
Notes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 15th April 2019 at 7.30pm in Evenley Village Hall

Present: Cathy Ellis (chairman), Cllr Spencer Burnham, Cllr Jean Morgan, Cllr Jeff Peyton-Bruhl, Cllr Charles Reader and Cathy Knott (clerk). There were 41 attendees in total.

1) Chairman's welcome and report

Cathy Ellis welcomed everyone to the annual parish meeting and provided an update about what the parish council has been up to over the last year. She said our most obvious achievement is our success in applying for a public works loan and replacing the streetlights. Other achievements include:

- Becoming GDPR compliant
- Updating and simplifying our strategic plan
- Tidying up and improving the look of the Parish
- Obtaining a piece of land in School Lane and planting trees and bulbs
- Organising the allotments
- Restoring the war memorial to its original state
- Tidying up and felling unsafe trees
- Being successful in our application for double yellow lines on the corner of the Green and Church Lane, which have now been reinstated
- Awarding grants to the village hall committee and the WI

Cathy reported that we have battled with Highways departments over traffic diversions, giving an indication of what it will be like when Evenley is used as a 'rat run' during the construction phase of HS2. Fortunately, due to our determination and presence at endless meetings, we have been successful in securing a grant from HS2's road safety fund and Northants Highways has agreed to install a speed calming chicane on Broad Lane in an effort to slow or even deter drivers from cutting through the village. Looking ahead, we are working on a scheme to protect the Green, which is slowly being eroded by traffic, and are looking at ways of funding this. We are also putting together some ideas to apply to HS2's community fund. We will be applying to SNC for a grant for the allotments; have started a footpath and stile survey with a view to replacing stiles where suitable with two-way (kissing) gates; and will be putting together an application for the best village competition again.

Cathy thanked fellow councillors and the clerk for all their hard work this year; also, the wardens and unofficial helpers for their continued support. To read the chairman's full report please visit:

<http://www.evenleypc.org.uk/parish-council/parish-meeting.html>

2) Apologies

Apologies were received from Mike Baul, Chris Hart, Lisa Proffitt and Joyce Stevens.

3) To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the meeting held on 16.04.2018

The minutes were agreed and signed.

4) Reports were received from the following clubs and organisations which can be read in full on our community website at <http://www.evenleypc.org.uk/parish-council/parish-meeting.html>

- PCSO Colin Brooks, Northants Police
- County Councillor Rebecca Breese, Northamptonshire County Council
- District Councillor John Townsend, South Northamptonshire Council

- Helen Howard, Northamptonshire Highways
- Cheryl Snudden (HS2) and Chris James (Eiffage Kier)
- Mohamed Ali, Gigaclear
- Nicola Taylor, Evenley Wood Garden
- Paula Jermy, St. George's Church
- Joyce Stevens, Gardening Society
- Eric Millard, chairman of Evenley village hall management committee
- David Connolly, Evenley Residents Association
- David Connolly, Neighbourhood Watch
- Zelda Carr, Speed Watch
- Lisa Proffitt, fete co-ordinator
- Kim Golding, Evenley cricket club
- Alison Kendall, Evenley WI
- Julia Jennings, bridge club
- Julie Scott and Lt. Col. Olexis Perez of RAF Croughton
- EPC Financial statement

During the course of the year, the parish had an income of £49,922.00 which included the following:

- Precept payment from South Northamptonshire Council (SNC) £19,692
- Public works loan for streetlight replacement programme 28,542.00
- ERA donation £478.00 (towards stiles – not yet spent)
- Donations from newsletter advertisements £360.00
- Allotment rent of £340.00

Expenditure came in at £29,666.00. This included:

- £1,753.00 on streetlighting electricity & maintenance
- £11,582.00 on the streetlight replacement programme
- £1,390.00 on grass-cutting
- £1,102.00 on tree care, planting and tidying up the village
- £190.00 on allotments
- £386.00 on wood for the renovation of village benches
- £389.00 on hiring Evenley Village Hall for meetings and soup lunches
- £490.00 on legal fees for the new land acquired in School Lane
- £8,970.00 on administration including audit charges, insurance, subscriptions, printing, website, phone calls, newsletter, training and wages

5) Open forum for questions

Question to Helen Howard, Northamptonshire Highways

When will the potholes be repaired on Broad Lane?

Answer

This Wednesday, along with Lawyers Close.

Question to Chris James, EK

When are the main works due to start?

Answer

The 2026 completion date is still in place despite some setbacks and main works will commence in the latter part of this year.

Question to Chris James, EK

There has been a lot of bad press recently. Do you believe there is still a chance it won't go ahead?

Answer

We will just have to wait and see. It's business as usual at the moment.

Question to Chris James, EK

I appreciate the dedicated routes but in general terms, when HGV's come through the village, what steps are there to prevent lorries going off route?

Answer

Last year when ground investigations were taking place near Farthinghoe, the road was closed causing chaos. However, this helped us with our traffic plans and we continue to liaise with the highways departments to try and mitigate problems going forward.

Question to Chris James, EK and Cher, HS2

From an agricultural point of view, what's happening about wildlife along the route. We are free from TB this side of the route but that's not the case on the other side. What steps are being taken?

Answer

Badger sets are always relocated in the same area. HS2 is working with farmers to ensure there is no chance of contamination. There are agricultural liaison officers who are available to come and talk to you and they are working closely with NFU. HS2 has a policy of 'no net loss in biodiversity' and new areas have been created (by Fusion).

Question to Cher, HS2

What is CEF?

Answer

HS2's community environmental fund which is also open to small groups to apply to. Please visit: <https://www.groundwork.org.uk/Sites/hs2funds> . You can also read about how the funds have supported local communities and businesses.

Question to Mohammed, Gigaclear

We have signed up and are awaiting connection. What is the timescale?

Answer

75% of homes are ready for activation and installation. If the cables run over shared ground, permission is needed from all land owners and this can take time. The whole process usually takes up to three weeks. Please call me on 07827 274468 If you have any issues.

Question to chairman Cathy Ellis

What is the future of Evenley Shop and Post Office?

Answer

Evenley Stores has been placed on the community asset register. However, because it is privately owned and hasn't been put on the open market it is not for us to interfere at this stage. Philip will keep is informed and he is aware of how vital it is to our community.

Question to chairman Cathy Ellis

The verges are being worn away by cars. Can any action be taken?

Answer

We are trying to find funding to help us with this issue. We are also writing to homeowners asking them to repair verges worn away by contractors working on their properties. Cathy expressed her thanks to those who have repaired and cleaned up their verges.

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

The meeting closed at 21:10 and refreshments were served.

If you are unable to access our community website and would like a hard copy of the individual reports, please email the parish clerk at clerk@evenleypc.org.uk