



**EVENLEY**  
PARISH COUNCIL

www.evenleypc.org.uk

## **Minutes of the meeting held at Evenley Village Hall, on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at 7:30pm**

Present: Mike Baul (MB), Spencer Burnham (SB), Cathy Ellis (CE) Vice Chair, Nic Hamblin (NH), Jeff Peyton-Bruhl (JPB), Lisa Proffitt (LP), Cathy Knott (CK) Clerk and 15 members of the public.

### **16/17 Apologies and welcome**

Apologies received from Jean Morgan (JM) Chair. CE welcomed everyone and chaired the meeting. NH read out a statement regarding the previous meeting.

### **17/17 Declarations of interests**

SB for planning application S/2017/0498/FUL

### **18/17 To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2017.**

Amendment to item 8/17. The minutes were agreed and signed.

### **19/17 Public Participation session**

Kevin O'Regan voiced his concerns over the format of the Annual Parish Meeting in April and advised on the importance of raising issues with the parish council. He also thought it was unwise and unnecessary to have made such a big increase to the precept, and asked why the council don't have an action plan.

CE advised Kevin that the format of the Annual Parish Meeting will be discussed under item 23/17. Regarding the precept, CE responded that it had been necessary to increase areas in the budget in order to protect EPC's assets going forward. The Strategic Plan is EPC's action plan and works well. It is updated annually and clearly measures the council's performance.

Paul Crompton advised that his rates have increased hugely but as long as he can see an investment in the village he is content. He urged the council to spend money on visible items to make Evenley more attractive (especially to families) such as more picnic benches on The Green and to smarten the whole village up.

CE agreed with Paul's comments and advised that we would be having more picnic benches, we have planted bulbs that are now shooting up and Evenley Matters are funding planters at the two entrances to the village. CE advised we are also looking into purchasing a welcome sign. She said we are doing our best, but because the precept has not increased for more than ten years there hasn't been money to spend on these types of items. Going forward, we hope to rectify this.

Stevie Haynes had concerns that not all groups were making use of the village website and asked if 'alerts' could be set up to remind people of events. CE advised that EPC are not aware of all the groups in Evenley but would put something in the next newsletter asking them to contact the clerk if they would like details put on the website. MB advised that 'alerts' had not been implemented yet because of budget restraints. However, if there is a demand for it we can look again at the budget for the new financial year and consider it. JPB advised that not everyone uses the internet and we should look at better communication in general. He said the village turnout at events is disappointing. Alex Crisp had queries and concerns over the precept increase and thought the figures in the January meeting minutes were wrong. He also asked about funds for the village hall and the council's accounts in general.

CE responded that we will never move forward if we don't maintain and improve our assets and those who opposed the precept increase were a very small minority. She went on to say EPC still support the village hall through the donation policy.

Richard Gibbons asked if the parish council could confirm support of village confines being proposed by SNC.

CE responded that the council were asked for its view, which was given in June 2016 and which will be debated this June. She advised that EPC are not a planning authority.

### **20/17 Matters Arising**

The dangers of walking dogs off lead has been put in the newsletter.

CK has written to NCC Highways asking for a long-term plan for drainage before it affects Church Leys (see item 25/17)

CK has written to highways requesting an update on the safety of Evenley roundabout (see item 28/17). They have responded to advise that the roundabout is ranked as number 44 on the Problem Junctions list so there is a possibility that a study at the junction will be carried out. The allotment well has now been capped.

## 21/17 Finance

### a. Financial statement

Account	Balances as at 20.02.17
Community	£ 4,172.22
Business Saver	£16,249.15
National Savings	£ 5,718.44
TOTAL	£27,513.72

### b. Payments received

N/A

### c. Approval of invoices for payment

09.02.2017	CW Landscapes (well on allotment)	440.00
27.01.2017	Cathy Knott (Feb salary)	489.00
27.01.2017	Cathy Knott (expenses)	64.39
27.01.2017	Aylesbury Main Ltd (streetlight survey/testing)	1,180.20
27.01.2017	Cotefield Treecare	596.40

## 22/17 Approve Strategic Plan updates

The Strategic Plan was projected onto the big screen and CE went through each section of the document. All updates were discussed and approved. She advised this clearly shows EPC is meeting its targets. The plan works well to measure performance and outcomes.

### SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Paul Crompton asked if EPC could send him the flag artwork.

**Action: CK**

### STANDING ORDERS REINSTATED

## 23/17 Annual Parish Meeting 2017

It was agreed that this year's meeting should be a structured but informal meeting with reports being read by various members of groups and the council, following an agenda. After each report, there should be an opportunity for the public to ask questions. Refreshments will be provided after the meeting. It was agreed to send individual invitations to all villagers (printing budget up to £50.00).

Discussions ensued about public speaking at a normal meeting of the council. Several councillors felt that the public participation session should be moved in order that the public have a chance to speak later on in a meeting.

### SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

CE asked the public what their thoughts were. They advised that they would prefer the public participation session to be at the end of the meeting rather than the beginning.

### STANDING ORDERS REINSTATED

JPB proposed that the public participation session be held at the end of future meetings, using the same structure with a possible extension to the 3 minute allowance for an individual contribution (if time allows). NH seconded. NH proposed to amend the Standing Orders. JBB seconded.

CK advised that we could try this new format and if it didn't work, we could move it back.

**Action: CK**

## 24/17 SNC Community Grants application for street lighting

CK reported that EPC is able to apply for funding through South Northamptonshire Council's New Homes Community Grant. She has liaised with Aylesbury Mains Ltd to gather the information needed.

Replacement of 37 internal fittings would cost in the region of £3,220.00.

It was agreed that CK should also ask for funding towards posts and lanterns.

All councillors were in agreement with the application.

**Action: CK**

## 25/17 Broad Lane flooding issues

NCC Highways have carried out a full survey to establish what systems are in place for drainage on Broad Lane. They jetted the gullies outside house numbers 42, 36, and 26 and found that they are not connected to a system but have soakaways that discharge into nearby verges. The gully outside number 18 is connected to a system that runs down and connects to the first gully near number 1 Church Leys. A works order has therefore been proposed to carry out reshaping of the road outside number 20 which will move any water into the gully near number 18, or installation of an additional gully outside number 20 and connect it to the gully outside number 18. There will be a road closure for this work, details to follow.

## 26/17 Councillor reports:

### a. Allotments (LP)

LP reported that the well has now been capped. There are still one and a half plots empty. LP will ask the Gardening Society if they would like to make use of them. **Action: LP**

### b. Pocket Park (NH)

NH thanked the Friends of Pocket Park Committee for their continued hard work in managing the park. They work tirelessly behind the scenes to maintain what is a very important part of our community. He hopes to thank the committee in person and is in the process of setting up a meeting as their liaison with the parish council. NB has gone through the electronic parish archives and has been left with a number of questions he would like to clarify with the committee, to further understand their and to discover how the parish council can support them. NB reported that as well as the Wildlife Trust coming to do a full wildlife survey in June this year, he has been approached by Steve Whitbread from the Northamptonshire Biodiversity Records Centre who would like to include Evenley Common as part of a survey they are conducting of a number of the county's local wildlife sites between Spring 2017 and Winter 2018/19. Their intention is to improve comparisons with adjoining counties and information gathered will be added to the Northants database.

NH added that it is hugely important to keep the Pocket Park viable. He would like to see it used more by local families as a place to get excited about wildlife and nature. The Friends have organised a Tidy Up Day on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March starting at 10:00 am. Details are on the website, the village notice board, the village shop and in the pub.

### c. Street Lighting (SB)

Covered in item 24/17.

### d. Village Hall (JPB)

JPB has received a first draft of the committee's five-year plan and has responded with comments. He said it was a good, well thought through document. The committee meet again in April when villagers will be invited to make comments to the plan. JPB advised that members of the parish council are meeting with Northants ACRE on 7<sup>th</sup> March to seek advice on how best to establish a good relationship with the village hall committee and to discuss how the parish council can support the committee in its long term aspirations for the village hall. The committee will also be meeting with ACRE at a later date.

### e. Website (MB)

MB will look into setting up 'alerts' on the website (following the comment in the public participation session). He urged any groups/organisations to send their details to the clerk for inclusion on the website and we will try to accommodate them.

### f. Village Green and Trees (CE)

CE reported that the daffodils are coming up now around The Green and the trees have been lopped. She and SB have picnic tables they can donate and she will apply to Evenley Matters for one.

CE asked if there was any further information regarding the green area on School Lane. CK advised that the land is owned by South Northants Homes who may be willing to transfer the land to the parish council.

CE advised that the council would consult with residents regarding planting in that area.

### g. Newsletter (CE)

CE advised that the latest edition of the newsletter will be published by the end of the week. The next one will be in May. She is in the process of updating an editorial policy which the council will adopt.

## 27/17 Planning updates

S/2017/0073/FUL	Variation of condition 5 S/2016/1844/FUL to use natural roofing slates  Location Astwick Farm Cottages Buckingham Road	SNC Status: Site Visit Complete by case officer
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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  SNC Status: Awaiting committee meeting
S/2016/3178/FUL	Extend and convert an existing bungalow into two properties. Demolish the existing double garage and to build a replacement in a different location on the site. Location 5 Rudgeway Evenley NN13 5RQ	SNC approval given
S/2016/2995/LBC	Double garage with room over in the eaves- replacing existing boiler room. Single storey kitchen extension in situ in location of a former part to the dwelling. Finch Cottage 24 The Green Evenley NN13 5SQ	SNC approval given
S/2017/0431/TCA	The felling & removal of 3 Conifer trees  Druids Heron 38A The Green Evenley NN13 5S	For information only

### Planning applications

S/2017/0434/FUL	2 storey side extension with single storey front & rear extension, detached double garage Location The Gatehouse 25 Church Lane Evenley NN13 5SG	EPC have no objection.
S/2017/0498/FUL	Proposed open sided barn. Location Beechwood House Church Lane Evenley NN13 5SG	EPC have no objection.

### 28/17 Correspondence received

Email received from Mr Tabb regarding a dredging and bank stabilisation project which has recently been completed at the Barn. This has been responded to.

Email received from Charles Woodgate regarding the crime report. This has been responded to.

Resignation letter received from Eric Millard for the post of village correspondent. CE has responded and thanked Eric for all his work.

A request for a pre-application meeting from Kim Golding has been received. CE advised that the council has sought advice on how best to respond. The advice states that it is common practice for parish councils to be involved as they may be able to influence the plans to reflect majority views of the residents affected and minimise impact on the village.

### SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Paul Crompton advised that he was indirectly affected by this and would like a councillor(s) to attend a meeting. Richard Gibbons expressed his concerns that there is a danger to a meeting whereby the council could be drawn in to opinions. It would be better if the developers sent their plans in on paper for discussions to take place when parishioners could be involved.

### STANDING ORDERS REINSTATED

CE advised that the meeting should be looked at as a fact-finding mission to gain as much information as possible. She proposed that the meeting should go ahead following set guidelines and the clerk would take minutes, which would be published. MB seconded the proposal.

### 29/17 Councillor Questions

MB clarified a comment made in item 19/17 by Alex Crisp and advised that the figures were correct for a Band D property; however, he could see where the confusion lay and proposed to amend the January minutes (item 8/17) to make it easier to understand:

*"Evenley's assets are now in need of considerable investment and in order to do this the precept in total will need to rise by 43% to generate the revenue needed. This equates to 33% Band D increase (around 15p per person per week)".*

All councillors agreed with the amendment.

### **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

Alex Crisp advised he was happy with this clarification.

### **STANDING ORDERS REINSTATED**

MB added that the council is looking into additional funding to tackle issues in Evenley such as traffic management and streetlighting (through grants). Although the accounts show reserves of £27,000.00, these will go down until we receive the next precept payment. He advised that it is a mandate that the council holds at least one years' monies in reserve (as a minimum) in order to be able to function for one year without income.

**The meeting closed at 9.12 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.***