



**EVENLEY**  
PARISH COUNCIL

www.evenleypc.org.uk

**Minutes of the meeting held at Evenley Village Hall, on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at 7:30pm**

Present: Mike Baul (MB), Spencer Burnham (SB), Cathy Ellis (CE) Vice Chair, Nic Hamblin (NH), Jean Morgan (JM) Chair, Jeff Peyton-Bruhl (JPB), Cathy Knott (CK) Clerk and 8 members of the public.

**32/16 Apologies and welcome**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Lisa Proffitt.

**33/16 Declarations of interests**

MB, JM & NH are members of ERA and Evenley Matters.

**34/16 To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2016** The minutes were agreed and signed.

**35/16 Public Participation session**

Derek Haynes asked to discuss a letter he had sent the Parish Council in July. The clerk informed him this would be covered under item 43.

Stevie Haynes asked why there aren't any dog bins in Evenley. CE advised that the costs had been investigated last year and they were quite high to fit and maintain. JM asked the clerk to look into it again and bring costings to the next meeting. We could also look at signage and whether it is acceptable to put dog waste in the litter bins. **Action: CK**

Richard Gibbons advised that he has been exchanging emails since the last meeting regarding the SNC Local Plan Part 2a. He asked for clarification on the following matters:

- Why did it take EPC so long to consult residents on their views?

JM responded. The local planning authority is SNC who had a statutory period of consultation which individuals could respond to over a three month period, including parish councils.

It was also stated in the minutes of 13.06.16 *that any individuals still wishing to make comments directly to SNC on the Northamptonshire Local Plan Part 2a: Housing Options Consultation Paper, can still do so: the closing date is Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June at 5.00 pm.*

SNC are currently looking at development options not planning applications and it is still in the early stages. The next stage will be November – December.

- What is the correct figure of dwellings EPC support on the land behind the Red Lion?

JM responded. As you know I apologised unreservedly for the error on the letter sent out to residents. However, it is not our job to estimate on numbers. SNC professionals will look at this; that is what the consultation is all about. In our response to SNC, the Parish Council stated that *EPC feel that the 10% recommended by SNC is too high. We have therefore agreed on the figure of 5% (12 dwellings).*

- Regarding the Broad Lane site, why did EPC state 80-100 properties when the landowner is happy for 16 properties?

JM responded. Once a development starts on a site, it is very hard to resist more dwellings. It is unrealistic for a whole field to have just 16 houses built on it over the next 20-30 years. The site was put forward by the landowners in 2014 and although only a small development is envisaged, the whole field is included on a plan available online. The majority of comments received during the consultation were that this would overwhelm the village. It is the parish council's responsibility to make sure this does not happen.

CE asked Mr Gibbons what resolution he was hoping to achieve. He replied that he'd like complete honesty with regards to the site behind the Red Lion and for the PC to withdraw their support for any

development with SNC. JM advised that the comments made to SNC were clear; it is now up to the professional planners. SNC are aware of the errors made and EPC have been completely transparent. JM advised Mr Gibbons that the PC would formally write to him in response to his letter.

**Action: JM/CK**

Virginia Crowe asked if the parish council were still supporting the Red Lion development in view of the flawed consultation? She also advised that many people aren't aware of the village boundaries and where to find them.

JM advised that in the extraordinary minutes dated 13<sup>th</sup> June 2016, EPC states that:

*This site has been put forward by the land owners (1.6 hectares) for a small development. The general view is positive if access and parking constraints can be overcome. It is close to the village centre and local facilities (so improving their viability) and it could include pedestrian access to the pocket park, making it more accessible.*

Regarding the village boundaries, these were available on the notice board and in the village shop during the consultation time.

JM thanked all participants for their contributions.

### 36/16 Matters Arising

CK has asked E.ON to commence works to the village hall light and to replace the streetlight opposite the Red Lion with a decorative LED lantern. E.ON have ordered the new light and advise that works will be carried out within the next few weeks. CK has started a photographic survey of all streetlights in Evenley.

Letters have been written to Tony Stevens (thanking him for the village hall accounts and evidence of insurance) and Jacky Alder (congratulating her on becoming chair).

CK has contacted Mr Dempsey to ask for a quote on weed removal in Evenley.

CK has written to highways regarding flooding along Broad Lane.

### 37/16 Finance

- a) Financial statement – balances were agreed.
- b) Payments received – N/A
- c) Approval of invoices for payment - invoices were proposed and agreed to be paid.

Account	Balances as at 31.08.16
Community	£3328.56
Business Saver	£16094.30
National Savings	£5684.29
TOTAL	£25,107.15

### Payments

01/08/2016	E.ON	Streetlight maintenance	160.55
01/08/2016	TWN Traffic Control System	Radar unit	737.10
01/08/2016	Jean Morgan	Payment for 2 deliveries	30.00
01/08/2016	Cathy Knott	Salary (July + overtime)	615.50
01/08/2016	Cathy Knott	July expenses & travel	25.20
18/08/2016	Media Tribe	Booking system/website	300.00
18/08/2016	Evenley Village Hall	Hire of hall	46.50
31/08/2016	Cathy Knott	August Salary	374.00
31/08/2016	Cathy Knott	August expenses & travel	10.80
05/09/2016	M Dempsey	Mowing	880.00

### Receipts

N/A

### **38/16 Adoption of Complaints Policy**

The Clerk circulated a draft copy of the policy via email. It was decided to make one amendment detailing who to contact if a complaint cannot be resolved and the complainant wishes to take the matter further. All Councillors agreed to adopt the policy once the amendment had been made.

### **39/16 Tree Survey**

CE has carried out a survey of the trees and reports that the trees in Evenley are magnificent and add massively to the character and beauty of our village. Alex Watson of Cotefield Treecare, who inspected the trees with me reports that overall the trees are in good order and have been well maintained in the past. To avoid unforeseen costs in the future however, I believe we need an on-going programme of care and maintenance and we should consider adding to our collection to ensure future villagers enjoy a similar environment. The two cherries on the small green in School Lane are poor specimens, badly situated. Cherries are short-lived trees and not recommended for municipal planting. We should either remove these and start again, with semi-mature trees or wait and watch and budget for the next three years. The rest of School Lane is devoid of trees and is an area we should consider adding to. JM advised that this land belongs to South Northants Homes so we would need to check with them before we carried out any works and we could also explore the scope of taking over responsibility of the verge. JPB added that we should consult villagers on their thoughts before going ahead with any planting.

CE recommends we undertake some immediate work - one day of commercial tree surgery this year will put us back on track - and budget for the future for a similar amount of work each year. She also recommends we look at a planting scheme for School Lane, perhaps applying to Evenley Matters for some funding. An amendment to the budget (maximum spend of £500.00) was agreed.

**Action: CE/CK**

### **40/16 Councillor reports:**

#### **a. Allotments (LP)**

NH reported on behalf of LP. When we advertised in Evenley for people to take up vacant plots on the allotments in May of this year, there were two half plots available. Advertisements were posted on the village notice board, village website, in the village newsletter and on the Evenley Facebook page. One of the vacant plots was taken up but unfortunately at the same time, Arthur, our allotment warden, decided that he had to give up half of his plot, which meant that we were no further forward. There are still two half plots available.

As a result, we got in touch with the Brackley Allotment Association and they are excited by the prospect of helping us find new tenants. On Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September at 10.00 am, Geoff Wilkins (the Association Chairman) and Mike Cook (Secretary) are meeting Lisa and myself at the allotments to discuss plot allocation.

It is unfortunate that there are no Evenley residents who feel able to take on a plot but we are very well aware of parishioners concern about these plots and we are sure that in this circumstance, we have to look at a wider catchment. The important thing after all, is to keep the allotments flourishing. JPB asked if it was the PC's obligation to clear the plot of weeds before renting it out. LP & NH will discuss this at the meeting with Brackley Allotment Association.

**Action: LP/NH**

#### **b. Pocket Park (NH)**

NH has been in conversation with the Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire Wildlife Trust to discuss arrangements for conducting a survey of the pocket park. As well as looking at pathways, the grassland and forestry, the survey will suggest new ways of encouraging wildlife. The pocket park is a natural habitat for an indigenous and rare white butterfly, muntjac deer and grass snakes. Our survey may involve the Wildlife Trust or an outside agency. I am currently awaiting a telephone call from their conservation department.

I have yet to discuss costs, but once I have all the necessary information I will produce a budget. Potentially, financial contributions could be made by us, Evenley Parish Council and an application could be made to Evenley Matters. If necessary, perhaps a fundraising event could be arranged. I will also be talking to The Friends of the Pocket Park and listening to any advice they might have.

We have previously discussed creating an outside gym and recently, parishioners have suggested a permanent table tennis table and a BBQ to me. All of these suggestions will be considered and outlined in my proposal.

The RSPB hold an annual big wild sseep-out, where families camp out and monitor how many species of birds and animals they can spot from dusk to dawn. This is a tangible event that we can promote and work towards.

CE advised that we need to be aware of the badger set as this mustn't be disturbed.

**c. Street Lighting (SB) + info from the Clerk**

See item 36/16 Matters arising. SB has also noted the state of some of the lights in Evenley. Many are overgrown with vegetation and some are very old and in a bad state of repair.

It was decided to find out who is responsible for clearing the vegetation and to action this. SP and CK will liaise over the survey and get a plan to go forward. We will need to put money aside for this in the next budget.

**Action: SB/CK**

**d. Village Hall (JPB)**

JPB has had a brief meeting with Jacky Alder (Chair EVHC). She is frustrated that they are no further forward with quotes for maintenance works but patching works have been carried out to prevent further water ingress until a proper job is done.

Jacky is keen to develop the hall to encourage a greater audience and take on bigger events such as wedding receptions. Ideas are to take some of the car park to make an outside garden/seating area. The rest of the car park would then be lined to diminish careless/thoughtless parking. She would also like to turn the garage into a small meeting room with windows. She has a family member in the development business and is hoping to get plans drawn up for little or no cost.

JPB has indicated his willingness to support her in any way he legally can to help drive through repairs and changes and thinks the parish council should also support her and the committee.

JM advised that we would. We now have the grant awarding policy to help with costings. CE advised that she should contact WREN (a landfill communities' fund) as the opportunity will be ending soon.

It was decided to write to Jacky offering our support, advising that if they are eligible for a grant, the PC may be able to help with match funding.

**Action: JM/CK**

**e. Website planning (MB)**

MB advised that the site is now live and is for the whole village so if you would like to promote a club or event, please let us know ([clerk@evenleypc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@evenleypc.org.uk) or [m.baul@evenleypc.org.uk](mailto:m.baul@evenleypc.org.uk)). Parish councillors have new email addresses that will be set up for use by the end of September and which can be found on the website.

The existing parish council Facebook page (which has 50 members) is tied to Mike Boshier, who would like to delete the account. MB proposed to delete the account and notify the members, inviting them to join "Evenley Residents Association & EVENLEY MATTERS" Facebook page instead. The parish council will still be able to promote PC affairs through this. All councillors were happy with this suggestion and approval was given.

JM thanked MB for all his work and time he has put into the website. CE suggested launching the site.

**f. Village Green and Trees (CE & SB)**

See item 39/16. CE reported that everyone was enjoying the new picnic bench and asked about the possibility of purchasing another one. MB advised that there we can't this year as we don't have the funds, but we could ask the Cricket Club if they would like to purchase it, as they are regular users of The Green.

**g. Newsletter (CE)**

CE is hoping to get the newsletter out in the next couple of weeks. Please let her have any items you would like to be included ([cathy364@btinternet.com](mailto:cathy364@btinternet.com)). JM asked if we could have a piece about being a considerate villager which would cover speeding, parking, being a responsible dog owner and being a good neighbour.

CE advised there are approximately 35 outlying properties to deliver to which is too much for Steve's family on top of all the Evenley properties. Delivery costs are currently £15.00 each time. It was decided to look into the possibility of posting them or asking Steve's family or another volunteer to deliver these for a similar fee.

**Action: JM/CE**

**41/16 Planning notices**

S/2016/1567/FUL	Single storey rear extension (retrospective) Location: The Barn, Church Lane, Evenley	EPC comments were submitted on 22.07.16. <b>Approved by SNC</b>
S/2016/1645/MAF	Hybrid application seeking full planning permissions for admin building, car park, screening bund, landscaping & ancillary development works. Outline planning application seeking approval with all matters reserved for dormitory, fitness centre, shop, substation, extensions to post office & child development centre and other associated development (incl. demolition). Location: RAF Croughton	EPC comments were submitted on 08.08.16 <b>SNC site visit complete by case officer</b>

S/2016/2025/TCA	Fell 4 overgrown Leylandii trees along fence in back garden. Location: Mixley House, Mixbury Road, Evenley	<b>For information only</b>
S/2016/1844/FUL	Single Storey front extension, 2 storey front & side extension & new windows, part demolition of existing cottage. Location: Astwick Farm Cottages, Buckingham Road, Evenley.	A decision of no objection was submitted on 25.08.16 <b>SNC site visit complete by case officer</b>

#### **42/16 Correspondence received**

Letter from Mr Haynes regarding the SNC Local Plan Part 2a Consultation:

As Mr Haynes' letter covers a lot of the same points Mr Gibbons brought up in item 35/16, it was decided to write in response to both Mr Haynes and Mr Gibbons. **Action: JM/CK**

Regarding Mr Haynes' notes on the discussion after the meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> July, JM advised him that these could not form part of a formal record as only minutes are an official record of the council's proceedings: (Local Government Act 1972 (LGA72), Schedule 12, section 41).

The clerk has received information about risk assessment training with NCALC. Currently the course is booked but it is hoped another course will soon become available. JPB, NH, LP and CK would like to attend training.

Alan Thornhill has emailed to advise the paving slabs around the war memorial have not been levelled or replaced yet.

JM and CE advised that this isn't a priority. People should not be walking on the slabs and they will need to be replaced with real stone eventually. There is no money in the budget at the moment for this.

An invitation to a Quiz Night has been received from RAF Croughton. This will take place on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September at The Crown, Croughton.

Village Soup Lunches - Carrie O'Regan is promoting this event which is held at Evenley Village Hall on the second Tuesday of every month, except August, from 12:00 noon to 1:15 pm at a cost of £1.50. If you would like further information please contact Carrie on [carrioregan1@btinternet.com](mailto:carrioregan1@btinternet.com)

Heather Howells has asked if EPC could facilitate a list of First Aiders people could call upon in the village.

The clerk has looked into this and it was decided to find out who would be willing to be on a list (which would be kept in the shop and on the notice board) via the newsletter. **Action: CE**

#### **43/16 Councillor Questions**

JM thanked the ERA (and all involved in organising and who mucked in) for facilitating the Fete on Saturday. It was a really great community day despite the weather and raised £3,500.00 profit.

CE advised that the footpath in Puddleduck is impassable at the moment. JM asked the clerk to chase the Community Enhancement Gang about this. **Action: CK**

CE asked if E.ON were any closer to putting electric on The Green. The clerk will chase. **Action: CK**

NH and CE will liaise over planting bulbs on The Green. The budget for this has already been approved - £350.00 from Evenley Matters. **Action: CE/NH**

**The meeting closed at 21:10**