



**EVENLEY**  
PARISH COUNCIL

www.evenleypc.org.uk

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

Present: Mike Baul (MB), Spencer Burnham (SB), Nic Hamblin (NH), Jean Morgan (JM) Chair, Jeff Peyton-Bruhl (JPB), Lisa Proffitt (LP), Cathy Knott (CK) Clerk and 16 members of the public.

**01/17 Apologies and welcome**

Apologies received from Cathy Ellis (CE) Vice Chair

**02/17 Declarations of interests**

None declared.

**03/17 To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2016.**

The minutes were agreed and signed.

**04/17 Public Participation session**

Pat Reeves asked if we had a planning committee. She also raised concerns over increasing holiday lets in the village and asked if the parish council had any influence in controlling this. Another concern of hers was social housing. She advised that she had no objection to social housing in the village but she felt that it would be a good idea for a representative from South Northamptonshire Council (SNC) to come and explain why more social housing is needed. Pat went on to say that she did not agree with the parish council not letting members of the public speak during a meeting as it's difficult to understand some items.

JM responded that approximately ten months ago, there were 15 interruptions during a meeting which completely disrupted the flow for debate/discussion in the meeting. Councillors agreed then to only suspend standing orders if absolutely necessary.

Regarding holiday lets, JM advised that this would be covered in June's SNC local plan consultation.

CK and JPB responded regarding the planning committee, advising that there wasn't a committee but CK had taken on the responsibility for planning until May when a councillor would take over. The applications will now all be put on the notice board. On the village website (evenleypc.org.uk) there is a link to take you to the planning portal where individuals can see or make comments. All applications/plans are discussed by the parish council via email if the date for comments does not coincide with meeting dates.

JM responded to the social housing comment advising that South Northamptonshire Homes are responsible for social housing in Evenley. CK will invite a representative to our Annual Parish Meeting in April.

Bill Edwards asked if the parish council would write a letter on his behalf to Heyfordian Bus company as they had banned him from using their bus 19 months previously. Mr Edwards said Andrea Leadsom MP had already written a letter of support on his behalf.

JM asked why he had been banned from the bus. Mr Edwards replied that it was due to a difference of opinion with the bus driver over comments he had made to a person on the bus talking privately about same sex marriage in Australia. He went on to say this disgusted him and he had every right to make his comments and couldn't see why this had resulted in a ban.

LP responded that the parish council would not be supporting him in writing to Heyfordian on his behalf, as the bus company had every right to ban him for this remark, stating that there is nothing wrong with same sex marriage.

Mr Edwards then started to become verbally abusive resulting in the meeting being suspended at 19:47 and the police being called (incident number: NP20170130-0506). **A crime report was given to the police on 01.02.2017.**

**Copies are available on request from the clerk (clerk@evenleypc.org.uk).**

**The meeting continued at 21:05 and JM apologised for the disruption.**

Richard Gibbons asked if the parish council could confirm support of village confines being proposed by SNC. JM responded that the council were asked by SNC for its view, which was given in June 2016 and which will be debated this June (2017), when there will be an opportunity again for public consultation.

Joyce Stevens asked the council if the ten minutes of public speaking at the start of the meeting could be extended as it was not enough, now more people attended meetings. She said there should be more engagement between the public and the parish council. JM responded that the council would consider this in the future.

Mrs Stevens added that all questions from the floor are directed to the Chair so responses should only come from the Chair. She felt that the second speaker was antagonised because another councillor had responded.

JM advised that it was exceptional circumstances that lead to another councillor's response.

Roy Tabb expressed his concern over parking restrictions around the junction of The Green, Broad Lane and School Lane. JM advised that there would be a highways consultation in the next newsletter, highlighting issues including the corner of Church Lane and The Green, the chicane proposal on Broad Lane along with other proposals and concerns.

### 5/17 Keith Cousins and Timothy Whiteley OBE

JM paid tribute to Keith Cousins and Timothy Whiteley OBE who have both sadly died recently. They both gave exceptional service to the parish council and the community as a whole. JM has contacted their families on behalf of Evenley Parish Council, recognising their service.

### 06/17 Matters Arising

CK has established that there has been no significant increase to the precept in the last ten years.

CK responded to SNC's Conservation Strategy regarding narrow yellow lines in a conservation area.

CK has circulated the Strategic Plan updates for comment. Approval will be deferred until the next meeting.

Meeting dates have been confirmed by SNC regarding the Local Plan. We will arrange a public forum to consider matters after the Planning Policy and Regeneration Strategy Committee have met on 7<sup>th</sup> June, giving everyone the chance to contribute.

NH has met with Matt Johnson from the Wildlife Trust.

Following advice from other parish councils, CK has found a streetlight contractor who has now taken over the maintenance of Evenley's lights from Eon. See item 12/17.

Approval has been gained to carry out works to trees on The Green, School Lane and other areas on 2<sup>nd</sup> February.

### 7/17 Finance

#### a. Financial statement

#### b. Payments received

#### c. Approval of invoices for payment

Account	Balances as at 27.01.17
Community	£ 5,546.13
Business Saver	£16,249.15
National Savings	£ 5,718.44
TOTAL	£27,513.72

#### payments

30/01/2017	E.ON	Electricity for street lighting	368.55
30/01/2017	Evenley Village Hall	Hire of hall (meetings & soup lunch)	30.50
30/01/2017	Cathy Knott	Travel & expenses	45.86
30/01/2017	Cathy Knott	January salary	489.00

#### receipts

30.11.16	NCC (transparency grant)	2481.65
12.12.16	Bagforce (Newsletter advertising fee)	90.00
31.12.16	Interest to Unity Community account	2.03
01.01.2017	Interest to National Savings account	34.15

### **8/17 To set the precept for 2017/18**

MB advised that the council had put information on the website and in the last newsletter regarding its intentions to raise the precept in 2017/18. He explained that in the last ten years, we have been in a period of low inflation and the finances had reflected this with minimum increases.

Evenley's assets are now in need of a considerable investment and in order to do this the precept will need to rise by 30 % to generate the additional revenue needed.

MB proposed the precept should be set at £19,836.00, SB seconded and all councillors were in favour.

### **9/17 Streetlights**

CK reported that Aylesbury Mains Ltd now maintain the streetlights. EON are unable to provide any documented evidence of when electrical tests were performed on the lights and what the results were. We therefore need to carry out electrical testing and a structural inspection of all lights to make sure they are safe. Aylesbury Mains Ltd have quoted £983.50 (excl. VAT). JPB proposed to get the works done as soon as possible. NH seconded and all councillors were in favour. We will then have a better idea of which lamps need to be replaced/upgraded and can apply for funding.

### **10/17 Update on SNC Local Plan**

JM reported that parts of the draft plan have been published, but it is 60-70% complete. Maps of the village confines are in the public domain but there are still gaps in the policies. The June Planning Policy and Regeneration Strategy Committee meeting will discuss the final draft plan which will then be recommended to cabinet followed by a ten week public consultation period when individuals and parish councils can comment.

JM has asked for an SNC representative to visit Evenley to discuss plans but unfortunately, they do not have enough resources to do this. Evenley PC will hold a public forum where plans can be discussed when more information comes through.

### **11/17 Approve policies for Local Council Award and update**

As part of the strategic plan, best in class, the parish council are applying for the Local Council Quality Award. In order to qualify for the award, the council has to demonstrate that it achieves good practice in governance, community engagement and council improvement.

Four policies have been put together for approval: Equality & Diversity, Training, Grievance and Disciplinary. All councillors were in favour and agreed to adopt the policies which will be published on the village website.

### **12/17 Councillor reports:**

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

LP reported that a deep well has opened up alongside the allotment wall making it very dangerous. After seeking advice, she has received a quote from Charlie Walters to make it safe for £440.00. He is able to carry out the works this week. LP proposed that we should accept his quote and get the works done ASAP. NH seconded and all councillors agreed.

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

NH met with a representative from the Wild Life Trust (Matt Johnson) in November and will be meeting again in June when there will be a full survey of the park. NB will be organising a "clear up day" next month and will be looking for volunteers. He will put together a list of actions and make a list of longer term projects once he has met with Gillian Murray (Friends of Pocket Park).

#### **c. Street Lighting (SB) see item 9/17**

#### **d. Village Hall (JPB)**

JPB reported that he has regular meetings with Eric, chair of the village hall committee. The roof has been repaired and they are working on plans to increase revenue and are building a long-term plan for further improvements. JM reported that members from EVHA and EPC will be meeting ACRE in March to discuss the relationship between the council and the village hall committee.

#### **e. Website (MB)**

MB reported that there had been a slight issue with booking emails but this had now been resolved. People are now able to make a booking online ([evenleypc.org.uk](http://evenleypc.org.uk)). The village hall committee are keen to work on upgrading the website incorporating more village hall features which is great as the website is for the whole use of the village not just the parish council.

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

JM reported that the trees are having works carried out to them on 2<sup>nd</sup> February. SB reported that works would soon be commencing on the war memorial and they are in the process of documenting and photographing the benches on The Green.

### **g. Newsletter (CE)**

CE has sent her apologies and JM reported that the next newsletter would concentrate on traffic issues with a consultation welcoming villager's comments. This will be distributed towards the end of February, beginning of March.

### **13/17 Planning notices**

S/2017/0073/FUL	Variation of condition 5 S/2016/1844/FUL to use natural roofing slates  Location Astwick Farm Cottages Buckingham Road	EPC commented No objection
-----------------	--	-------------------------------

### **14/17 Correspondence received**

Letter received from Mrs Edwards regarding the draft budget 2017/18. This was circulated at the meeting along with a reply from the parish council.

Emails received regarding grit bins. CK has contacted NCC Highways.

Telephone call from Rachel Hope regarding a dog being knocked down on the A421 and killed. Dangers of walking dogs off lead to go in the newsletter.

**Action: CE**

Email regarding dog waste. CK will look into more signage. Item to go in newsletter.

**Action: CK/CE**

Email from Paul Bennett regarding drainage on Broad Lane. CK will write to NCC Highways asking for a long-term plan for drainage before it affects Church Leys.

**Action: CK**

### **15/17 Councillor Questions**

MB reported that over the last few years, the parish council has been looking into installing a chicane on Broad Lane to lower traffic speed. Shutlanger (a village of similar size to Evenley) have recently had a chicane installed and it has already had a huge impact with speeds and traffic movements dropping considerably.

The Speed Watch Campaign is ongoing, but there has only been a very slight reduction (1 mph) in the last four years. JPB asked if there were other means of slowing the traffic down. JM responded that NCC Highways advises the chicane would be the most effective.

We will need a detailed plan and a proper survey going forward. Funds would have to come from a possible HS2 community grant and/or a public works loan.

SB asked if the Highways Agency were any further into making the Evenley roundabout safer. CK will formally write to Highways England asking for an update.

**Action: CK**

**The meeting closed at 10.10 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.***