

ENMORE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

held on

Tuesday 6th September 2022 at 7.00 pm
in Enmore Memorial Hall

Attendance: Cllr Cole, Cllr Hopkins, Cllr Nicholson, Cllr Huckler, Cllr Jackson, Cllr Pay, Cllr Bolt. RFO: A. Stoye, Clerk: D. Mcilroy. A. Hubbard (Footpaths officer)
Delegation from Enmore Park Golf Club (EPGC): Chairman – M. Clapp, Finance Director – P. Taylor, Membership Representative Director – S. Hayter, Golf Development Director – B. Woodman, Facilities Director – M. Rossiter & Club Manager – S. Rendle.
Members of the public: G. Fergusson, S. Hill, S. Tottle.

1. Apologies had been received from Cllr Comley.
2. There were no declaration of interest in relation to items on this meeting's agenda.
3. The minutes of the last meeting were approved and duly signed.
4. Presentation given by M. Clapp on the proposed planning for Enmore Park Golf Club.

M. Clapp thanked the Parish Council for allowing representatives of EPGC to attend the meeting and explain their proposed developments. These would consist of two separate planning applications:

The first would be to request a change of use of the “three acre field”, which is between the practice ground and the road, to become a short game/pitch and putt range of holes. This would require a bridge to be built to link the present practice ground to the new playing area to allow for first machinery and then players' access. One of the vendor's conditions of sale was that the land could only be used to improve the golf course itself - there would be no buildings on the site. There would be no new entrance from the road; access would only be through the existing golf club entrance. The club wishes to create an academy of excellence for junior players as well as encouraging new membership of the club from the general public.

The second application would be to infill the gully that presently lies between the 1st and 18th holes. This would be done with clean soil and with the aim of improving the safety of golfers and ground staff (the banks of the gully are considered too steep to cut safely). In addition there is poor drainage and the lower part of the gully is prone to accumulate water.

When the golf club first approached Sedgemoor Council on these applications, a number of surveys were requested, including ecological. These surveys have now been completed and the club is hoping to re-submit their plans in the near future.

Cllr Cole then opened the meeting for comments from those present.

Several people expressed concerns regarding rights of way and bridle paths that already exist across the golf course and that it is desirable to be able to walk from the Church end of Enmore down through the village following these paths rather than attempt to walk on the road. M. Clapp assured them he understood their concerns and that there would be re-routing and increased signage of footpaths/ bridleways to allow safe access across the golf course. It would be necessary to apply for this through Somerset County Council but the club

is happy to do this. With regard to the “three acre field” site, the holes would be positioned in such a way that golfers would not be hitting balls towards the road and netting would be erected along the boundary with the road to prevent road users being hit by stray balls. Concern was expressed by those present about the use of netting with regard to wild life in the area.

Concerns were also expressed regarding the infilling of the gully; specifically, the removal of trees and the amount of topsoil required to fill it. It was felt that these proposals had implications for further traffic on the increasingly busy road as well as the number of lorries requiring access to the club.

M. Clapp assured those present that additional trees, of species similar to those removed, would be planted in suitable locations. The use of robotic machinery to maintain the gully was not viable due to its cost and the steep angle of the gully. Landfill is under the jurisdiction of Somerset County Council and there could potentially be a cap on the number of lorries permitted to access the site per day, with fewer required as the gully is cleared and then filled. Concern was raised about land drainage as the gully is already prone to flooding. M. Clapp stated there would be a new system of drainage through the car park to allow for this.

M. Clapp stated that the present irrigation system for the golf club is no longer fit for purpose and that as a club they wish to work towards sustainability. As an example, a new bore hole now provides sufficient water to irrigate a few of the holes. The club takes the view that they must develop the course and facilities to attract more members; hence their wish to develop a short game course. Increased membership and increased revenue would assist in making the club’s longer term future more viable.

As there were no further questions, the golf club representatives expressed their thanks for the opportunity to share their ideas. Cllr Cole thanked them for attending and stated that they were welcome to stay for the rest of the meeting.

After the Golf club delegation left the meeting it was suggested that a site visit be requested by the Parish Council to the proposed areas for development.

ACTION: D. McIlroy will liaise with Enmore Park Golf Club to request a site visit at a convenient date/time to them and will report back to the Parish Council.

5. There were no public comments on agenda items.
6. Actions arising from previous meeting minutes.
 - a) Task Allocation- due to the absence of Cllr Comley this will be postponed until the next meeting.
 - b) Cemetery update- Cllr Nicholson had been tasked at the previous meeting with investigating materials for land stabilisation in the car parking area of the cemetery. This was undertaken with a view to finding materials ‘greener’ than tarmac or concrete. Cllr Nicholson had researched products from several companies and sent out technical details and cost information prior to the meeting. Of those found, the Naylor ‘Metropave’ appeared the most suitable. Cllr Jackson remarked that there is still some grant funding available towards such projects but that there are time limits for both applying and completing any grant-funded work.

ACTION: Cllrs Cole, Nicholson and Hucker to work on the project and look for suppliers of Metropave and contractors. The ground soil will not be removed by the supplier so therefore two supplier quotations and two contractor quotations will need to be obtained.

Mr Hill remarked that the amount of topsoil needed to be removed could be quite substantial and therefore thought should be given as to its use or disposal. He will provide information about the company he used for his work and the quotations received

A. Stoye remarked that Mr & Mrs Ingram at Parklands have had ground work undertaken recently.

ACTION: A. Stoye will contact Mr & Mrs Ingram to obtain any information they may have on suppliers and contractors.

Cllr. Nicholson left the meeting.

- c) SIDs - D. McIlroy reported the main points of Cllr Comley's report. (Appendix A) The SIDs are having a beneficial effect on slowing down the traffic through the main part of Enmore. However there is still a problem along the lower Enmore road from Durleigh. Cllr Comley will investigate the use of a pole by the entrance to Enmore Park Golf Club to install the 3rd SID upon his return from holiday. He also noted in his report that the proposed longer term plan to have a 30mph speed limit throughout the whole village may take some time to be achieved due to the workload of the Highways department. The collection of relevant data to support this change has only just started.

S. Tottle remarked that she had noticed a decrease in speed of cars entering the village from the South, coming down the hill, but not in cars driving out of the village up towards the 20mph zone around the school. The report, having been passed to other members of the Council prior to the meeting, was noted, with thanks to Cllr Comley.

ACTION: Cllr Comley to continue to analyse data and research the suitability of the pole by Enmore golf club upon his return from holiday. D. McIlroy will bring S. Tottle's observation to the Cllr's attention to see if anything else can be done to discourage cars speeding when approaching the school zone.

- d) Flower tubs- D. McIlroy has had communication with the Highways department. In order to install flower tubs on both entrances to the village a licence needs to be obtained from Somerset County Council (Sedgemoor Area Highways dept) and plans submitted showing the size and location of the flower tubs. The tubs must be more than one metre from the edge of the road. In many places the road verges are too narrow to meet this criterion.

ACTION: Cllr Cole will take some measurements to check the feasibility of placing flower tubs appropriately.

- e) Jubilee sign off - Cllr Cole has completed the accounting for the jubilee finances. After allowing for the proceeds of the raffle, the sum of £396.73 has now been given to Enmore Memorial Hall, to be split between a project for the Hall and a project for Enmore village more generally.

7. Revision of Standing Orders.

A copy of the Standing Orders for the Parish Council had been circulated prior to the meeting. No amendments were proposed and it was therefore agreed that, after amending the date of last review, the document should be reloaded onto the Parish Council website.

ACTION: D. McIlroy to amend the revision date and A. Stoye to upload the redated version to the Parish Council website.

8. Revision of Code of Conduct.

Copies of both old and new versions of the code of conduct for the Parish Council had been circulated prior to the meeting. In view of recommendations from Sedgemoor Council it was proposed by Cllr Cole that the Parish Council adopt the new model Code of Conduct. All agreed and the LGA model was formally adopted.

ACTION: D. McIlroy to check wording and insert information required on the model code of conduct. Cllr Cole to sign on behalf of the Parish Council and A. Stoye to upload the new version to the Parish Council website and archive the previous version.

9. Bank mandate changes/ Update on financial position and authorisation of payments

The bank mandate changes for NatWest for the purpose of signing cheques have at last been completed, and a number of former councillors and officers have been removed. However, online access for NatWest has not yet been implemented. In addition, the new Parish Council account with Lloyds is now visible online and a £10 donation has been made to test its operation in relation to incoming funds. At the time of the meeting the other signatories to this account had not received the information, cards and card readers needed for payments out of this account (subsequently received and a small test payment out was made successfully: £2.31 to reimburse postage costs).

It is proposed that both NatWest and Lloyds accounts be kept in the short term and the banking arrangements reviewed after a trial period of operation. It is intended that the signatories will be the same for both banks.

A Stoye reported that the payments authorised at the previous meeting had been made. Her RFO report and year-to-date accounts had been circulated with the agenda, and both had been available on the website.

Authorisation of payments was requested for:-

* SALC annual subscription of £68.09

* Approval in principle to settling any invoice for the installation of poles for the SIDs (exact amount currently not known but factored into the initial cost estimates when the purchase of SIDs was originally approved). A Stoye will inform the Council of the amount before arranging payment and will then make the VAT claim.

* Also, it was noted that the Clerk has still not been paid and is now owed six months' salary (estimated amounts are included for this in the year-to-date financial figures supplied).

Approval in principle to paying outstanding and ongoing wages was requested, subject to Council being informed of the figures. The lack of any means of payment other than cheques (and these with considerable difficulty in obtaining a countersignature) has prevented any payment being made until online payments are possible. PAYE arrangements can now be put in place.

The Council authorised and approved these requests.

10. Plan/Develop budget for the coming year.

It was proposed by Cllr Cole/A. Stoye to form a sub-committee to work on the budget for next year. Proposed membership of the sub-committee is A. Stoye (RFO), Cllr Jackson, Cllr Comley and Cllr Cole. The committee will report back to the full Council. A. Stoye also suggested inviting members of the public to suggest ways in which Parish Council funds should be used, and this will be done via the website and the Parish Council news pages in the Enmore & Goathurst magazine.

S. Tottle thanked the Parish Council for the regular updates in the magazine, finding them very informative.

11. A. Hubbard updated her previous Footpaths and Bus partnership reports (attached as Appendices to the minutes of the July meeting):

The obstacles listed in her previous Footpath Report have now been attended to. She again raised concerns over the golf club proposals, especially in relation to the rerouting of the footpaths/bridleways. Thanks were expressed for the help and support she receives from Sarah Cresswell and Glyn Edwards at Somerset County Council.

With regard to bus provision for Enmore, there was nothing applicable to Enmore at the latest SBP meeting but she noted that Somerset County Council are removing more buses from their timetables. She concluded that a community bus may be the way forward and undertook to research community buses and how they are set up and run. She will report back in due course.

12. Broadband provision.

D. McIlroy read out the email she received from Airband's community liaison officer Mark Burtwell with regard to broadband provision for Enmore. Mr Burtwell stated that the planning and design work for our area would only start next summer, with an expected completion date of early winter 2024. He therefore suggested that any meeting to discuss this subject be postponed until mid-2023.

A discussion took place regarding the possibility of the community funding their own broadband system, its cost and which communities had been successful in this.

ACTION: D. McIlroy will contact Cllr Mike Rigby Connecting Devon and Somerset Board member and Lead Member for Transport and Digital at Somerset County Council for further clarification on Airband's position. In addition, D. McIlroy will investigate community-led projects for broadband provision.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm

NEXT MEETING November 1st 2022 @7.30 pm in Enmore Memorial Hall

Signed:Date:
Chairman of Council

Enmore Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 6th September 2022

Appendix A: Readings from the Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) in Enmore

It is now six weeks since the first SID was installed close to the Goathurst turnoff as you travel from the golf club towards upper Enmore. For the first two weeks the SID was operated in spy mode ie no display, and then four weeks with the display in operation. The SID also took speed readings for those vehicles exiting upper Enmore (outgoing).

The results are as follows :-

	Spy Incoming	Display visible Incoming	Spy Outgoing	Back of display Outgoing
<30 mph	54%	80%	42%	40%
31-35 mph	26%	13%	35%	35%
36-40 mph	14%	6%	16%	18%
41-45 mph	4%	2%	5%	5%
45-65+ mph	2%	1%	3%	2%

The improvement when incoming vehicles face an operating display is clear to see. Of course the display being in operation made no difference to those vehicles leaving upper Enmore.

The second SID was placed outside Sally's house and has been in operation for five days in spy mode and five days with the display active.

Results as follows :-

	Spy Incoming	Display visible Incoming	Spy Outgoing	Back of display Outgoing
<30 mph	58%	78%	62%	64%
31-35 mph	24%	13%	24%	24%
36-40 mph	13%	5%	10%	9%
41-45 mph	4%	2%	3%	2%
45-65+ mph	2%	1%	1%	1%

NB Individual figures in tables rounded to nearest percentage so not all column totals are 100.

Again the improvement is clear . Next week will be interesting as the schools return .!!!

You will have noticed that Lower Enmore remains undefended. There is a pole the golf club side of Stone Hall Lane that I will check for suitability when I return but my concern is the speed of traffic entering lower Enmore from the Durleigh direction. You have all seen my last email to Katherine Tyson, back from holiday on 6 September, and I have since spoken to Dan Cox who believes he may be able to help expedite the installation of the poles. Changing the speed limit between lower and upper Enmore from 40 mph to 30 mph is key to defending Lower Enmore.

I will also be working on software that will enable me to analyse those times of the day/night when the speed merchants pass through.

David Comley
5 September 2022