

## Minutes of the virtual meeting of Evenley Parish Council held via Zoom on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 7.30 pm

Present: cllr Spencer Burnham (SB), chairman Cathy Ellis (CE), cllr Jean Morgan (JM), vice chairman Jeff Peyton-Bruhl (JPB), cllr Charles Reader (CR), cllr Sue Ricketts (SR), Cathy Knott (CK) clerk and five members of the public.

### 01/21 To receive apologies for absence and welcome

All councillors present. The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**02/21 To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the virtual meeting of the parish council held on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020.** It was noted that the following statement on item 161/20d was inaccurate 'It is expected the hall will stay closed now until the new year'. The clerk removed the statement and the minutes were duly approved and virtually signed.

### 03/21 To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda for report only

145/20 – the chairman has had a positive meeting with Lukasz Kulaga, waste and cleansing operations manager at SNC regarding how waste is collected around the Green.

156/20 - further quotes will be requested for a village tree survey.

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

**Action: CE/SB**

### 04/21 To receive declarations of interest related to business on the agenda

None received.

### 05/21 Finance:

- Financial statement
- To note payments received
- To consider invoices to be paid

Account	£
Community	8,673.18
Business Saver	23,108.88
National Savings	5,833.36
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>37,615.42</b>

Receipts since the last meeting	£	VAT £
ECC contribution for mowing expenses	400.00	
Newsletter fee - Bagforce	60.00	
Invoices paid since the last meeting (approved via email on 17.12.20 )		
C. Knott (salary)	540.80	0
HMRC (tax)	5.20	0
C. Knott (expenses incl. annual office allowance & Xmas carols on the Green)	194.29	16.55
Barbara Osborne (PAYE service)	66.00	0
M. Dempsey (mowing Green)	1060.00	0
M. Dempsey (mowing verges)	980.00	0
Estate & Garden Services (Christmas tree on Green)	200.00	40.00
British Gas (Green electric) direct debit	0.39	0
SSE (streetlight electricity) direct debit	94.42	4.71
Linnell Bros Ltd (wood for bollards)	350.00	70.00
Cllr JPB (bollard expenses)	96.03	0
Balfour Beatty (new column and transfer of light -Lawyers Close)	1521.60	304.32
Invoices approved		
C. Knott (salary and HMRC tax)	546.00	0
C. Knott (expenses including bollard expenses)	114.42	7.66

Northants ACRE (annual membership)	35.00	0
Gary Mears, Salix Services (village green bollards)	651.00	0
Media Tribe (website quarterly service charge)	200.00	0
SSE (street light electricity)	109.79	5.48
British Gas (village green electric)	1.70	.08
Linnell Bross Ltd (wood for bollards)	212.60	42.52
Wave (water for allotments)	34.29	0

**d. To receive an update from the internal controls' councillor**

Cllr SB confirmed that he had checked the accounts and there were no discrepancies.

**e. To formally approve the budget and precept for 2021/22**

The budget was agreed and the figure of £23,168 was approved for the precept. This equates to £78.14 per band D property. The clerk will submit a request to SNC and put the information on the village website at:

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

**06/21 To receive updates and recommendations from planning representatives**

S/2020/1438/FUL	Single commercial building providing 3 B1/B8 units with trade counters. Location: land west of Oxford Rd, Evenley	EPC: no objection SNC: consults dispatched
S/2020/1932/FUL	Erection of a new agricultural building and associated works, incl. extension to agricultural farm track and apron hard standing to new building. Location: Hall Farm, 31 The Green, Evenley	EPC: objection SNC: consults dispatched
S/2020/2013/FUL	Double garage. Location: 7 Church Leys, Evenley	EPC: objection <b>SNC: refused</b>
S/2020/2127/FUL	Agricultural building with hard standing adjacent to the building & access of the public highway. Location: land North of Charlton Road, Evenley	EPC: support SNC: more information requested
S/2020/2150/FUL	Removal of planning condition 2 (agricultural occupancy) S/1977/2158/P (agricultural bungalow on 0.092 hectares). Location: Evenley Fields Farmhouse, Charlton Rd, Evenley	EPC: no objection SNC: consults dispatched
S/2021/0022/LDE	certificate of lawfulness for existing use to show that the building works granted under planning S/2015/1981/FUL started and partially completed in the 3 year expiration period. The loft conversion element of the permission was completed in March 2018. Location: 4 Broad Lane	EPC: no objection SNC: consults dispatched

Regarding planning application S/2020/1932/FUL, Hall Farm – cllr JM asked councillors SR and CR their views on the adequacy of the field in terms of pasture for horses. They advised that it would be hopeless for equestrian use as the paddock is too marshy and wet, making it impossible to exercise and the grass would only be suitable for rough grazing at best. The chairman thanked parishioners for their help in gathering information and responding individually.

**07/21 Village Green**

**- to approve a quote for finger signage**

In a bid to declutter the Green of signage cllr JPB has been looking into the possibility of just having one pole with finger signs on (replicating the church sign). He has received a quote from Ward Signs which includes a site survey costing £165+vat. To design and manufacture solid cast aluminum enameled fingers to mount on to an existing post would be: 1 of £775+vat/ 2 of £685+vat each/ 3 of £655+vat each/ 4 of £625+vat each. It was therefore decided this was too expensive to pursue and we will explore other avenues.

**- to receive a report on the bollards**

Cllr JPB advised that after a quote of £1183 was approved at the last meeting (see minute 160/20) and cllr SB confirmed we had funds in place, he requested another quote which came in cheaper allowing us to replace more bollards for less money, and with approval from the chairman and clerk he purchased wood and postcrete and worked alongside Gary Mears to replace twenty of the bollards around the Green that were rotten. They established that more are needed, so cllr JPB has ordered enough wood and postcrete for a further ten bollards (approved in item 05/21 above). This will leave approximately ten bollards to be replaced at a later date. A lot of positive feedback from villagers has been received and we hope it will deter people from parking on the Green.

**- to receive proposals for additional parking signage**

Cllr JPB advised that after meeting with Rupert at Forge Coffee (see item 09/21), we should write to parishioners (using the newsletter) with our proposals.

**Action: JPB**

- **to receive a report on the removal of the rope swing**

After acquiring a better understanding surrounding the legalities of having a rope swing on parish council land, it led to the chairman asking Cllr JPB to remove the rope from the beech tree on the Green earlier this month (and a smaller rope higher up the tree was removed by a resident). The chairman spoke to the children using the rope, explaining the council's position with regards to safety, insurance and litigation.

- **to agree on a date to carry out the weed/moss treatment as agreed with the cricket club**

Cllr SB will chase his contact and the clerk will ask Mickey Dempsey if he could quote for the work. We will try to get a date in the diary ASAP.

**Action: SB/CK**

**08/21 To appoint a police liaison representative to act as a single point of contact with Northamptonshire Police**

The clerk circulated information prior to the meeting and read out the role description. Councillors agreed they'd like further information and the clerk advised she would include it for discussion at the Little Brook ward meeting next week. It was also agreed to include the information in the next newsletter to see if any parishioners would be interested in the role.

**09/21 To receive a summary on Cllr JPB's meeting with Forge Coffee**

Cllr JPB had a very positive meeting with Rupert Rowling in December to discuss parking, litter and signage. Rupert agreed that we should try to discourage residents and other non-shop-customers using the layby's outside the shop (so that they can be kept for shop visitors to use for a limited time only), and was supportive of new signage to this effect. Regarding litter, it was agreed to relocate the SNC bin opposite the shop and to just have the shop bin available for shop waste. Cllr JPB also explained our ideas for finger signage which Rupert supported.

**10/21 To accept councillors reports on the following areas (if there is anything to report):**

- a. **Allotments** (CR) – the clerk has written to the tenants of the untended plot advising that we will cancel their tenancy at the end of March if the plot remains untended (as stated in the attached tenancy agreement section 7 a; to keep the allotment garden clean and in a good state of fertility and cultivation).
- b. **Pocket Park** (CR) – nothing to report.
- c. **Street Lighting** (SB) – Northants Highways are no further forward with the lighting on Broad Lane (adjacent to the chicane). No. 8 streetlight in Lawyers Close is now complete. Please also see item 11/21.
- d. **Village Hall** (JPB) – nothing to report.
- e. **Website** – Media Tribe has carried out various amendments to the site as part of the quarterly service.
- f. **Village Green and Trees** (CE) – Tree stakes are needed on the School Lane Green. Please also see item 07/21.
- g. **Newsletter** (CE) – items for inclusion include shop parking, Police liaison role, standing as a councillor in the forthcoming elections, seek views on whether there is a need for more streetlighting and local government reorganisation information.
- h. **HS2 & Highways** (SB/CE) – please see item 11/21. The chairman advised the footpath is very overgrown on the path running alongside the A43 towards Brackley. Evenley Hall has made a good job of cutting their hedges back, but towards the village it is single file only. The clerk will write to Highways England. **Action: CK**
- i. **Local government reorganisation** – see appendix one.
- j. **St. George's Church** - the church is closed for services until further notice but open for private prayer on Sunday mornings and Wednesday afternoons.

**11/21 Correspondence received**

- Broad Lane flooding issues – residents reported flooding on fix-my-street just before Christmas, which the chairman and clerk followed up with Northants Highways. They have advised that the maintenance team are aware of the issues but it needs capital investment to install a new gully system. Any residents who experienced flooding should report problems to the flood and water management team and complete an online reporting form with as much detail as possible to help them assess the issue fully. Residents can report flooding issues at: <https://www.floodtoolkit.com/emergency/report-flood/>
- Thefts at Aynho allotments – tools were stolen from Aynho allotments on 4<sup>th</sup> January. The clerk circulated an email to Evenley allotment tenants advising them to remove anything valuable from the sheds and sent details to be circulated via neighbourhood watch.
- Following a request for a new streetlight on the corner of Church Lane in 2019, progress has been made to cut back the hedge to allow more light through. Unfortunately, it is still very dark on the corner and the resident has asked if we could carry out a feasibility study to look at potential power sources for a new light. Cllr SB advised costings would be between £2500 - £3000 and councillors discussed the issues that could arise as a result. It was agreed to put an item in the newsletter asking for villagers' views.

- A resident on Church Lane has requested we relocate and renew the grit bin located opposite the allotments as it is broken. The chairman has spoken to the resident who agreed it is probably better left in its current location but we will look into replacing it. Cllr SR asked if the old one could be located off Charlton Road as previously discussed. She will ask permission from the landowner. **Action: CK/SR**
- Forge Coffee and Post Office is back open on reduced hours – this has been circulated via the village email and is on Facebook.
- West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) draft budget consultation – information sent out via village email and Facebook. Individual responses can be submitted at: <https://futurenorthants.citizenspace.com/west/budget-2021-2022>. The deadline is 02.02.2021.

#### **12/21 Councillor questions**

Cllr JM requested that the council write to the children about the removal of the rope swing. The chairman advised that as she had already spoken to them, this wasn't necessary.

#### **13/21 Public Participation session (members of the public are invited to address the council through the chairman)**

No comments received.

#### **14/21 Close**

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

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

**The next virtual meeting will be held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 7.30 pm**

**Signed: Cathy Ellis**

**Dated: 15.02.2021**