

Minutes of the of meeting of the parish council held at St. George's Church, Evenley, on Wednesday 20th November 2019 at 7:30pm

Present: cllr Mike Baul (MB), cllr Spencer Burnham (SB), chairman Cathy Ellis (CE), cllr Jean Morgan (JM) *joined the meeting at 8.00 pm*, cllr vice chairman Jeff Peyton-Bruhl (JPB), cllr Charles Reader (CR), cllr Sue Ricketts (SR), Cathy Knott (CK) clerk and 11 members of the public.

146/19 Apologies and welcome

All councillors present. Chairman CE welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending, advising that as many of the members of the public were present for the planning item, we would re-order the meeting to bring item 151/19 forward before going through the rest of the agenda.

147/19 To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the meeting of the parish council held on 14th October 2019. The minutes were approved and signed.

148/19 To note any matters from the minutes not included on this agenda for report only

All matters are either on the agenda or being dealt with.

149/19 To receive declarations of interest related to business on the agenda

Cllr SR – resident effected by potential new settlement to the west of the A43 item 151/19

Cllr JM – EM Secretary re item 150/19 d.

Chairman CE and Cllr JM – residents of the Green re item 154/19

151/19 To receive updates and recommendations from planning representatives including the recent call for sites (in the strategic plan) made by SNC and the potential new settlement to the west of the A43

Chairman CE advised that EPC has been made aware of the literature that was published last month regarding a 'strategic development opportunity for a potential new settlement' off Charlton Road. Since then, Evenley Parish Council (EPC) has spoken with county and district councilors and an estates expert. Colin Staves, Principal Spatial Planner at West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit has confirmed that the development was not submitted in the recent call for sites. The consensus is that this is very speculative and the chances of it happening are extremely small, added to the fact that they haven't followed due process which hinders their chances further.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

A discussion was held with residents and chairman CE reassured them that EPC has done everything it can at this stage but will keep everyone updated with any further information on the website at:

<http://www.evenleypc.org.uk/parish-council/epc-planning.html> and via the village email system.

Cllr JBP advised that members from Highways England had attended last month's meeting where the troublesome roundabout was discussed in detail. He advised that this potential development would further exacerbate the issues along with hundreds more traffic movements during the construction of HS2. He asked residents to keep a track of roundabout issues so that we can log them on the village Facebook site for future reference.

Pre application notice of new single detached house off Bicester Hill

Dave Collins a planning consultant from DJC Associates and Mrs Cherry (part owner) attended the meeting to advise the parish council and the local community of a scheme for a new single detached house off Bicester Hill (prior to submitting a formal application to the district council). Chairman CE thanked Dave for coming along to the meeting and sharing the information and plans. Cllr JPB advised he would visit the site tomorrow and talk to those it effects the most before feeding back.

Action: JPB

STANDING ORDERS REINSTATED

Cllr JBP gave an update on the following applications:

S/2019/1367/LBC	Reposition bathroom stud wall, replace kitchen and bathroom, reinstate bedroom 2 wall, remove ground floor, renew damp proof, install under floor heating and replace multi fuel heater. Location 7 The Green Evenley	EPC: No objection SNC: APPROVED
-----------------	---	---

S/2019/1471/MA	Application for the approval of reserved matters for phase 3 of (S/2010/0995/MAO) Halse Road and Radstone Road	EPC: No objection with comments/concerns SNC: APPROVED
S/2019/1808/FUL	Change colour of windows and door to Stiffkey blue from white (Minor Commercial Development). Evenley Stores 23 The Green Evenley	EPC: OBJECTION SNC: REFUSAL
S/2019/1934/FUL	Remove existing conservatory and replace with new single storey rear extension. Location: 2 Spencer Close, Evenley	EPC: No objection SNC: APPROVED
S/2019/1978/TPO	Proposal to fell three Scots Pine trees Location 34 Broad Lane, Evenley	EPC: No objection with comments SNC: consults dispatched
S/2019/2076/FUL	Proposed single storey rear/side extensions, part two storey side extension, internal and roof alterations, and detached double garage and store. Location: College Farmhouse, Boughton Terrace, Evenley	EPC: No objection with comments SNC: consults dispatched
S/2019/2131/FUL	Proposal Single story rear extension to replace conservatory Location Five Gables 9 Mixbury Road Evenley NN13 5SL	EPC: No objection SNC: consults dispatched
S/2019/2176/TPO	Proposal T1-T9 Common Lime Trees - Prune, crown reduce, crown raise. Details in report Location St Georges Church, Church Lane, Evenley	EPC: No objection SNC: consults dispatched

150/19 Finance

- a. Financial statement
- b. Payments received
- c. Approval of invoices for payment
- d. To discuss the draft budget and precept for 2020/21

Account	£
Community	22,391.50
Business Saver	16,936.64
National Savings	5,787.06
TOTAL	45,115.20

Payments made since last meeting		
Northants ACRE member fee (valid until March 2021)	50.00	0
TWM (new VAS and solar panel using grant funds)	3,325.52	665.10
Western Power (3phase electricity connection on the green)	1,220.20	244.04
Receipts since last meeting		
Lawrence Furnishings (newsletter advert)	60.00	0
Invoices submitted for approval		
C. Knott (Oct salary)	520.00	0
C. Knott (expenses)	59.47	9.73
Evenley Village Hall (hire)	51.00	0
Evenley Cricket Club (village green cuts)	640.00	0
Steve Thorburn (newsletter delivery x 2)	50.00	0
TWM (VAS extras)	300.00	60.00
Wave (allotments water)	27.65	0
EON (streetlight electricity in credit)	00.00	0
Green Stuff (plants for planters + bulbs for village)	55.86	0

d. To discuss the draft budget and precept for 2020/21

A budget meeting was held on 6th November and Cllr MB has circulated version one of the draft budget to councillors. It was agreed to discuss it in more depth at our next meeting when we have a better idea of costings along with the final tax base figure which should be published early in December (the formula we need to work out the precept).

Regarding the costings associated with installing electricity on the green. Evenley Matters has offered to put £1500.00 towards this project and cllr SB advised it will likely cost in the region of £2500.00 (worst case scenario). He explained that EPC put aside £1200.00 reserves for this in the 2017/18 budget so we could share costs. More details to follow at the next meeting.

152/19 To report back on the clerk's appraisal

Chairman CE and vice-chairman JPB met with the clerk to carry out her appraisal on 24th October. It was agreed to raise her salary in line with the national rate from April 2020. The chairman thanked CK for her hard work and cllr JM added that it's really helpful having a clerk that lives in a different village (and county) and to be able to share her experiences.

153/19 To approve costs for a new Evenley flag

A quote for a new flag has been received at a cost of £499.49. Councillors agreed that we should defer making a decision until January/February, when we'll have a better idea of the year end figures.

154/19 To agree costs associated with initial investigations into the protecting the edges of the village green

Chairman CE advised that Northamptonshire Highways quote from last November is still valid at £1750 (excl. VAT), which covers the costs to provide a feasibility study and detailed design to kerb across the front of the village green. An in-depth discussion ensued with Cllr CR advising that drainage will be an issue and because the green is higher than the road, kerbings will be damaged rather than the green. Cllr MB added that kerbing will urbanise the area and make speeding worse. Thoughts on other solutions were discussed but disregarded as impracticable. The chairman proposed that perhaps we should accept that we live in a rural village and can't fix it. We should leave it for now but keep a reserve in the budget going forward to repair grass verges (which are also in a state) along with the Green; councillors unanimously agreed. Cllr MB advised we have £600.00 in the budget this year for repairs and Cllr SB agreed to get quotes to repair grass verges on Church Lane before the financial year end. **Action: SB**

155/19 To provide an update on the HS2 community grant application

HS2 has awarded EPC with a grant for £20,592.00 (once conditions have been met) for village projects including a bespoke village sign, two footpath gates to replace stiles, a pair of new goals for the green, village hall improvements and a new cricket roller. We were not successful with funding for a new bus shelter or Church improvements as EPC does not own the land on which they are located.

156/19 To appoint a sub-committee for the Northamptonshire Village Awards (Best Village)

Chairman CE proposed we should enter the competition and will write a piece for the application. It was agreed that we may not need to appoint a sub-committee this year as the criteria has changed. All councillors agreed to support. **Action: CE**

157/19 To note the existence of the new prospectus 'building communities' document, which sets out the relationship between parish and town councils and the unitary councils

The clerk circulated the document prior to the meeting explaining that NCALC have put this together because it believes parish councils play a vital role in building stronger and safer communities, and will be the bridge between their communities and the unitary councils. The publication is designed to stimulate debate and act as a starting point in the dialogue with the unitary councils about how they work with their parish partners.

158/19 To accept councillors reports on the following areas:

- A Allotments (CR)** the water has been drained and turned off for the winter.
- B Pocket Park (CR)** nothing to report.
- C Street lights (SB)** cllr SB is still waiting for confirmation of actual usage figures (since the replacement programme was completed) from Western Power and Aylesbury Mains which should give us between 30-60% savings on streetlight electricity.
- D Village Hall (JPB)** cllr JPB has booked The Sasparillas to perform at our VE Day event next May and is awaiting confirmation of their availability (either on 8th or 9th). The clerk will request a road closure once the date has been confirmed and CE will check to see if there is a cricket match on the green on Saturday 9th May. **Action: JPB/CK/CE**
Cllr JM advised that she has taken over the responsibility for the community defibrillator and will carry out monthly checks. We are looking for a volunteer to help with defibrillator training; if you are able to support with this, please contact the clerk. Dave Allan has been requested to move the defibrillator asap.
- E Website (MB)** cllr MB advised that he will update various areas over the next couple of weeks. **Action: MB**
- F Village Greens, planting and trees (CE/SB)** the green will be fertilized in the spring (as agreed with ECC). SB is getting a price for our new (more in keeping) bin to be installed opposite the shop and for the older one to be relocated further along on the footpath. CE and her husband (thank you Chris) have planted more bulbs around the village. **Action: SB**
- G Newsletter (CE)** The Christmas edition will be published within the next week.

- H Hs2 & Highways (SB & CE)** MB has reported flooding issues on Broad Lane again on <https://fixmystreet.northamptonshire.gov.uk/>. SB has (again) reported the potholes on Broad Lane and all slow/speed signs which have faded. He advised the signs should be repainted within the next month. The next HS2 liaison meeting will be held on Friday 17th January 2020 at 1.30pm in The Forum, Towcester.
- I Local Government Reorganisation (JM)** we have been advised that vesting day will be going ahead on 01.04.21 for the two unitaries (a year later than expected). The community grant fund will extend for a further year with a date to be confirmed for submissions.
- J St. George's Church** Chairman CE thanked Jose for allowing us to use the church for our meeting tonight.

159/19 Correspondence received

- An email has been received from Paul Golding regarding information about his ancestors. In the 1881 census, there were at least 15 Goldings listed in Evenley and the surrounding area and his great grandmother Jane lived at Dormer Row on the village green. A newspaper report from 1933 said that Henry Golding celebrated his golden wedding that year and was a parish councillor for 24 years and the village constable for 11 years. If you have any information you're able to share with Paul, please contact the clerk.
- An email from a resident has been received requesting EPC to look at installing a potential new streetlight on the corner of Church Lane near The Old Manor where it is very dark – councilors advised that the location is dark mainly due to the depth and height of the hedge there and will ask the owner to cut it back first before we review the light levels. **Action: CK**

160/19 Councillor questions

Cllr MB swept leaves out from the gutters of Broad Lane last week because of the gully/flooding issue and asked the clerk to follow this up with Northamptonshire Highways. **Action: CK**

Cllr JM asked if a letter asking for permission for a Christmas tree to be placed on the green would be acceptable. Councillors agreed in principle if it was situated near to where the power supply will be. CK will check with our insurers. **Action: CK**

Cllr CR observed that the picnic tables and benches on the green had not been moved back to their correct locations after the village fete this year. SB will get a team of people together to action this. **Action: SB**

161/19 Public Participation session (Members of the public are invited to address the council through the chairman)

A resident asked if EPC would consider purchasing a 'Tommy' statue for the green. Councillors agreed this would be a nice gesture and the clerk will look into costs. Cllr JM asked if we could also look into the costs of some giant poppies to put on lamp posts. **Action: CK**

162/19 Close

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

The minutes of a council meeting are a public record of who attended and the decisions that were made.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 16th December 2019, 7.30 pm at Evenley Village Hall