

Minutes of the meeting of the parish council held on Monday 20th November 2023, 7.30 pm at Evenley Village Hall

Present: Spencer Burnham (SB), Paul Crompton (PC), Cathy Ellis (CE), Jean Morgan (JM), Jeff Peyton-Bruhl (JPB), Charles Reader (CR), Sue Ricketts (SR), Cathy Knott (CK) clerk and six members of the public

154/23 To receive apologies for absence and welcome

All in attendance. The chairman thanked everyone for attending.

155/23 To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the annual meeting of the parish council held on 16th October 2023

The minutes were approved and signed.

156/23 To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda for report only

129/23 – the clerk has written to the resident who installed bollards on the verge in Church Lane.

142/23 – the chairman will liaise with Alison O’Hare (EWG) regarding tree identification. Cllr PC has started his scientific survey to try and understand the specifics of why more people are parking around the Green and what the main issues are. The clerk has reported the broken railings on the footpath bridge at the bottom of Mill Lane, to Buckinghamshire Council (ref. 511838).

149/23 – Northants Highways has responded to say currently WNC does not support the introduction of widespread village 20mph limits, however it recognizes that we would like to encourage lower speeds and can offer some advisory 20 signs we can use. The chairman has asked Stuart Freestone (who has been very helpful in the past with signage) to look at fingerpost signage for the corner of the Green and an EWG sign for Bicester Hill.

157/23 To receive declarations of interest related to business on the agenda

Cllr CE for 159/23 – neighbour re. planning application 2023/6232/FULL

Cllr CE for 158/23 – Green Stuff invoices x 2.

158/23 Finance: (different from agenda)

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

Account balances	£
Community	9,844.10
Business Saver	25,525.56
National Savings	5,881.42
TOTAL	41,251.08

Income received since the last meeting		VAT
The Wood Oven (fee for electric on Green)	20.00	
Newsletter donation (x2) - Claydon Auctioneers	60.00	
Newsletter donation (x3) - Lawrence Furnishings	90.00	
Newsletter donation (x2) – BagForce	60.00	
Payments submitted for approval		
C. Knott (Nov salary + tax)	652.22	0
HMRC (tax)	48.20	0
C. Knott (travel + annual office expenses)	194.10	0
EVHMC (October meeting & soup lunch)	47.00	0
C. Ellis (Green Stuff invoice for VH planter)	25.56	0
C. Ellis (Green Stuff invoice for remaining planters)	29.58	0
British Gas (electricity on the Green)	14.65	0.73
Maximow (aeration of the Green)	162.00	0

d. To discuss the draft budget and precept for 2024/25

Clr SB showed the updated cashbook on the big screen which he has simplified so that all columns relate to the budget and everything filters through automatically. He has been comparing tax base numbers from other parishes to get an idea of where we are versus other councils in the area and has found that we have one of the lowest precepts. He will put some numbers together for the budget which he will circulate. A budget meeting will be held before the next meeting in readiness for the precept and budget to be approved in January.

159/23 To consider new planning applications/to receive an update on outstanding applications:

*WNS/2022/1557/EIA	Proposed construction and operation of an anaerobic digestion facility. Location: Astwick Green Power Land, North of Barley Mow Farm, Buckingham Road	EPC: Objection WNC: pending
WNS/2022/2062/FUL	Proposal Permanent retention of temporary planning permission approved under S/2020/0303/FUL. Location Land North of Cottesford Road, Evenley	EPC: no objection WNC: pending
2023/6067/FULL	Proposed Single Storey Rear Extension with Associated Internal and External works. Location 12 Church Leys, Evenley	EPC: no objection WNC: APPROVED
2023/6060/FULL	Alterations and refurbishments including extend existing post-war rear 2-storey addition (retaining existing ridge), add new conservation rooflights + internal alterations. Location 2 Church Lane, Evenley	EPC: Support with comment WNC: pending
2023/6175/FULL	Proposal single dwelling. Location Land at Windrush, 23 Church Lane, Evenley	EPC: objection WNC: pending
2023/6232/FULL	Proposed single dwelling and adjoining garage with parking, turning and amenity. Amendment to plans 19.10.23. Location Land Rear of 22 The Green, Evenley	EPC: objection WNC: pending
2023/6342/FULL	Proposal Rear extension incorporating rear raised patio, rendering existing bungalow and creation of new detached garage. Location: Field View, Buckingham Road, Evenley	EPC: no objection WNC: pending
2023/6477/OUT	Proposal outline permission for one detached dwelling. Location: Paddock House, Barley Mow Farm, Buckingham Road, Evenley	EPC: no comment WNC: pending
2023/6514/HS2	Submission in accordance with Paragraph 12, Part 1 of Schedule 17 of the High-Speed Rail (London – West Midlands) Act 2017 for a site restoration scheme at a parcel of land located adjacent to A422. Location: Land located adjacent to A422	EPC: no comment WNC: pending
2023/6099/FULL	Proposal Installation of solar panels on pitched roof all black monocrystalline pv panels. 1 x sunsynk 8kw in loft capped to 5kw 1 x sunsynk 5.12 kw battery in loft. Location 5A Rudgeway	EPC: no comment WNC: APPROVED
2023/7481/FULL	Front and side single storey extension. Location 34 Broad Lane Evenley	EPC: after meeting note: no objection WNC: pending
2023/7548/FULL	Erection of building to house biomass boilers and a woodchip storage area to provide renewable heating for the existing poultry unit. Location Evenley Poultry Farm Buckingham Road Evenley	EPC: no comment WNC: pending
2023/6281/FULL + 2023/6282/LBC	Listed building consent to replace rotten windows at the front elevation + proposal to replace rotten windows at the front elevation. Location Dane's Cottage, 52/53 The Green Evenley	EPC: support WNC: pending

*WNS/2022/1557/EIA proposed anaerobic digestion facility – the chairman advised the application will be heard at next months' strategic committee meeting on Monday 11th December at 2pm. She has spoken to the planning officer and Rebecca Breese but until we know which way the officers' recommendations go (due to be published on 1st December), there's not much more we can do. A few of us will be meeting on the afternoon of Monday 4th December to prepare.

The chairman and clr JM will be attending on online planning briefing on 30th November 10-11am, where WNC will give an update on the current situation of the planning department, and what the short- and medium-term plans are. Further briefings will take place in 2024.

160/23 To report back on the clerk's appraisal; resolve to approve backpay (as advised by NALC) and confirm spinal column

The chairman and vice chairman met with the clerk on 9th November. The chairman read out notes taken at the meeting; backpay was approved and will be implemented from April 2023. The chairman proposed to move the clerk up one point to spinal column point 25 from April 2024, clr JPB seconded and all councillors agreed. The chairman and vice chairman thanked the clerk for keeping everyone on track and for another great year.

161/23 Resolve to update the community website

The chairman and clerk met with Zoe Timmers (from Forge Coffee) last week, who is a highly successful influencer, Instagram consultant, photographer and an ex-BBC producer who helps small businesses with their social media. She is going to put a proposal together for a new community website which will be simpler, cleaner and easier to use that can be linked to newsletters and Facebook etc.

162/23 Resolve to approve quotes for two trees and tree guard (re item 140/23)

Councillors resolved to purchase a sturdy tree guard from Black Country Metalworks at the cost of £156.25 + VAT. The chairman has received quotes for trees of £165 and £195 but is looking for better prices.

163/23 Resolve to accept councillor Sue Rickett's resignation from EPC

Cllr SR is resigning from the council to concentrate on other commitments. The chairman thanked Sue for her contribution and support to the parish council since 2018. The clerk will start the process of co-option; if you are interested in joining the parish council, please let the clerk or chairman know.

164/23 To accept councillors reports on the following areas (if there is anything to report):

- a. **Allotments** CR has started to think about how to mark out plots and has received a quote for pegs – packs of 16 at £15.71 (on his business account to receive a discount); councillors approved three packs. CR, JPB and the clerk will meet at the allotments before the next meeting, to mark everything out and create a plan.
- b. **Evenley Common** three bat boxes have been purchased and will be installed high up in trees. Other work will be carried out over the next couple of months.
- c. **Street Lighting** two lights reported as faulty on Church Lane and Mixbury Road; the clerk will notify our contractors.
- d. **Footpaths** – JM will liaise with Guy Moody, our footpath warden. She advised mud is making two footpaths almost inaccessible at Puddleduck and at the bottom southwest of Evenley Wood Garden (possibly a spring issue). It was agreed to talk to landowners and try to improve conditions. JM would like to look at two possible footpath diversions going forward. **Action: JM/CK**
- e. **Village Hall** nothing to report.
- f. **Website** see item 161/23.
- g. **Village Green and Trees** CE advised the Green is looking good and the cricket club is pleased with the work carried out this year. It was agreed to leave the goal post where it is.
- h. **Newsletter** the Winter edition has been printed and will be delivered over the weekend.
- i. **HS2 & Highways** the next liaison meeting will be held on 15th December at 10.30am via MS Teams. The chairman has reported the 30mph roundels at entrances to the village, but only one has been repainted. She will report the other one again.
- j. **Three-year action plan** no updates.
- k. **St. George's Church** nothing to report.

165/23 To note correspondence received that requires discussion

An email has been received from a resident who regularly walks along Mixbury Road from the Evenley Woods track; she said the volume and speed of traffic is terrifying and asked whether more signage could be installed.

Councillors concurred and discussed ways to help solve the issues; it was agreed we should install larger 30mph signs coming into the village, tidy up and repaint the railings to make the road appear narrower and purchase signage advising 'road flooded'. We could also ask Evenley Wood Garden if they will provide signage asking visitors to please drive carefully when leaving the Woods. **Action: CR/CE/CK**

166/23 To receive areas for improvement suggestion(s) from members

None received.

167/23 Councillors questions/comments

- Cllr SB asked for progress on Broad Lane flooding issues which the chairman provided.
- The chairman asked for suggestions on who the collection should be for this year when we are singing around the Christmas tree; it was agreed it should go to Brackley Food bank. The clerk will circulate the date for the event once it's been confirmed.
- Cllr SR asked if EPC had been in touch with RAF Croughton to ask if they responded to the AD application. We understand they have responded but it isn't in the public domain due to safeguarding concerns. Cllr JM will try to find out what their response was.
- Cllr CR advised the leaves and mud on Bicester Hill (due to the building work) is a safety concern. He will liaise with Belinda Whitely over warning signage. **Action: CR**

168/23 **Public Participation session** (*members of the public are invited to address the council through the chairman*).

None received.

169/23 **Close**

The meeting closed at 8.57pm.

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 22nd January 2024, 7.30 pm at Evenley Village Hall.

DRAFT