



EVENLEY
PARISH COUNCIL

www.evenleypc.org.uk

Notes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 16th April 2018 at 7.30pm in Evenley Village Hall

Present: Cathy Ellis (chairman), Mike Baul, Spencer Burnham, Jean Morgan, Jeff Peyton-Bruhl, Charles Reader, Sue Ricketts, Cllr Rebecca Breese, Cllr John Townsend, Helen Howard (Northamptonshire Highways), David Connolly (ERA and neighbourhood watch), 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), Josceline Heblethwaite (flag warden) and Cathy Knott (clerk).
Also present were some 50 parishioners.

1) Apologies and welcome.

Chairman, Cathy Ellis opened the meeting and thanked everyone for coming.
Apologies were received from Jacky Alder, Kirsty Burnham, Chris Hart, Sue Waller and Zelda Carr.

2) Disclosure of interests

No interests were declared.

3) To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the meeting held on 03.04.2017

The minutes were agreed and signed.

4) Report from County Councillor Rebecca Breese

Please see separate report.

Questions and Answers

Q/ Why did NCC run out of money and how was it allowed to happen?

A/ Cllr Breese explained that councillors are not allowed to scrutinise NCC decisions. There have been several reasons why the money has run out including not managing funds properly and statutory services such as children's services and adult social care. All senior executives that were in place from 2013 to 2017 have gone and new management is in place.

Q/ Why is a consultation on a unitary authority necessary. Why can't the government just make the decision?

A/ Cllr Breese advised that the Government commissioner can only ask for suggestions, he can't just say this is how it's going to be, so unfortunately a consultation is the only way this decision can be made.

Q/ Is there a budget for this financial year?

A/ Cllr Breese explained there is a budget but it is formed on the basis of more cuts. Last year, accounts were balanced by using reserves and capital sales.

Q/ How will future costs be managed?

A/ Cllr Breese advised that a shadow authority will be in place until the elections next year.

Report from District Councillor John Townsend

The only issue to report from the District Council is that the Governments drive for new houses has resulted in South Northants being told that they are expected to increase the amount of houses being built across South

Northants from 250 to 490 per annum. That is a vast increase. In other words it means that over a ten year period you will need to build a new Brackley. Inevitably it seems to me that means either a new “garden village” or more houses for almost every settlement across the district.

No doubt you will have read that the County Council have properly hit the buffers. An inspector who was called in by the Secretary of State has made a report that makes for sobering reading. I am not in the ‘blame game’ but I feel it does show how important it is to have chief executives and leading members with a strong grip on finance.

The Government Inspector is recommending to the Secretary of State that the whole structure of local government for Northamptonshire should be rebuilt with two unitary authorities. That would mean combining South Northants and Daventry district councils with the borough of Northampton. My personal opinion is that I think that the whole field of local government has changed, in particular with the use of the internet and computers, and that it is right to move from two layers to one. I am less sure of what boundaries here in Aynho, Evenley and Croughton are best for us. The difficulty with the Inspector’s proposal is that Northampton with its greater population will always politically dominate the new Authority. It will now be for the Secretary of State to decide whether to accept the Inspector’s recommendation. Interesting times!’

Questions and Answers

Q/ The improvement works to Brackley Leisure Centre have taken 18 months longer than expected. What are the financial implications of this?

A/ Cllr Townsend advised he would find out.

Post meeting note: Cllr Townsend contacted the Clerk to advise the reason for the delay – ‘the contractors had miscalculated the amount of gas needed for the new centre, and the delay has been the need for all the adjustments needing to be made with British Gas. The best estimate at the moment is that the centre should be opening in September. I can confirm that this delay has not met with any extra costs to the Council – only frustration that the right calculations were not made in the first place’.

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

Craig McFadyan, community engagement specialist, Gigaclear gave a brief background on the company and advised they are in the process of finalising connection points in Evenley, due to finish next month. Craig explained the basic differences in technologies relating to FTTC (fibre to the cabinet) and FTTP (fibre to the premises). He added that Gigaclear offer different packages starting at £41 per month. At the moment installation is free in Evenley. As a token to the village, Gigaclear is connecting broadband to the village hall free for the first year. For more information please visit their website:

<https://www.gigaclear.com/our-broadband-products/>

Questions and Answers

Q/ Parts of the village have been left in a mess, particularly paths and verges. Who will be repairing these?

A/ Craig advised that Kish (a Gigaclear engineer) will be repairing areas of the village over the next few weeks. If you are unhappy with an area, please let him know and he will put it right.

Q/ Is Gigaclear a private company; is there competition?

A/ Customers on the Gigaclear network can benefit from the fastest broadband speeds in the country and from a choice of packages from different providers.

Q/ How do you install the cables from the street to a property?

A/ It is dependent on the property. For most properties, a slit trench burying the cables approximately six inches underground is sufficient.

Helen Howard, community liaison officer from Northamptonshire Highways reported that things are uncertain for the foreseeable future due to the NCC situation. A spending cap is now in place and a revised budget has been agreed resulting in some cuts to services including gritting and mowing.

Helen advised there is a road safety fund available for communities affected along the HS2 route and the amount Northamptonshire Council will be allocated from the fund is £1.65m. Evenley Parish Council has submitted a bid for traffic calming along Broad Lane including two chicanes and curbing along the village Green to preserve it. Helen said she was completely supportive of the bid and would do her best to push this along for us; however, bids will be prioritised.

Questions and Answers

Q/ How are bids prioritised?

A/ There is a prioritisation mechanism in place giving a higher score for projects contributing to walking and cycling and if there is some match funding in place.

Q/ Evenley's verges have been wrecked by recent and current diversions. What are the chances of them being repaired?

A/ Helen advised there is little point of repairing the verges until the weather improves. She will check with Stuart Mann, maintenance manager and get back to us with a response.

Q/ Is it possible to have more signage for the current diversion?

A/ Helen will ask if more signs can be supplied.

Q/ Is there a timescale for the road safety fund?

A/ Helen advised there isn't a timescale as such, more of a realisation around issues surrounding a project. She is confident the fund will be managed properly.

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

Please see report.

Joyce Stevens, Chairman and Treasurer of Evenley Gardening Society

Please see report.

Speed Watch

Please see report.

David Connolly, Evenley Residents Association

Please report.

Evenley Parish Wardens

Carrie O'Regan – Footpaths Warden

After five years, Carrie has now resigned as footpath warden. She briefly outlined the role inviting volunteers to come forward.

Carrie advised that all land owners who have footpaths in the parish have been identified on the master map and personal contact has been made with most of them. As an add-on to the role, Carrie has been organising village walks which have proved popular. She explained it's not an onerous role; with approximately two enquiries per year. Carrie thanked everyone who has supported her over the past five years.

Kim Golding – Snow Warden

Kim advised that we currently have ten grit bins, three of which are privately owned by the parish council. All bins have been filled twice during the last winter.

Merrick Loggin – Pocket Park

Please see report

Josceline Heblethwaite - Flag warden

Please see report

Brian Sinclair - HS2 Warden

Please see report

David Connolly – Neighbourhood Watch

David reported that Evenley is part of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. His role in the scheme is to receive information from the Police and circulate it to members. The biggest concern currently is the amount of crime in Brackley with 19 vehicles recently broken into. In Evenley, two vans have been broken into. He advised that we should all look out for each other's property as good neighbours.

If you would like to register to receive regular crime information relevant to our Parish then please contact David on his email: david561connolly@btinternet.com

Chris Hart – Defibrillator co-ordinator

Chris sent in the following report: 'As of today's meeting we have had our defibrillator for 26 months and I'm happy to report we have had no incidences of damage/theft or mis-use.

Fortunately, we've not had to use it for real, although I had to put it on standby for the emergency services on one occasion.

We have trained 66 people (63 parishioners) on CPR and how to use the defibrillator.

The only somewhat disappointing statistic is that we've only had two people under the age of 21 attend any of the training sessions.

As the last two sessions were poorly attended (two people on each occasion), I suggest we leave further sessions until spring 2019. However, I would be happy to run one earlier should a group of six people (max of 10) get together and make themselves known via the Parish Clerk.

Kirsty Burnham – Summer Fete co-ordinator

Kirsty sent in the following report: 'This year Evenley Fete will take place on Saturday 01 September 2018. It is being led by Kirsty Burnham and Jacky Alder and a wonderful team behind them. It will take place on the village green from 12pm to 4pm. We will have all the usual entertainment: Not the dog show, the children's area, tea tent, raffle, auction, bottle stall, local produce will be available as well as the Red Lion which is very kindly running the BBQ. In the evening of the fete there will be a celebration of the day on the green where people will be able to buy pizza and other local produce.

We are looking for volunteers for the day, donations for the auction and raffle and we will be passing around the village in August for bottles and chocolate donations.'

6) Chairman's Report

Please see report.

7) Financial Report

Please see report.

8) Open forum for questions

Chairman Cathy Ellis thanked all those who gave reports and to everyone for coming along to the meeting.

Meeting closed at 21:20 and refreshments were served.

Notes of the meeting and reports are available on the website (www.evenleypc.org.uk).