MINUTES OF THE ENHAM ALAMEIN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14TH DECEMBER 2022 AT APRIL'S FARM, GREEN LANE FARM, ENHAM ALAMEIN

Cllrs. Present: Cllr. Emma-Louise Deverell, Cllr. Leslie Francis (Chair), Cllr. Rowan Jameson, Cllr. Alan Matthews, Cllr. Adrian Miller

1. APOLOGIES
Cllr. Amanda Cox
Cllr. Paula Lankshear

The Parish Clerk advised members that due to current inclement weather conditions, Helen Robertson (Customer & Community Advisor SEE) who was scheduled to provide members with a presentation, has submitted her apologies as she is heavily involved in dealing with call-outs. She has offered to attend the January Parish Council meeting instead.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
None recorded.

3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS NOT ON THE AGENDA
None recorded.

4. TO READ AND APPROVE THE FULL COUNCIL MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9 NOVEMBER 2022
The Chair reviewed the Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 9 November 2022. Members unanimously RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Full Council meeting as a true and correct record. The Chair signed them accordingly.

In respect of potential funding for various highway improvements within the parish, the Chair advised members that some years back there was a barred routes fund and the same issues were raised at that time. The Chair requested that the Parish Clerk contact County Cllr. Kirsty North to investigate what the status is in respect of the barred route funding pot.

There were no significant matters arising from the Minutes requiring further discussion.

5. CORRESPONDENCE
The Parish Clerk advised members of all correspondence received to date, which were noted without further comment.

6. TO RESOLVE THE FINANCE SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURE FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL FOR NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2022
The Parish Clerk advised members of the expenses of the Parish Council to date, which amounted to £600.78 as scheduled below, together with the latest financial position of the Parish Council.

£62.78 – Leslie Francis – Refund for Christmas Lights Event expenses refund for personal expenses incurred.

£308.00 – Kevin Glyn-Davies – November Salary**.**

£230.00 – Enham Trust – Purchase of Children Books for Christmas Fayre – Invoice 0063241 dated 9 December 2022**.**

The Chair commented that there were a number of children's books left over from the Christmas Fayre and a discussion ensued as to where the books could be donated. Members felt that it would be appropriate to give the books to children's hospitals.

Members unanimously RESOLVED the expenditure of the parish council as prescribed.

7. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE ENHAM TRUST
The Chair advised members that she has today received an update report from the Chief Operating Officer of the Aster Group and informed members accordingly of the below report.

'As you know, since the completion of the merger with Enham Trust in October, our focus has been on bringing colleagues together from Enham and Aster to stabilise the business and improving the offer for its service users.

We are making progress with our CQC action plan and we're delighted that Hampshire County Council has closed its large-scale safeguarding enquiry, which reflects the progress the team has made. We know there is still a long way to go, but this fantastic achievement in such a short timeframe is testament to the hard work from colleagues across Enham and Aster. We are now entering the next phase of the plan to integrate Enham into the Group. As we move into this next phase, we are now looking to the future to ensure we're able to build on the success we've already achieved.

Part of the future will see the creation of a dedicated director who will oversee Enham. Simon Williams, Enham's interim chief executive and I have been discussing this role over the last few weeks. After considering it alongside other opportunities, he has decided now is the right time to move on from Enham. This will be effective from 31 December 2022. We are grateful to Simon, who has been instrumental in making the merger a reality to secure Enham's future and has played a pivotal role in facilitating the transition so far.

We're committed to providing the resources and support Enham needs to provide high quality services across its communities into the future and to protect its legacy. To achieve this, we will begin recruitment for a new director for Enham in the new year.

For now, Julia Ashley, our business development director, who spent five years as CEO of Central and Cecil (C&C), will oversee the leadership operations at Enham in an interim role. Julia will work closely with our customer service operations director,

Jean Dalziel who will continue to be responsible specifically for Enham's housing and care services.

I'm confident this team will maintain the positive momentum we have created so far and will ensure we continue to engage with the local community every step of the way'.

Members noted the report without comment.

8. TO CONSIDER AND RESOLVE A BUDGET FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2023/2024

The Parish Clerk introduced this agenda item making specific reference to his previously circulated detailed paper and budget figures for consideration.

He stated that he has made enquiries in connection with the taxbase for the parish council for 2023/2024 with the Revenues & Welfare Officer at Test Valley Borough Council. The taxbase for 2023/2024 for the parish council has increased slightly to 260 or up 1.96% from the 255 level for 2021/2022.

The Parish Clerk explained that parish councils can raise revenue to meet their spending requirements by issuing a Precept. This is the total amount to be raised through Council Tax from all the dwellings within the parished area. The taxbase for the parish council for 2023/2024 is 260. To calculate the Council Tax average Band 'D', divide the precept requirement by the taxbase and then obtain the average Band 'D' Council Tax, which is the most often quoted variable.

The 2022/2023 Average Band 'D' Council Tax for the parish council is currently £30.25 on a precept of £7,715.00. The equation being Precept (£7,715.00) divided by Taxbase of 255.

The Parish Clerk advised that the budget is underpinned on the **average** CPI rate which is currently 10.1% and advised members that the parish council should consider resolving to increase the precept for 2022/2023. Members considered the budget and accompanying report most carefully. Cllr. Adrian Miller raised the issue of a report prepared by the Local Government Association that has identified the fact that education and public administration industries have seen some of the lowest pay growth in 2022. In light of this, he suggested that he would like to see the Parish Clerk's salary increase to 7.5% rather than the proposed 5%. Members agreed with this rationale and asked the Parish Clerk to adjust the budget to incorporate this increase.

Members felt that it was necessary to increase the precept by 5% to ensure the effective operation of the parish council for the financial year 2023/2024. The Parish Clerk advised members of the financial implication of increasing the precept by 5%.

A 5% increase means that the precept for the parish council for 2023/2024 will be £8,101 rounded from the 2022/2023 figure of £7,715. The Council Tax Average Band 'D' will be £8,101 divided by the taxbase of 260 = £31.16 rounded. It does mean that the Parish Council can request a precept of £8,102 and this will still result in a Council Tax of £31.16. It represents an increase in Council Tax of 91p from

2022/2023. A 7.5% increase in the Parish Clerk's salary on £4,620 (2022/2023 figure) = £346.50 increase to £4,966.50 for 2023/2024. For the budget, the figure will be £4,967. The balancing figure to pull from reserves is £264.00.

It was RESOLVED to accept the budget with addition of an increase in the Parish Clerk's salary to 7.5% rather than the prescribed 5% and increase the precept requirement for the parish council for 2023/2024 by 5%. This will provide a precept of £8,102 and the sum will therefore be £8,102 divided by the taxbase of 260 = £31.16. That results in an Average Band 'D' Council Tax increase from current levels of 91p.

9. TO DISCUSS THE VILLAGE PLAN AND WORKING PARTY

Cllr. Rowan Jameson confirmed that she has sent the village plan documents to Dawn Fowler-Stevens at the Aster Group. Members felt that the most appropriate person to discuss village plans should be invited to attend the January Parish Council meeting. Cllr. Rowan Jameson stated she would contact Dawn Fowler-Stevens and ask who the most appropriate person would be to attend the meeting in January.

10. TO RECEIVE A POLICE REPORT

None received.

11. TO DETERMINE PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Parish Clerk advised members that there are no planning applications requiring determination

He advised members that planning application 22/02302/FULLN for the proposed residential tourist accommodation pods and the re-use extension and replacement of a building to create a new dwelling at the Hare and Hounds, Andover Road, Chalton Down has been formally withdrawn by the applicant. Members noted this accordingly.

12. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE TO NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH
No significant matters were reported.

13. BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCIL REPORTS
No reports received.

14. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS
The Chair commented that the Christmas Lights Switch-on/Fayre was a great success and thanked all who were involved in the event for their efforts and contributions, especially those of the Enham Trust.

Cllr. Adrian Miller raised a number of concerns in relation to a proposed forthcoming stock condition survey being undertaken by the Aster Group from 3 January 2023. He expressed his concern that no formal appointments have been made and that

they will merely arrive between two dates and no notice period has been provided.

He stated that there are vulnerable people in the parish who live alone and may wish to have a chaperone of their choice present. No example of the ID Card has been provided including the fact that the letter has not been made available in braille or no audio version offered. He highlighted the issue of a complete stranger being in tenants' rooms taking pictures and not being permitted to be present. How can the Astor Group guarantee that personal items won't be photographed? Members concurred with the concerns raised and it was agreed that the Parish Clerk send an email to the Chief Executive of the Aster Group respectfully pointing out the issues raised and there needs to be a minimum standard of acceptance and some ground rules agreed between tenants and the Aster Group.

Cllr. Emma-Louise Deverell raised the issue of litter around the parish especially in Knights Enham. It was pointed out that litter on the public highway is the responsibility of Hampshire County Council as the Highway Authority. A number of community litter-picks have previously been arranged with Nigel Sully of the Enham Trust and it was agreed that at the next event, it should include Knights Enham on the schedule. The Chair requested that the Parish Clerk makes mention in the January Parish Oak article that the public may like to carry a bag and pick-up rubbish that they see in the village.

The Chair commented that there has been no gritting around Landale Close or footpaths in general and Nigel Sully has been approached to undertake this. The Chair stated that she has spoken to the Head of Housing at the Enham Trust in respect of what provisions are being implemented for emergencies or continuity plans whilst the Enham Trust is closed over the Christmas period including to establish the process for responding to non-supported residents.

In the absence of any further business to transact, the Chair closed the meeting at 20.18 hours and wished all members a very happy Christmas and all the best for 2023.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at April's Farm, Green Lane Farm on 11 January 2023 at 19.00 hours.