



EVENLEY PARISH COUNCIL

www.evenleypc.org.uk

Notes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 3rd April 2017 at 7.30pm in Evenley Village Hall

Present: Jean Morgan (Chair), Cathy Ellis, Jeff Peyton-Bruhl, Mike Baul, Lisa Proffitt, Nic Hamblin, Cllr Ron Sawbridge, Cllr John Townsend, Deputy Commander, Lt Col Marc Galler (RAF Croughton), Helen Howard (Northamptonshire Highways), Kay Baul (Evenley Residents Association), Kim Golding (Evenley Cricket Club & Snow Warden), Joyce Stevens (Gardening Society), Eric Millard (Evenley Village Hall Committee), Kevin O'Regan (Evenley Arts), Carrie O'Regan (Footpaths Warden), Merrick Loggin (Pocket Park Warden), Chris Hart (Defib Warden) and Cathy Knott (Clerk).
Also present were some 54 parishioners.

1) Apologies and welcome.

JM opened the meeting and explained the purpose of an annual parish meeting - a meeting for the whole community which is facilitated by the parish council and is chaired by the PC Chair if they are present, rather than a parish council meeting. Notes of the meeting and reports will be made available on the website (www.evenleypc.org.uk).

Apologies were received from Northants Police, South Northants Homes, South Northants Council, NACRE, Spencer Burnham, Rev. Simon Dommett, Mike Boshier, David Connolly, Brian Sinclair and Denise Stevens.

2) Disclosure of interests

No interests were declared.

3) To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the meeting held on 18.04.2016

The minutes were agreed and signed.

4) Report from County Councillor Ron Sawbridge

Please see report.

This was Councillor Sawbridge's last report to parishes as he is not standing for re-election next month. He thanked everyone for supporting him over the last sixteen years. Joyce Stevens (retired parish clerk) thanked Councillor Sawbridge for all the support he had given Evenley over the years, particularly with funding, and wished him all the very best.

Report from District Councillor John Townsend

Councillor Townsend added to Councillor Sawbridge's thoughts, in that one unitary authority made more sense although it would mean huge changes and would be very different from the current council. He agreed that it didn't work having so many different authorities running things and it would make the role of parish councils more important, giving them more responsibilities. He added that it is already difficult to get people to come forward and volunteer for parish councillor roles, and this may add to the problem.

Councillor Townsend went on to say that the district council is preparing the Local Plan Consultation which will be published in June/July, and spoke about the importance of making our comments known.

5) Reports were received from the following groups and organisations:

Deputy Commander, Lt Col Marc Galler from RAF Croughton introduced himself. He advised that the base was in the process of a large, multi-million pound extension project that would be completed by 2022. This is the result of three bases being made into one which will save

both money and manpower. It will be a slow, steady project bringing another 12,000 people into the community (over five to seven years). The project is going well, with little impact on the local community at the moment. There will be five to six phases after the first year which will take place at the same time; this should cause minimal impact. He reported that the satellite known as the 'golf ball' will also be upgraded as part of the project to make it more efficient.

Lt Col Galler answered questions advising that the base is used for communications. When asked where personnel will be living, he responded that some would be housed in Caversfield, some at the base and others in surrounding villages and towns.

Helen Howard, Community Liaison Officer from Northamptonshire Highways reported that she has been involved in a vast array of services including road safety, home/school transport and Rights of Way. Ms Howard advised that she works closely with the area maintenance team, who fix potholes amongst other highways problems. She said that their budget was not big enough to fix everything, but they were doing their best.

Ms Howard advised that she has a good relationship with Evenley Parish Council and is in support of a possible proposed chicane to slow traffic down along Broad Lane.

A question was asked regarding this proposal, to highlight the reasons behind the chicane. Ms Howard responded that there are a number of options available to slow traffic down. Traditional humps (which are noisy and used in more rural areas), gateways, signs and line markings which are already in situ. She said the chicane is the best speed reduction measure but would obviously need to fit in with the length of road and the driveways.

A question was asked around the speeding issues on Broad Lane; why can't we have repeater 30 mph signs? Ms Howard responded that because the road is street lit, the speed limit is automatically 30 mph (according to the Highway Code). More signs would only be necessary when there is insufficient street lighting.

A question was asked regarding pot holes. Ms Howard responded that because of the tight budget, potholes fall under two categories. Category A is a very deep hole which, once reported will be fixed within 5 days and category B, a less severe hole, will be fixed within four months.

Unfortunately, representatives from Northants ACRE, South Northants Homes and South Northamptonshire Council were unable to attend.

Northamptonshire police

Please see the Annual Report from Brackley Safer Community Team

Rev. Simon Dommatt from St. George's Church was unable to attend but sent in a Rector's Report. Carrie O'Regan added to the report, with some exciting news, advising that a new composting toilet was a recent addition in the Church and would be opening soon! She said this is the first composting toilet in the Diocese, and it has been twinned with a village in Africa.

Eric Millard, Chair of Evenley Village Hall Management Committee

Please see report.

Kevin O'Regan, Evenley Arts

Please see report.

Kim Golding, Evenley Cricket Club advised that there are three senior sides. Two play on the Green and the third (mid-week league) play at Aynho. They will play for 18 weeks this year from 29th April. Kim reported that there are also three youth sides, going from strength to strength who play on Sundays, run by Richard Derbyshire. Some of the players also play for County. The youth sides have benefited from Evenley Matters (with nets etc).

Kim thanked residents for their support.

Joyce Stevens, Chairman and Treasurer of Evenley Gardening Society

Please see report.

Speed Watch. Unfortunately, Mike Boshier was unable to attend but sent in his report.

Kevin O'Regan advised all present that this will be Mike's last year organising Speed Watch. He

thanked Mike for all his work. Chair Jean Morgan asked if anyone was interested in taking over from Mike, to contact Cathy Knott (parish clerk).

Kay Baul, Evenley Residents Association

Kay Baul, Chair of Evenley Residents Association (ERA) reported that it had supported many village amenities, events and activities over the years, including the play area, the village fete, road safety, the museum in the Red Lion and the Best Village Competition.

The Association is supported by nine members and meets every two to three months. Membership is open to all.

Kay advised that communications were improving between the Parish Council and the Village Hall Management Committee and it now has a good Facebook page. The association has also purchased a marquee which is available for residents to use.

Kay advised that she has been involved in the association for ten years but the Annual General Meeting on 5th June would be her last meeting.

She thanked all villagers for their support over the years.

Mike Baul, Treasurer, Evenley Matters

Please see report.

Evenley Parish Wardens

Carrie O'Regan reported on Footpaths.

Please see report.

Merrick Loggin reported on Pocket Park.

Please see report.

Kim Golding, reported that as Snow Warden, he ensures the grit bins are full in November each year. He also said that the bin in Broad Lane will be replaced and there will be a new one at the top of Bicester Hill.

Denise Stevens was unable to attend and sent in a Flag Report.

Brian Sinclair was unable to attend and sent in an HS2 report.

David Connolly was unable to attend and sent in information regarding Neighbourhood Watch.

Chris Hart advised that he was the Defibrillator/CPR co-ordinator. He reported that the defibrillator had been in place (on the front of the village hall) for fourteen months now and had fortunately not been needed yet, although it had been on standby. Chris advised that the parish council fund the batteries for the defibrillator. Chris organises training sessions three to six times per year and has so far trained 60 people in the village using a DVD from the British Heart Foundation, supported by the Ambulance Service. There will be more sessions in October/November this year which will be free and last for approximately 75 minutes. Details will be made available on the website, notice board and through the newsletter.

Chair, Jean Morgan thanked all the Wardens for their invaluable input to our community.

6) Chairman's Report

Please see report.

7) Financial Report

Please see report.

8) Open forum for questions

A resident expressed concern over traffic speeding along the straight mile between Evenley roundabout and Charlton and said about the rubbish on the road is making it very dangerous.

Eric Millard, Chair of Evenley Village Hall Management Committee, asked if the parish council would consider using electric from the village hall for The Green, rather than spending money on putting electricity on The Green.

Chair Jean Morgan thanked all those who gave reports and to everyone for coming along to the meeting.

Meeting closed 21.00

Refreshments were served.