



Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at Evenley Village Hall, on Monday 22nd January 2018 at 7:30pm

Present: Mike Baul (MB), Spencer Burnham (SB), Cathy Ellis (CE), Jeff Peyton-Bruhl (JPB), Charles Reader (CR), Cathy Knott (CK), Clerk and 9 members of the public

01/18 Apologies and welcome

Apologies were received from Jean Morgan (JM) and Cllr Nic Hamblin (NH). Chair CE welcomed Cllr Charles Reader to his first meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

02/18 To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the meeting of the parish council held on 4th December 2017. The minutes were approved and signed.

03/18 To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda for report only

115/17 - To chase costs (to link a chargeable battery using electricity from a streetlight) **Action: CK**
121/17 - Photograph evidence of Evenley roads **Action: CE**
136/17c- Overgrown vegetation on streetlights. Write to homeowners requesting a trim. **Action: CK**

04/18 To formally accept Cllr Charles Readers' declaration of acceptance of office and register of interests

Cllr CR signed the declaration of office before the clerk who duly signed. He will let the clerk have his register of interests.

05/18 To receive declarations of interest related to business on the agenda

None received.

06/18 Finance

- Financial statement
- Payments received
- Approval of invoices for payment

Account	Balances as at 12.01.2018
Community	£11,051.95
Business Saver	£16,260.97
National Savings	£ 5,718.44
TOTAL	£33,031.36

RECEIPTS since 04.12.2017	£
SNC CIL monies (for street lighting)	2876.18
New Homes Bonus Local Community Fund (for street lighting)	2758.00
Bag Force (advertising donation)	60.00
INVOICES PAID SINCE 04.12.2017	
C. Knott (Dec salary & expenses)	614.69
Aylesbury Mains Ltd (Church Leys lights replaced)	3773.86

INVOICES FOR PAYMENT	
Northamptonshire County Council (filling of 3 grit bins)	150.00
Mr C Hart (warden costs)	10.18
Evenley Village Hall	30.50
Barbara Osborne (PAYE Service)	60.00
EON electricity	403.11
Anglian Water (allotments)	12.10
NALC (training Emergency Planning x 2)	72.00
Aylesbury Mains Ltd (repairs to Broad Lane light)	124.56
Media Tribe (website domain name renewal)	26.00

d. To receive an update from the Internal Controls Councillor

Clr MB confirmed that he had checked the following information:

Bank balances; as stated in the minutes.

Cash book entries agree with the items noted in the minutes for financial year to 20.01.18.

The forecast planned spend remains within our precept budget limits.

e. To set the budget & precept for 2018/19

Clr MB introduced the draft budget that has been available to view on the website.

He advised that although annual costs have been slightly reduced the precept would rise by approximately 1.6% due to the tax base figure. The council resolved unanimously to approve the budget.

Clr MB proposed to set the precept for 2018/19 at £19,692.00 and the council unanimously agreed.

07/18 To receive updates and recommendations from planning representatives

Clr JPB provided a summary of the three planning applications still outstanding. He advised that the single storey rear extension at Parsons House, Charlton Road has now been approved.

08/18 To discuss a roundabout campaign

Two responses were received regarding the item in the winter newsletter about the safety of Evenley roundabout.

After discussing various issues, it was agreed to look at a minimum standards document, put a list of improvements together and demand a safety audit. It was agreed to write to Andrea Leadsom MP in the first instance asking for her advice on who to send the information to. Chair CE will draw up a letter and Clr SB will catalogue the roundabout incidents/accidents.

Action: CE/SB

09/18 Allotments – agree on a new tenancy agreement and costs going forward

Clr NH has drafted a new tenancy agreement (to make it more modern, simpler and shorter) which was circulated before the meeting along with NCALCs version template. Clr CR proposed to leave the tenancy as it is but after further discussion it was proposed and agreed to use NCALCs version going forward from April 2018.

Once plots have been newly measured, costs will be agreed at the next meeting.

10/18 To organise a date for a litter pick

It was agreed to hold a litter pick on Saturday 17th February, to meet at 9.45 am for at 10.00 am start at Evenley village hall. Chair CE will supply sticks, high-vis jackets and bags. CK will promote.

Action: CK

11/18 To accept councillors reports on the following areas:

A Allotments Chair CE advised that Nic Hamblin had resigned from the council but would still like to be involved with the allotments as he would like to set up a proper allotment society and fund and build a collective greenhouse. He is in the process of collecting the remaining tenancy agreements from three new tenants which he will hand over once they have been signed. Chair CE asked Clr CR to take over the responsibility for allotments and to liaise with Nic going forward. Clr CR agreed.

Clrs JPB and SB have checked the plot measurements as some boundaries are unclear.

There has been an issue with the tap over winter. Nic turned the water off last Autumn but towards the end of December, a tenant found water gushing out of a broken tap and turned off the water supply, so it is unsure what happened. Clr JPB asked if a tap fitted with a hose would make more sense.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

A resident advised that there has been a plan of the allotments in place for 17 years. She said that it had been agreed in the past not to use a hose pipe as some residents use allotment water to water private gardens.

STANDING ORDERS REINSTATED

Chair CE advised that boundaries were being looked at again because they had disappeared under the weeds through recent neglect. She added that now we have tenants for all plots, we will have a good tidy up and check everything is in order. It was agreed that Cllr JPB would change the tap and we should erect notices with basic allotment rules.

Chair CE thanked Cllrs SB and JPB for all their work.

B Pocket Park (NH) Nothing to report at this time. Chair CE asked Cllr CR if you would take on this responsibility going forward and he agreed.

C Street lights (SB) Cllr SB has put together a proposal to replace all lights in Evenley with Windsor style heads to include modern, energy efficient lamp fittings at a cost of £35,127.00 ex VAT. The proposal was shown on the big screen and will be put on the village website.

Funding options include a public works loan (PWL), Salix finance and the Hs2 community & environment fund. Payments will not affect the precept.

Cllr SB advised that we are currently calling Aylesbury Mains Ltd out to repair lights on a regular basis and Philips are not making the bulbs we have fitted any more so these will become more and more expensive. He advised we can either carry on replacing two lights per annum or replace all the lights (if we are successful with funding) and in so doing, save approximately £1000.00 per annum.

Cllr SB proposed to hold a public consultation with villagers and Chair CE said an item would go in the next newsletter (with an aim to be published in mid-February) inviting feedback on the proposal (with all details on the website). It will also be promoted on Facebook and via the village email system. All councillors were in agreement with the proposal.

In the meantime, Cllr SB will seek two more quotes for work from different contactors using the same specs.

A resolution to seek the Secretary of State's approval for borrowing will be held at the meeting in March.

Action: SB/CE/CK

D Village Hall (JPB) Planning permission has been granted for the doors of the village hall to be replaced and painted a muted heritage green. The south elevation will be painted white. Small, positive changes are occurring and the planter and plaque (using funds from the Best Village competition) will soon be a permanent fixture at the entrance way.

E Website (MB) The domain name has been renewed. A Brackley resident has commented that we have a great website with excellent information on Highways.

F Village Green and Trees (CE) Gigaclear have been repairing the damage to where they have been digging. Following the chaos from a diversion through Evenley on 4th January, CK and CE have written to Highways, head of NCC and Rebecca Breese (county councillor) seeking compensation for damage to verges. A tree was blown down in the high winds last week on Bicester Hill which has now been made safe. Thank you to Gigaclear for making sure the area was safe.

G Newsletter (CE) Chair CE advised the Spring newsletter will be published half way through February. Please let her know if you have any items you would like to add.

H Hs2 & Highways (SB) Cllr SB and Brian Sinclair attended the last Hs2 meeting on 8th December. Following Cllr SB's suggestion to have one-page updates in layman's terms to enable councils to post on noticeboards and websites (to keep parishioners informed) will be actioned. Hs2 will also be launching a new website in February/March which will be searchable by postcode with regards to specific area updates.

Cllr SB advised that we should officially record the condition of our roads before any works start. It has been confirmed that we can use our VAS historical data as part of a traffic survey so we will be able to note if traffic dramatically increases. A few more details have come in regarding a road safety fund which will be administered by NCC. Cllr SB has now received estimated costs from Highways for a feasibility design and target costs for kerbing and drainage works along one side of the village green and a chicane feature on Broad Lane. These costs would be covered if we were successful with funding.

The next Hs2 Liaison Group meeting will take place on Friday 9th February at 1.30. Groundwork Ltd will be giving a presentation and there will be a Q&A session afterwards.

CK advised that Westbury Parish Council had recently met with Cheryl Snuddon, an Hs2 Community Engagement Manager covering the area between Waddeston and Turweston. She will be holding "drop in" sessions at Westbury

Community Shop and Café on the third Friday of every month (TBC) between February and May. CK will publicise the sessions in Evenley and Chair CE will add to the newsletter. **Action: CK/CE**

12/18 Correspondence received

A letter of resignation has been received from Nic Hamblin with effect from 19th January. A notice of casual vacancy will be placed on the notice board tomorrow. Unless ten electors of the parish give written notice to the proper officer of the district council within 14 days after the date of the notice requesting an election to fill the vacancy, EPC will be able to fill the vacancy by co-option (after 13th February).

An invitation from RAF Croughton has been received to attend a Civic Presentation at the base on 9th February. Cllrs MB and JPB will be attending.

A resident has emailed with concerns over fly tipping up a back road just off the Tesco roundabout (an old route off the A43). The clerk has been in touch with Highways England asking for a barrier to be erected to stop vehicles parking there and littering.

An email has been received from a Church Leys resident asking if a street lamp could be re-located after a new lamp was placed too close to their drive. The clerk has contacted Aylesbury Mains to ask if it can be moved.

SNC have issued a public consultation on parking: standards and design. Details are available on the village website and comments can be submitted up until 1st February.

An email has been received from a resident with concerns over water running down Bicester Hill which could be a potential hazard. He advised the ditches where the water should be running, are empty. Cllr CR advised that this has been going on for years and that the gullies need to be dug out. As this is a safety issue, the clerk will ask Highways to carry out the works and will warn them that Gigaclear have recently laid cables in the area. **Action: CK**

Danny Moody, the Chief Executive of Northants CALC has sent a letter of congratulations for achieving the Foundation Level in the Local Council Award Scheme, along with a certificate which has been framed and is hanging up in the hall.

Evenley Residents Association (ERA) will be holding a spring clean on Saturday 24th March between 10.00 am and 12.30 pm at the village hall and are looking for volunteers in order to complete a list of jobs. If you would like to help, please contact Chris Hart on chart4050@aol.com. Chair CE will promote in the newsletter.

Evenley Matters (EM) have allocated funding from the 2017 Fête & Dog Show. It was agreed to pilot a slightly different approach to funding village causes, and to donate 10% of profits (after standing commitments) to three important Evenley community resources - St George's Church, Community Open Spaces through EPC and the village hall.

The EPC donation should be spent on improving community open spaces in the village - for example new benches, or more bulbs. The soon-to-be-acquired green in School Lane was suggested as an initial focus.

Cllr MB presented a cheque for £426.37 on behalf of EM. Chair CE thanked EM and the fete committee for the donation.

Councillors have an opportunity to meet Stephen Mold (Police and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire) to learn more about local issues and how policing can be improved in communities across the county. Dates of meetings are: 5th February, 29th March, 8th May, 18th June, 8th August, 10th September and 2nd November.

13/18 Councillor questions

Cllr CR advised that we should remind residents that the rubbish bins on the Village Green are not for household rubbish. CE will include something in the newsletter.

Cllr JPB asked for a note to be put in the newsletter about sheep worrying. Please keep dogs on leads until you are well clear of livestock.

Cllr SB advised that dog mess was increasing around the village. This will also be included in the newsletter.

Action: CE

14/18 Public Participation session (Members of the public are invited to address the council through the chairman)

Evenley roundabout – we should contact the county and district councilors for their involvement. Chair CE advised that we have already asked for their help and we would keep them involved.

Parking update on the corner of Church Lane and The Green - Chair CE advised that there had been some confusion over our TRO request but that it would be assessed in the next Parking Team review this spring.

A member of the village hall management committee advised that members were managing expectations well and although planning has been approved, they will need to seek funds to enable them to purchase new doors. Chair CE advised that Chris Ellis's offer of support to help with a WREN grant still stands.

Overgrown vegetation on streetlights and footpaths - some lights and footpaths in the village are covered in overgrown vegetation. Chair CE advised she will attend to the footpaths and the clerk will write to residents and landowners reminding them it is their responsibility to trim back vegetation.

VAS – statistics have not been made available for over a year. Cllr JPB apologised and advised he has a link to the software but has been unable to get it to work. The statistics will be published as soon as he has downloaded them. The clerk updated the council and public on her role as speed watch coordinator saying that it was extremely time consuming but because no-one has come forward to volunteer she will carry on this year. Chair CE advised that if no-one comes forward to take it on we will have to drop it in future years.

Evenley Residents Association Facebook page – out side events are being promoted; should this be allowed? Cllr MB responded that this issue had been raised a year ago and since then the admissions page had been changed so that only people with a genuine connection to Evenley can become members.

15/18 Close

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm

Evenley Parish Council emphasises its commitment to condemn any form of racism, intolerance, bigotry, bullying or xenophobia.

Should you experience any hate crime please call 101 and report it to the Police.

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