

Minutes of the virtual meeting of Evenley Parish Council held via Zoom on Monday 30th November 2020 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 18 members of the public

150/20 To receive apologies for absence and welcome

All councillors present. The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting saying how great it was to see so many interested parishioners.

151/20 To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the virtual meeting of the parish council held on 19th October 2020. The minutes were approved and signed.

152/20 To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda for report only

132/20 – the clerk has written to the Environment Agency about the odour issue at Gateridge Farm which has been passed on the Incident Hotline for review. She has requested an update.

145/20 – the clerk has been in touch with Lukasz Kulaga, waste & cleansing operations manager at SNC regarding the waste collections around the Green who is looking into our query.

All other matters have been dealt with or are on the agenda.

153/20 To receive declarations of interest related to business on the agenda

Cllr JPB for 7 Church Leys (as an interested party).

154/20 Finance:

- a. Financial statement
- b. To note payments received
- c. To consider invoices to be paid

Account	£
Community	14,285.49
Business Saver	22,648.88
National Savings	5,833.36
TOTAL	42,767.73

Receipts since the last meeting	£	VAT £
Newsletter fees from Forge Coffee and Claydon Auctioneers	120.00	
Invoices approved for payment		
Steve Thorburn (delivery of newsletters x 2)	50.00	0
Invoices paid since the last meeting (approved via email 19.11.20)		
C. Knott (salary)	541.00	0
HMRC (tax)	5.00	0
C. Knott (expenses incl. Christmas tree lights & training)	178.42	28.31
Warren Day Designs (no parking signs)	160.00	0
Burnham Landscapes Ltd (Linnells gate - reimbursed by HS2)	258.56	51.71
SSE (streetlight electricity) direct debit	102.35	5.11
GreenStuff (planters)	28.93	0

d. To discuss the draft budget and precept for 2021/22

Cllr SB circulated version one of the draft budget to councillors prior to the meeting explaining that it was largely similar to this year's with numbers based on historical correct information. He has tried to simplify the process and it is open to comment. It was agreed to discuss it in more depth next month when late invoices have been received to

give us a better idea of costings and SNC should have issued the final tax base figure (the formula we need to work out the precept).

Action: SB

155/20 To receive updates and recommendations from planning representatives

S/2020/0303/FUL	change of use from agricultural land to a dog training area, increase height of fence to 1.52 m and hard standing area for vehicle parking. Location: land north of Cottesford Road	EPC: No objection SNC: APPROVED
S/2020/1029/FUL	Construction of two radomes, antennas & associated security system components incl. lighting. Location: RAF Croughton	EPC: no objection SNC: APPROVED
S/2020/1109/MAR	Variation of condition 1 of S/2019/1471/MAR and 0996/MAO Location: Radstone Fields Phase 3, Brackley	EPC: no objection SNC: APPROVED
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/2020/1533/FUL	Single storey rear extension. Location: The Old Dairy, Astwick Barns, Buckingham Road, Evenley	EPC: no objection SNC: APPROVED
S/2020/1932/FUL	Erection of a new agricultural building and associated works, incl. extension to agricultural farm track and apron hardstanding to new building. Location: Hall Farm, 31 The Green, Evenley	EPC: objection – see notes below. SNC: consultations dispatched
S/2020/2013/FUL	Double garage. Location: 7 Church Leys, Evenley	EPC: objection SNC: consultations dispatched

S/2020/1932/FUL - The chairman thanked councillors JM and CR for taking the lead on this application and to Charles, Sheila, John and Anthony for their invaluable input.

Cllr JM thanked all those who have responded in person to the consultation, advising the importance of submitting independent comments in order that the planning department can understand each individual's perspective. Using all the information gathered, we have been in touch with the applicant and his agent to ask for further information (see agents response - appendix 1) and have expressed our concerns and put the following questions to the planning officer at SNC, asking for his views in advance of our meeting tonight:

- *Could the landowner/farmer identify the full extent of their landholding as the building appears peripheral to the 61ha holding it is to serve, as per the application?*
- *Further to this point, are there other buildings in existence with which this one could be grouped, in order to avoid an unnecessary encroachment into the countryside?*
- *Is there an internal breakdown of the proposed uses of the building (hay storage, feed storage, machinery shelter and storage etc) so we can understand the need for a building of this size and mostly open nature?*
- *Further to this point, are there other buildings which the landowner/farmer controls which could be used in place of this new proposal?*
- *Could the LPA request sight of the farm viability strategy (or landownership/estate viability strategy) to show the building is necessary for agricultural purposes?*
- *If the building were used primarily for feed etc related to equestrian activities, does this make a difference to the planning context? (Note that the family is well-known in the area for their equestrian activities, rather than farming, forestry etc).*

In addition, residents are concerned about the volume of traffic which would result from the use of this building for the storage of feed, and/or farm machinery both along the east side of The Green, and also along the very popular and well-used footpath which heads north towards Buckinghamshire. Will NCC Highways, and/or The Ramblers Association be consulted on the application?

Earlier today, the planning officer called to advise that he agrees with the issues we have raised and has spoken to both the applicant and his agent but is awaiting their answers. Regarding our last point, he advised that this would make a difference as they would need to apply for change of use. He has discussed the application with John Townsend and expects there will be a revised application submitted soon. Comments can be submitted up until 15th December at: <https://snc.planning-register.co.uk/planappsrch.aspx>. Please also copy comments to our ward councillor John Townsend at john.townsend@southnorthants.gov.uk

156/20 To discuss the need to carry out a village tree survey

As trees are such an important part of our village with many different species of varying ages, the chairman has looked into costs for carrying out a tree survey that would provide us with a condition report and general information on each tree; Cotefield Nurseries have quoted from £995 + VAT. Councillors agreed it was a sensible idea in principle but we should try to get more quotes and look at other options.

Action: SB/CE

157/20 To agree a standard charge for electric use on the village green

Cllr SB proposed we charge users (currently the pizza van and ice cream van) a flat charge of £10 per annum. Councillors felt this was a fair price and cllr JM suggested we also ask each user to provide a prize at the summer fete.

158/20 To report back on the clerk's appraisal

Chairman CE and vice-chairman JPB met with the clerk to carry out a very positive appraisal on 28th October and after evaluating her job description, they proposed to move CK's pay scale from LC1 to LC2 from April 2021 (as she has been at the top of LC1 for four years and meets all the criteria set out in LC2 apart from direct responsibility for the supervision of other employees). This would increase the budget by approximately £1000 per annum; it was agreed to discuss this further within the confines of the budget.

159/20 To provide feedback on the meeting held with representatives from Northants Highways regarding the chicane and village speed limits

The chairman and cllr JPB have met with Northants Highways representatives to discuss and raise issues regarding the unfinished chicane, lighting, drainage and traffic in Broad Lane along with general traffic management throughout the village, which will be further compounded once HS2 construction starts.

CE has also had a conversation with Nicola Taylor from Evenley Wood Garden; as their popularity grows, more traffic is coming through the village and Nicola is trying to get the postcode changed as currently satnavs direct traffic through the village off the A43 rather than down Bicester Hill. Cllr CR suggested it would also be helpful to provide passing bays on Mixbury Road as it can be very dangerous with blind bends and dips. Cllr JPB advised that speed watch data shows traffic is still speeding through the village albeit slightly less than before the chicane was installed and we need to try and come up with something that will slow people down; Northants Highways are carrying out a feasibility study for a second chicane and we are waiting to hear back from them regarding the other issues.

160/20 To agree costs to upgrade bollards around the Green and discuss improved parking measures

Chairman CE advised that despite the 'no parking' signs, vehicles are still parking on the verges. She has received a quote for £1183 + VAT to replace and increase the wooden bollards which will be set in concrete. CE explained that other avenues have been explored but this is the most appropriate and in keeping with the area. Councillors unanimously agreed and cllr SB advised that once he has received the invoice for mowing, he will be able to make the decision on whether we have the funds in place. Cllr JPB will also request another quote. **Action: CE/SB**

Whilst discussing parking measures, the chairman raised an issue regarding the pizza van – on its last visit it wasn't able to hook up to our electrical supply on the Green (as cars were parked in the layby) so it had to use its generator, which causes noise pollution and complaints follow. CE suggested a solution to this would be to locate the pizza van in the village hall carpark which wouldn't upset anybody and would be safer for people to queue, she proposed that the clerk should write to the village hall committee; councillors agreed. **Action: CK**

Cllr CR advised that the layby opposite the shop is not a space for residents to park – it is for shop customers on a short stay basis. For the benefit of the shop and residents, we should try to resolve this issue; it was agreed we should look at signage to get this message across and discuss it further at the next meeting. **Action: JPB/CE**

161/20 To accept councillors reports on the following areas (if there is anything to report):

- a. **Allotments** (CR) – the tap has been turned off for the winter. One plot still isn't being used – the clerk will contact the tenants again. **Action: CK**
- b. **Pocket Park** (CR) – nothing to report.
- c. **Street Lighting** (SB) – the proposed additional light on Broad Lane (near the chicane) is being further investigated. No. 8 streetlight in Lawyers Close is being transferred from the telegraph pole to a column this week and it was agreed that we should try to find out if any other telegraph poles are likely to be replaced so that we can budget accordingly. **Action: CK**
- d. **Village Hall** (JPB) – the hall is financially stable and was able to open briefly before the second lockdown with strict guidelines in place.
- e. **Website** – nothing to report.
- f. **Village Green and Trees** (CE) – see 160/20 above. The chairman thanked everyone who helped with the Christmas tree; we have received a lot of positive feedback. We still have an issue with rubbish and the bins are overflowing; CE will speak with Forge Coffee about notices. Government guidelines allow carol singing so we will be singing around the tree later this month (date to be confirmed) and EPC have agreed to fund refreshments.
- g. **Newsletter** (CE) – nothing to report.
- h. **HS2 & Highways** (SB/CE) – see 159/20 above.

- i. **Local government reorganisation** –The latest information on the two new unitary councils can be found at: <https://futurenorthantswest.org/>
- j. **St. George’s Church** - a service has been planned for 20th December; information to follow.

162/20 Correspondence received

- RAF Croughton felling of trees and hedging – update received from RAF Croughton which the clerk circulated to residents.
- School Lane Green parking issues – the clerk has written to the owner of the vehicles.
- Broad Lane chicane issues – see 159/20
- Pizza van correspondence – see 160/20
- A422 Farthinghoe Bypass consultation – submit your views before 3rd January at: [A422 Farthinghoe Bypass – Preferred Route Questionnaire - Northamptonshire County Council - Citizen Space](#)

163/20 Councillor questions

Clr CR asked who was responsible for the village Facebook page as there is an issue with outside advertising.
Clr JM advised that although the consultation period has ended, we should write a letter responding to the White Paper ‘planning for the future’ policy changes which would bring about a fundamental change to the planning system.

Action: CK/JM

164/20 Public Participation session (Members of the public are invited to address the council Through the chairman)

No comments received.

165/20 Close

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

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

The next meeting will be held on Monday 18th January 2021 at 7.30 pm.

Signed: Cathy Ellis

Date: 18.01.2021