

EASTON GREY PARISH MEETING

MINUTES OF MEETING 6th July 2026

Meeting at 18.00hrs Mill House

Attendees:	Apologies:
George Clarke – Chair	Carron and Keith Waterhouse
Jane Clarke	Martin Smith
Chris Garrett	Mark Kempson
Coral Murphy	Garth Chapman
Poppy Shadbolt	Henry and Tina Jodrell
Becky Vale	Rob and Jocelyn Dehnert
Nick Vale	Sue and Peter Thompson
Viv Tremayne	
Penny Farquharson	
Rosie Harford	
Edward Harford	
Antony Wright	
Julie Wodecki	
Martyn Leyfield	
Dougie McLeish	
Sheila Chapman	
Helen McLeish	

Minute and item introduction	Discussion and agreed Action
1) Minutes of Previous meeting Review and sign off 2025 Minutes. Proposed: Martyn Leyfield Seconded: Viv Tremayne Minutes to be signed and dated by George Clarke	Outstanding Items not covered elsewhere on the agenda: WhatsApp group – Reminder of ongoing need to ensure everyone who wants to be on it is on it especially for things such as flood warnings etc.
2) Accounts for 2025/6 Balance on 5 th April 2026 = £1902.89 Expenditure for 2025 = £2075.40 See accounts for details. Points of note: - In the financial year a payment of £1,700 was paid to WCC as our agreed contribution for the bridge road works.	- We continue to build reserves to pay for village gates to warn of narrow bridge ahead unsuitable for HGV and long vehicles and reinforce the speed limit. - Budget maybe required to fund our LHFIG request to better sign the road between Easton Grey and the Norton Ford as single-track road that is unsuitable for HGV. We

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2. On bank charges the Chair noted that having made two complaints over the introduction of bank charges two compensation payments had been made totalling £115. We failed to overturn the imposition and accordingly the Bank account has been moved to Nat West who likewise do not pay interest and levy only minimal transaction charges totalling £2.25 at end of May 2026. Pending the move of the bank account and the closure of the old the compensation exceeded the charges made with only one further £4.25 taken by Lloyds since the year end of the accounts being approved. 3. A £1,500 precept was paid into the account for the current year on 5.5.26 4. Current Nat West Balance is £3,398.29 Accounts accepted: Proposed: Edward Harford Seconded: Dougie McLeish	are also asking that the speed limit be revisited; that also has a cost implication with another traffic speed survey. Counter intuitively one needs to show that road users already go at speeds in line with the requested speed limit. Efforts have been made to do this in conjunction with Foxley and Norton Parish but without bearing fruit as they appear not to want to engage. Martin Smith has advised that WCC under new leadership are looking to change the policy on speed limits to give villages more freedom of action and to ease the process to reduce speed limits to 20mph. With that in mind the village was of the view that we should attempt to reduce the speed limit through the village to 20mph and to 40mph between Easton Grey and the Norton Splash and to the North of the village on the road to Shipton Moyne.
3) Easton Grey Road Bridge Update 1. With regards to signage around the bridge and bridge we have an application in for additional signage to give a priority right of way for those exiting the village towards Norton. It is hoped that this will further reduce the risk of vehicle strike to the bridge. This is however bogged down in Road Traffic bureaucracy and may not be addressed. The meeting was asked if it wishes to pursue this matter. 2. CCTV installation to monitor bridge strike is in abeyance as we hope the adjustments to the bridge will reduce the potential for bridge strikes.	1. It was agreed by the meeting, after discussion that we would not press for priority right of way over the bridge at this time. 2. As to CCTV, following discussion, it was agreed that this can be dropped as a possibility considering the road improvements that have now been made. With regard to both the above points if residents observe a bridge strike, they are encouraged to record it and the vehicle registration so that WCC can be notified and the right person pursued pay for repairs.
4) Flood and Phone Box update <u>Flood</u> The Chair thanked Doug and Helen McLeish who continue to act as Flood Wardens. Our Flood Plan is unchanged and as with last winter gel bags will be obtained/deployed to give some modicum of protection to Bridge House. The works on the bridge did not increase the height of the road to the south of the bridge and the flow across the road worked when the river rose. The out flow needs to be kept clear.	Chair to continue to engage the Parish Steward to keep the gullies clear and vegetation cut back. Dougie and Helen McLeish reminded those present that the Gel bags if needed are stored in the room at bridge house that is adjacent to the bridge and faces the river.

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<u>Phone Box</u> Following Last year's Meeting the Chairman obtained a commitment from BT to repaint and repair the phone box. This is to be done by the end of October 2026. On 8.5.26 BT stated <i>"we can't provide a date only that it is on this year's schedule. The painting season comes to an end in autumn when the weather dictates that we can do no more, that's as precise as we can be."</i> <i>There is a known issue sourcing the doors, we have asked the question when these will arrive but as yet we don't have a date for that either.</i> <i>I'm sure you wanted to hear something more precise, but I can only assure you that the work is scheduled this year."</i>	Chair to continue to chase BT to get this work done.
5) Single Track Road between Norton and Easton Grey As already noted, we have an outstanding LHFIF request to better sign the road between Easton Grey and the ford at Norton as single-track road that is unsuitable for HGV and to redo the fluorescent bands on the marking posts. Drivers continue to destroy the verges rather than using the passing places. Residents are asked to use the WCC app to report the deep holes at the edges of the road as potholes. As noted last year this would also become important if we start to get traffic impact from Lime Down Solar.	Chair to work with Wiltshire Council highways, our local councillor, Martin Smith to identify how this can be improved. It was noted that on "Google" reports of delays, blockages, unsuitability for HGVs etc. affect the algorithms so it is worth doing this. Becky Vale will look into how this can be done and a note will be circulated. PS Following the meeting this was done and the note circulated.
6) Village Gates We have an application to LHFIF for these gates. WCC has visited and the officer responsible has approved the position in principle. One gate on the left-hand verge as the road descends into the village from the B4040. Two gates on both verges by the existing village sign on the Easton Grey to Norton single track road. This is likely to involve the Parish in contributing to cost. The Chair sought confirmation that he be given the authority to negotiate any such cost	Whilst having given apologies Martin Smith has noted by email to the chair as below:- Highways: <i>"I continue to work with George and the LHFIF to help Grey/Norton Road and 20 mph for the village."</i> <i>The new speed assessment policy is now in operation, so you can now apply for the current</i>

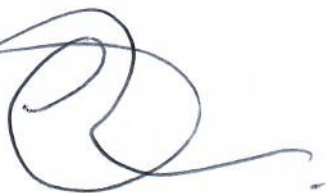
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contribution and agree to it within the existing finance available in our Nat West bank account. Proposed: Edward Harford Seconded: Poppy Shadbolt	<i>30 mph limit to reduce to a mph limit via the LHFIF email address.</i> <i>I recognise the wishes of the village for 40 mph on the roads north and south, however this will be more of a challenge under the current regulations from the Department for Transport; however the government are supposed to be bringing out new guidance on speed limits later this year, so [it] may become easier [to] deliver village gates & single track signage for Easton Grey"</i> The Chair to continue to push LHFIF and Steve Hind of Wiltshire Council and to ensure that village gates with suitable wording are put in place and agree a contribution to the costs within our existing funds.
7) Precept for 2025/6 It was suggested by the chair that the 2026/27 precept be kept at £1,500 as has been the case for the last two years. This will help with our application to LHFIF for village gates and better road signage. Following discussion, it was agreed to keep it at £1,500. Proposed by: Julie Wodecki Seconded by: Dougie McLeish	The discussion around the precept was around building up a fund to enable the village to take on identified projects such as village gates and improved signage. The policy to do this was agreed. That said this can again be reviewed in future years. The Treasurer to apply for 2027-2028 Precept of £1,500. This is to be submitted by January 2027 deadline.
8) Planning and Lime Down Solar Planning It was noted there had been the following planning applications in the year: <u>Determined Applications</u> • Various felling of dead or damaged trees • Queenies Cottage– removal of single storey extension and erection of two storey extension.	<u>Determined Applications</u> • Tree Felling; No objections were received on these • Queenies Cottage was subject to planning conditions re the access needs on the works. With thanks these were dealt with over the Land to the rear owned by the Tremaynes. • Church Farm no issues raised.

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• Church Farm – improvements and setting back of entry gates <u>Outstanding application(s)</u> None Lime Down Solar As agreed at last year's AGM the Chair has as and when made written and oral representations in opposition to the scheme on behalf of the village. The Chair thanked all those who had engaged in the iterative process to oppose the Scheme. Martin Smith was thanked for helping to ensure that the WCC had unanimously voted to oppose the scheme and for then helping mobilise the WCC team in that opposition. Special mention was made of the invaluable work done by the Stop Lime Down group. Jane Clarke with the Stop Lime Down team is closest to the status of the Examination process and was invited to update the meeting. .	<u>Outstanding application(s)</u> N/A Lime Down Solar Martin Smith whilst giving apologies had noted by email to the chair:- • <i>I've been working hard to ensure that Wiltshire Council officers continue to share information with the Stop Lime Down group. Talking to Professor Richard Skeffington recently, he confirmed that they are still collaborating constructively</i> • <i>As most people will know the PINS inspection process is very much in progress and has to complete by the end of October</i> Jane Clarke updated the meeting on the current position in relation to the Lime Down examination. She explained that it started on 21 April and will end on 21 October. The examiners then have 3 months to write their report which will recommend acceptance or refusal of the scheme based on the vast amount of material which has been and continues to be submitted in the examination. The decision is ultimately that of the Secretary of State for DESNZ (currently Ed Miliband). Stop Lime Down is very heavily engaged in submitting expert reports with the assistance of counsel. The 3 examiners are very engaged and have a good grip on the detail and have done a number of site visits, 5 unaccompanied and 1 accompanied and are asking IGP many very detailed questions. There have been 6 days of hearings so far with another 10 days in September at which SLD will once again be represented by counsel and the relevant experts. A discussion on Lime Down took place following the update given by Jane Clarke.

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	The Chair will, with the assistance of SLD, continue to keep the village up to date on developments as and when these occur. As and when asked by the examiners the Chair will respond with comment on behalf of Eaton Grey Parish Meeting in line with the views already expressed. Edward Harford proposed a vote of thanks to Jane Clarke for all her hard, and voluntary, work with Stop Lime Down to oppose the Lime Down Application. That proposed vote was carried by acclamation of all those present.
9) Wiltshire Council Matters not covered elsewhere on the agenda	Whilst giving apologies for not being present Martin Smith by email to the chair has noted :- Sherston GP Surgery: • <i>After many years of lobbying, the Integrated Care Board (ICB) finally agreed in principle to support a new building for the Tolsey GP Surgery in Sherston and agreed that they would be prepared to lease such a building</i> • <i>Sherston Parish Council have recently signed a Section 106 agreement with developers and their funders, which will secure the land required for a new surgery; we are still awaiting confirmation that Wiltshire Council has also signed this S106</i> • <i>Martin is pushing Wiltshire Council for help with the project management for this project, although this is an unusual project for them</i>
10) Nick Gammage, Cotswolds National Landscape Parish Warden for the parishes of Easton Grey and Brokenborough.	Nick Gammage wished to introduce himself to the meeting; however, Nick had a last minute matter that prevented his attending the meeting.
11) Frequency and timing of future meetings The Chair sort views on the frequency and timing of future meetings.	After discussion it was agreed that we should continue with one annual meeting with the same timing as at present. However, if a

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	particular matter arose during the year that needed a meeting, then the Chair should call such a meeting in addition to the annual meeting.
12) Election of Officers George Clarke agreed to stand for another year and was proposed as Chairman and Treasurer for 2026-2027 Proposed: Edward Harford Seconded: Dougie McLeish	No one wished to step forward, and the re-election of George Clarke was carried without further discussion.
13) AOB Mark Kempson, whilst have given apologies had raised a point re weeds and leaves on the foot path beyond the church up to the B4040.	Chair to speak to put this on the WCC Stewards' to do tasks. PS This was subsequently done by the WCC Steward.
Meeting ended at 18.55 hrs	

Signed



Date 6th July 2026

George Clarke

Chair of Easton Grey Parish Meeting

Parish Steward Scheme Tasks – 2026

- hand clearing and cutting of growth from drainage grips and drain gully covers.
- hand clearing of blocked gullies.
- rodding of drainage systems
- clearing of small culverts, pipes, and pits
- clearing storm debris
- trimming encroaching hedges and vegetation from around road signs and railings
- cleaning and straightening small road signs.
- hand cutting small visibility areas.
- reactive emergency repairs including pothole repairs (In accordance with Wiltshire Councils Highways Inspection Manual 2018)
- find, fix & record potholes (cold repairs only)
- responding to road closure requests from the emergency services
- removal of ragwort (hand pulling or strimming of defined areas)
- treatment/removal of weeds
- graffiti and fly posting removal.
- clearance of debris and materials from scenes of road traffic collisions including clinical waste.
- siding out of footways and carriageways
- clearance of storm damaged trees from the Highway including the use of a chainsaw

The following works cannot be undertaken by the Parish Steward without support as they require a two-person operation. These works can be undertaken on an ADHOC day, which is typically a Friday, but this is flexible.

- Minor Carriageway repairs including vehicle overruns.
- Works requiring traffic management (including Stop and Go or manual controlling of temporary traffic signals in accordance with Chapter 8)

Examples of types of emergency reactive local highway work which is to be undertaken by the Highway Stewards includes (but is not exclusive to). These issues can take the steward from their programme:

- resolving flooding issues – clearing drainage grips and drain gully covers, clearing of small culverts, pipes, and pits etc.
- placing emergency signage and traffic management
- fence and pedestrian barrier safe
- clearing structures and fixings and make safe.
- hand cutting vegetation in visibility areas.
- reactive pothole repair
- responding to road closure requests from the emergency services
- small masonry type works such as repairs to slabs and damaged kerbs.
- clearance of debris and materials from scenes of road traffic collisions including clinical waste
- clearance of storm damaged trees from the Highway including the use of a chainsaw – requires additional operative.