



Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at Evenley Village Hall, on Monday 4th December 2017 at 7:30pm

Present: Mike Baul (MB), Spencer Burnham (SB), Cathy Ellis (CE), Jean Morgan (JM), Jeff Peyton-Bruhl (JPB) & Cathy Knott (CK), Clerk and 6 members of the public

126/17 Apologies and welcome

Apologies were received from Cllr Nic Hamblin (NH). Chair CE welcomed everyone to the meeting.

127/17 To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the meeting of the parish council held on 6th November 2017.

Two minor amendments were made before being approved and signed.

128/17 To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda for report only

115/17 - It is possible to link a chargeable battery using electricity from a streetlight to charge a sign.

It was agreed to look into costs.

Action: CK

118/17 - Community Assets - Cllr JM & CK will contact the landowners in parallel with preparing an application

Action: CK/JM

121/17 - Chair CE has asked Cllr NH to take photographs of Evenley Roads.

Action: NH

129/17 To receive declarations of interest related to business on the agenda

None received.

130/17 Finance

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

Account	Balances as at 27.11.17
Community	£12,224.20
Business Saver	£16,135.63
National Savings	£ 5,718.44
TOTAL	£34,078.27
RECEIPTS since 06.11.2017	£
Allotment rent (Foster & Edwards)	39.53
Allotment rent (Bell x 2 years)	75.40
Dickens (advertising in newsletter x2)	60.00
Allotment rent (Hamlin half plot)	23.40
PAYMENTS since 06.11.2017	
Cricket Club	825.00
INVOICES FOR PAYMENT	
C. Knott (Nov salary & expenses)	497.50
Aylesbury Mains Ltd (Streetlight maintenance)	185.28
Texprep (speed watch cards)	38.40

Suffolk Association of Local Councils (LCAS)	60.00
M Dempsey (mowing) *	1655.00
Evenley VH	62.50

*Cllr MB advised on the invoice received for mowing services; the invoice was for £1730.00 but one cut (for £75.00) was duplicated with the Cricket Club's invoice. It was agreed to remove this cut. Because three cuts totaling £235.00 were from the previous year, Cllr MB proposed that funds should come out of the tree maintenance budget this year. All Councillors were in agreement. CK will clarify issues with the contractor. **Action: CK**

d. To receive an update from the Internal Controls Councillor

Cllr 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 23.10.17

The forecast planned spend remains within our precept budget limits.

e. To consider the draft budget 2018/19 and discuss reallocation of ringfenced funds

The draft budget was circulated and shown on the big screen. There is a proposed increase of 3.3% (a rise of £1.97 on a band D property). Cllr MB advised these are currently estimated values as we haven't yet received the tax base figure. Additional costs will depend on funds in the bank at the end of the current financial year.

Regarding electricity, CK & Cllr SB will contact EoN to clarify that costs will reduce as more economical fittings in streetlights are changed.

Action: CK/SB

All councillors agreed on the draft budget. Chair CE will put a piece in the Winter newsletter asking for any comments or questions to be directed to the clerk.

131/17 To receive updates and recommendations from planning representatives

Cllr JPB provided a summary of the planning applications outstanding and of the latest one received for a single storey extension to Parsons House, Charlton Road. He has visited the property and proposed no objection to the plans.

132/17 Report back on the outcome of the Clerk's Annual Appraisal

Chair CE reported that she, Cllr JPB and CK had met on 27st November for the clerk's appraisal and notes had been circulated to councillors.

133/17 To formally accept EVHMC Deed of Trust

Cllr JM asked for it to be noted that nine elected members had been reduced to six with no current vacancies.

Chair CE advised that these matters were for the village hall committee to decide upon and not for the parish council to interfere. Evenley Parish Council was pleased to receive the updated Deed of Trust from the village hall committee.

134/17 Co -option – to consider applications from interested parties

Chair CE reported that four good strong candidates had been interviewed. One candidate removed herself for personal reasons but has kindly agreed to take on the role of Flag Warden. CE thanked her.

Chair CE proposed to co-opt Charles Reader onto the council and all councillors were in agreement. It is hoped the other interested parties will become involved with the council in other ways.

135/17 To update the Standing Orders and approve and adopt the latest Financial Regulations

Following comments from SALC (who are judging the criteria for the Local Council Award Scheme), it was agreed to update the Standing Orders and to adopt the latest Financial Regulations.

136/17 To accept councillors reports on the following areas:

A Allotments (NH) Cllr NH sent in a report which CK read out along with her own notes. All rent has now been received for the year except for one plot, which will have the tenancy removed if payment is not received by 08.12.17. Three potential candidates have been contacted and contact details for current tenants have been checked. Cllr NH has drafted a new agreement which is awaiting a response from NCALC. Cllr NH proposed to re-measure the plots and agree new rates for 2018. All councillors were in agreement and it was agreed to source more information in readiness for the next meeting in January.

B Pocket Park (NH) Nothing to report at this time.

C Street lights (SB) Cllr SB reported that he had received the figures for replacing all lamps with modern fixings, so is now able to apply for funding. He has spoken with Danny Moody (Chief Executive, NCALC) regarding a Public Works Loan Board (PWLB). It was resolved to seek the Secretary of State's approval for the proposed borrowing in the first instance. CK will contact Danny to determine whether the council will still be exempt from external audit fees if outgoings go over the £25,000.00 threshold. **Action: CK/SB**

Cllr SB is also looking into other funding streams to replace the streetlights. He advised the Hs2 Community Fund does not look promising.

All outstanding repairs are now complete to lights reported.

Lights 7 & 8 in Lawyers Close will be replaced towards the end of January/February and work is imminent for lights 3 & 4 in Church Leys to be replaced. It is important for the works to be completed and the invoices paid within the current financial year.

It was noted that several lights in the village can barely be seen due to overgrown vegetation. It was agreed that the clerk should write to homeowners requesting them to trim around the lights. **Action: CK**

D Village Hall (JPB) Chair CE reported that an oblong planter has been agreed by the committee, to be placed outside the village hall (using the Best Village monies). Exact location to be advised. Cllr MB will ask Evenley Resident's Association (ERA) for a plaque.

Chair CE raised concerns over the funding for Christmas lights in the hallway of the village hall, advising that Joyce Stevens had had to apply to the Co-op for a grant. She asked why the funds couldn't have come from Evenley Matters (EM).

E Website (MB) Chair CE asked if information for up and coming village events could be shown on the homepage. Cllr MB advised that one of the boxes could be used for this purpose. **Action: CK**

F Village Green and Trees Cllr JM asked for permission for a cricket match to be held against the Base on Sunday 26th August 2018, as this year's fixture was so successful. All councillors were in agreement. Chair CE advised that she'd received a lovely letter thanking Evenley for a great day and passed on her thanks to the organisers.

G Newsletter (CE) Chair CE advised she is halfway through the Winter edition which will be published next week.

H Hs2 & Highways (SB) Cllr SB advised the next liaison group meeting will be held this Friday with Groundwork giving a presentation and Q&A session. Cllr MB will put a link on the website to make it easier to find Hs2 information. Cllr SB is waiting on a response from Highways regarding costs associated with the necessary drawings/specifications needed for the chicane (traffic calming) in order to progress with funding. Cllr SB reported that he has chased Highways again concerning the safety of the roundabout and has asked for confirmation on the number of incidents. It was agreed to get as much information together as possible to start a campaign. CK will put on January's agenda and Chair CE will put an item in the newsletter.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Charles Reader advised that the Barley roundabout was also very dangerous with speeding a real problem.

STANDING ORDERS REINSTATED

137/17 Correspondence received

A letter of resignation has been received from Kevin O'Regan as Evenley Arts Coordinator. Chair CE thanked Kevin for the enormous amount of work he has put into this role. Councillors all agreed that he should be congratulated as he has brought a lot of outsiders to our lovely village, rather than be downbeat about the lack of Evenley residents engaging in his events. Chair CE will put a piece in the Winter newsletter.

An email has been received from Alan Thornhill regarding issues around the allotments. CK will respond.

Letter received from the Chair, Brackley Library Strategy Group asking for EPC to make representation to the County Council to urge the retention of Brackley Library as the Community Resource Centre for our area. CK & Cllr JM will write a letter of response.

November's NCALC update included an item "How to be a good councillor" which Chair CE read out.

138/17 Councillor questions

None received

139/17 Public Participation session (Members of the public are invited to address the council through the chairman)

One resident advised of a gentleman being killed on the bypass last week near the Barley Mow roundabout.

One resident raised concerns with Helen Howard at the Annual Parish Meeting regarding Charlton Road. Helen advised they would be performing an assessment and report but nothing has been heard since. Chair CE advised that perhaps Highways should talk to Bagforce and Hydramex and ask them to trim back the vegetation. Cllr SB agreed to ask Helen.

One resident advised that the A43 is at its maximum capacity so no Hs2 traffic would be allowed to use it.

He advised the only answer to the roundabouts safety would be installing traffic lights.
One resident asked what type of light bulbs would be used on replacement streetlights, advising that LED's can affect the ecology of the moth. Cllr SB and CK advised that they would not be using LED's.
One resident asked if Highways had found out who the caravan belonged to in School Close. CK advised that they were canvassing residents and if no-one comes forward the caravan would be towed away.

140/17 Close

The meeting closed at 9.20 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.