsure if it could be revived. The Clerk liaised with the Parish Councils grounds maintenance contractor asking him to water this as soon as possible, and 300L of water was provided to the tree on 7th September. The Clerk has also asked the neighbouring property if they would be kind enough to water the tree when they can. In addition, in order to try and salvage the tree, the Clerk has asked the Grounds Maintenance contractor to specifically water the tree at least once every three days over the coming two weeks, after which time its condition can be reassessed. The cost of this is £10/per visit. It was noted that one side of it looked ok, and it was **AGREED** to keep watering the tree in the hope it would recover.

P14.1090 DAMAGE TO NOTICEBOARD, LITTLE END

Councillors will be aware of the damage caused to the London Hoist wall, Parish Council noticeboard and other street furniture opposite Jubilee Green. The Clerk placed an advertisement in the latest N&V asking if anybody had any information regarding what had caused this. The Clerk also liaised with Essex Police, ECC, EFDC, and London Hoist not only to report the damage but also to see if there was any additional information about this. EFDC advised that they had no record of the Notice Board, and as such asked the Parish Council to supply evidence they installed it. ECC have noted the issue and provided the Clerk with a reference number in terms of the signage and bench. London Hoist were very helpful, and confirmed that they too had reported the incident to the police, and provided the Clerk with details and pictures of the vehicle that caused the damage, which the Clerk subsequently sent on to the police. On 3rd September the Police advised the Clerk that the vehicle in question had not been reported stolen, and that any affected parties would need to progress this matter via their own insurance companies. As such, the Clerk has raised this matter with the Parish Councils insurance Company, and advised London Hoist to do the same. The advice from the insurance company was that if the damaged assets were covered under the policy we hold with them, then we can contact our claims department who will settle the claim under our terms, and then pursue the relevant third party if they are indeed legally responsible. If the assets were not insured under the policy then we would need to assign legal representation to pursue the third party against their insurance. The Clerk advised that if we submit a claim, our excess was £100. If then the third party are found to be at fault, this excess should be able to be claimed back. It was **AGREED** to start the process of claiming.

P14.1091 DEFIBRILATOR LITTLE END

Councillors **NOTED** that thanks to ECC Cllr McIvor, £1,000 grant funding has been awarded via the ECC Locality Fund towards the defibrillator at Little End. This, coupled with the £500 EALC Microgrant, means that over 80% of the cost of the defibrillator was grant funded.

P14.1092 HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

a) Local Highway Panel Requests:

Councillors **NOTED** the following updates:

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- LEPP192054 – A113 London Road, Stanford Rivers Signage scheme – Councillors noted that following attendance at the last meeting by the residents of Bridge Farm, a site meeting took place on 22nd August at which representatives of ECC Highways were present, along with Cllr Glover and Cllr Adams, as well as the residents of Bridge Farm. After considerable discussion, the following was agreed;
 1. ECC is going to double check the design rules have been followed correctly and the sight lines meet the design criteria.
 2. ECC suggested possibly angling the sign to give greater visibility.
 3. ECC stated that the overhanging tree branches were exacerbating the visibility issue, and the resident agreed they would make arrangements to cut them back.
 4. Suggested that this Council makes more use of Cllr Jaymey McIvor.
 5. ECC will look into the maintenance of the VAS sign which is not functioning correctly.The Clerk provided an update received from ECC which provided a report confirming that the sight stopping distance (SSD) was over 100m and that ECC is only required to provide a 70m visibility splay based on the 85th percentile speeds at this location. As such, no further action would be taken. ECC also stated that with the overhanging tree vegetation being removed as discussed on site, it will go a long way in improving the visibility exiting Bridge Farm. Cllr Jackson stated that it was clear ECC would not be taking any further action. Cllr Adams suggested a mirror should be placed opposite Bridge Farm to help with visibility, however the Clerk advised this would be something ECC Highways would deal with, or the owners of Bridge Farm themselves to provide.
- LEPP202047 – A113 London Road, Stapleford Tawney, request for traffic calming measures and signage JW Epping Lane / A113, at Validation Stage. NOTE: This was submitted by the Parish Council, but is not within the Parish.

b) Mill Lane Triangle

Councillors noted that the Clerk had submitted a licence application to ECC to have raised planting on the triangle at Mill Lane, however further guidance was awaited as to the first issue of dealing with erosion of the side parts of the triangle. ECC advised that barriers could be placed around the green whilst topsoil was added and the area grass seeded, however further information was awaited. Councillors were advised that everything planted must be a minimum of 0.5 metres back from the edge of the kerb or footway, and to think about the spread of what was being planting and take this into account. No sight lines or forward visibility must be obscured by planting. Further discussion ensued regarding if there was or was not a parking problem in the area, to which Cllr Tallon advised that now there was food and drink at the golf club the parking issues had lessened.

c) Potholes

Councillors noted the potholes in School Road remain unresolved. The Clerk had passed these on to Cllr McIvor for actioning as part of his Member Pothole Scheme. Cllr Mrs Jackman suggested that Cllr McIvor be asked to drive down School Road to see these potholes for himself. Cllr Tallon suggested we take Cllr McIvor on a tour of the Parish to see the issues. It was noted that a resident had contacted Everything Epping Forest on 31st July regarding this matter, and that a ECC had issued a statement which stated *'We have identified a few defects along School Road, and these will be repaired in accordance with our maintenance strategy. The area has been made safe with the use of cones and a sign whilst a permanent repair is programmed, which will require extensive resources, much more than the limited resources our emergency gangs have available. This permanent repair will take place over the next couple of months'*. Cllr Mrs Jackson expressed how dangerous this road was. Cllr Jackson suggested some lights that flash on the cones should be provided by Essex County Council, as it was very dangerous at night time. The Chairman said this was a serious health and safety concern.

d) Barnmead

- (i) **Highway Rangers** - As a result of the attendance at the July meeting, Cllr Brady had contacted EFDC regarding the footpaths and grass at Barnmead. The response she received was as follows:

Our ranger will come out and see what they can do to tidy the area up and make safe for the residents. They will not be able to deal with the cracks in the path as we do not do hot works with tarmac. This will need to be addressed by Essex County Council highways. The path edges should really be reported to EFDC for Biffa to cut back and they will also be able to spray them out for weeds, the link is below for future use. The grass verges and overgrown areas on the highway/footpaths are the responsibility of Essex County Council Highways, many areas are managed on their behalf by EFDCs Grounds Maintenance team or the Waste team for weeds on pavements and roads and they can be contacted using the email address below.

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<https://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/recycling-and-rubbish/report-a-street-cleaning-issue/>

There is also a link to ECC for issues with weeds on footpaths and roads.

<https://www.essexhighways.org/tell-us/report-all-issues.aspx>

Cllr Tallon advised that EFDC had recently cut the grass and removed all the grass, and that this was the first time in 7 years.

- (ii) **Ownership/Management** – It was suggested at the July meeting by a local resident that the Parish Council should consider taking over the management / ownership of the Barnmead green. Councillors considered the matter. It was noted that EFDC was supposed to cut this area, but they hadn't been doing this regularly meaning the residents were having to do the job. Cllr Tallon advised that the residents had managed to increase the width of the footpath by about a foot. Cllr Adams reminded Councillors that the suggestion was the Parish Council took on the lease of the land and that we would maintain the area, including the grass and the paths. This would be an expense to the Parish Council, but a benefit to the residents. Cllr Mrs Jackson advised this was EFDC's responsibility and this should continue. Cllr Jackson asked if there was a Barnmead residents association as they may have more power to get action, or potentially share the cost of any maintenance. Cllr Tallon advised he was unclear what the difference was between the Barnmead Green and the Mill Lane Triangle, given the Parish Council was considering taking on the lease for that. Cllr Jackson stated the cost to obtain the lease and the maintenance would be prohibitive. Cllr Jackson **PROPOSED** the Council should not consider taking on the lease for Barnmead. This was **SECONDED** by Cllr Hollington. The Chairman asked what the budget would be to cut this area for one year, to which the Clerk provided a rough estimate based on a similar piece of land as being around £1,500 per year. The Chairman suggested the residents should form a self-help group, and Cllr Tallon stated this may well happen. It was also suggested that the Parish Council could perhaps budget to cut it a couple of times a year to help. A vote was taken on the proposal, the results of which were five in favour, one against. It was **AGREED** the Clerk would contact Qualis asking for a schedule as to how often they would get it cut.

P14.1093 SOLAR FARM CONSULTATION

Councillors recalled a number of questions were put to the site promoters of the proposed solar farm along Berwick Lane. Responses had now been received, copies of which were attached to the agenda. The Chairman stated that if any money was paid by the solar farm, it should go to the Parish Council to hold for the benefit of the community, and if it was not dealt with in that way there was concern that residents may not see the benefit of that money. Cllr Jackson asked how the question was raised in terms of the monetary value being too small, and that he was not happy with the response received as it was very bland, and suggested the point was pushed now. Cllr Tallon asked if anybody had seen the policy at EFDC on solar farms, to which the Clerk advised they didn't have a specific solar farm policy, however they have declared a climate emergency. Cllr Tallon stated that the resident who recently attended the parish council meeting should contact EFDC asking them to clearly explain their policy on solar farms. Cllr Tallon further elaborated that this was an issue across the country where planning authorities don't have a policy in place. The Clerk explained that there was a real disparity between when Solar Farms were approved and when they were rejected at Planning Inspectorate level. Cllr Jackson stated that his opinion was that as EFDC had issued a climate emergency, it was almost a done deal so the Parish Council needed to get what it could for its residents. It was noted that a plan had not yet been received showing how they were going to move the solar farm further away from the houses.

P14.1094 TOOT HILL VILLAGE SHOW

Despite the horrendous weather, this year's Toot Hill Village show was a great success. Thanks were given to those Councillors who were able to attend and support the event. Cllr Jackson advised that he had previously mentioned about the show having bad weather insurance.

P14.1095 TOOT HILL VILLAGE HALL

- a) Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete – RAAC – Cllr Tallon advised that the hall was built in 1976. As yet there is no guidance in terms of what hall owners need to do ascertain if it had RAAC, however North Weald Bassett was having a RAAC inspection completed the following day at a cost of £850. It was agreed the Clerk would speak with this company to find out more information. Cllr Jackson said he would not be surprised if the insurance company ask for this to be done, to which the Clerk advised that the insurance companies were still establish their guidance on this matter. The Clerk confirmed she would look at the plans of the building to see if she could establish if RAAC was used, and let Cllr Jackson know who the architect was.
- b) Confirmation received of grant award of £15,000 via the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to support the purchasing of green, energy efficient infrastructure for Stanford Rivers Village Hall. The Clerk had contacted a Solar Panel company for a site visit; however it was noted that the hall had an asbestos roof and as such fitting solar panels to this may not be possible. Also, there was concern that the roof may

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not be strong enough to hold solar panels. It was discussed that the work may need to include alterations to the roof, which would be more expensive and that once a site visit had taken place we should have a better idea of costing. Cllr Jackson reminded Councillors that this Council did consider a wind turbine at one point, and asked if a ground source heat pump was ever considered. The Clerk advised that a ground source heat pump does the same job as an air source heat pump and the issue is the insulation in the hall and the fact that there is no underfloor heating. Cllr Adams asked if the grant could be used for insulation and underfloor heating of the hall. The Clerk confirmed she would investigate further.

P14.1096 NEWS AND VIEWS

Next edition would go out in November.

P14.1097 FINANCIAL REPORTS

The following payments were **AGREED**.

Reference	To	For	Amount
BACS	Adriana Jones	Clerks Salary Aug & Sep 2023	£1,109.46
BACS	HMRC	PAYE Aug & Sep 2023	£277.20
BACS	David Wickham	Clean Toot Hill VH July & August Phone box tidy, supplies for Village Hall, repairs to phone box and planters on Toot Hill Village Triangle	£886.23 (£3.17 VAT)
D/D	Eon	Electricity Supply Village Hall May and July & Aug	£65.18 (£3.10 VAT) £65.05 (£3.10 VAT)
BACS	Viking	Defibrillator signs	£13.18 (£2.20VAT)
BACS	Design, Create, Innovate	Grounds work to Toot Hill Village Hall	£663.84 (£110.64 VAT)
BACS	North Weald Bassett PC	Printing, 300 copies 8page N&V Colour	£120.00 (£0 VAT)
D/D	PWLB	September Loan payment	£1,413.63 (£0 VAT)
BACS	GRB Plumbing and Heating	Supply and install new boiler, pipework and commission appliance	£3,456.00 (£576.00 VAT)
BACS	Adriana Jones	New printer, and envelopes for N&V	£73.88 (£9.17 VAT)

Bank Balances as at 31st August 2023

Unity Current Account 4775	£ 5,233.95
Unity Deposit Account 4788	£ 59,989.66

INCOME:

- £ 71.50 – Thomas Silk Club 17/6
- £ 104.00 - Pilates May-July 2023
- £ 78.00 – Silk Painters 5/8
- £ 245.00 – Silk Painters Hire 3 day event July
- £ 65.00 – Silk Painters Hire 3/6
- £ 149.50 – Thomas Silk Club 17/6, 15/7, 19/8

P14.1079 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS/EVENTS

Councillors **NOTED** the date of the next meeting:

- 9th November, 11th January

Signed Date

Following the meeting Everything Epping forest mentioned that on 23rd September 2022 there was a mini budget, at which time the A113 and the A104 (Epping New Road) were labelled as 'schemes that were going to get road improvement safety works'. At the time nobody knew what the work was and the report simply said the A113 Brentwood and A104 Epping. Today, on a City of London Epping Forest report, it was announced that a £1.4m scheme was going ahead on Epping New Road with average speed cameras, anti skid surfacing, however the report says that the funding was earmarked for the A113 which was identified by the International Road Assessment Programme as one of Britain's top 75 most persistently high risk A road. It seems as though the allocated money was now going to Epping New road.