

EVENLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 26th January 2015 at 7.30pm.

Present: Alan Thornhill (AT), Mike Boshier (MB), Jean Morgan (JM), Keith Cousins (KC), Jackie Fox (JF), Mike Genner (MG), Kirsty Buttle (Clerk).
Members of the public present: Charles Woodgate, Brian Sinclair, Cliff Payne, Joyce Stevens, Jim Snell, Maureen Greatbatch.

- 1) Apologies received from Jill Kelly.
- 2) The Minutes of the meetings held on 17/11/14 were agreed on the basis that the following be added in to page 4, item 12: AT Proposed to adopt Parish Plan and Village Design Statement and stated that he refused to have any more to do with the Parish Plan. Following a demonstration by MG of factual errors in a sample section of the Plan, MG tabled an amendment.
- 3) Disclosure of interests – No interests were declared.
- 4) Planning: a) Amendments to the PC Planning procedure will be discussed under standing orders. b) It was decided that no letter to SNC regarding the redaction of planning responses was necessary but it was agreed that it would be sensible to put a declaration on the website stating that any letters/e-mails received by the Parish Council must be available to the public as is the case at SNC. **Action: Councillors to suggest correct wording and MB to put on website when agreed.**

Applications pending

1 S/2014/2214/FUL Tesco Stores, Oxford Rd, Brackley. Four illuminated fascia signs and five non-illuminated fascia signs on proposed dry cleaning, key cutting, shoe and watch repair pod.

No objections but concerned about effect on local businesses.

S/2014/2414/FUL 38a The Green, Evenley. Single storey extension to rear, new windows and doors & render to existing.

Support.

S/2014/2476/FUL 9 Church Leys, Evenley. Proposed single storey rear extension.

Support.

S/2014/2515/FUL 4 Broad Lane, Evenley. Two proposed single storey extensions to the rear and loft conversion.

No objections.

S/2015/0025/FUL 43 The Green, Evenley. Replace front door with stable door.

No objections.

Applications approved

S/2014/1910/FUL 12 The Green, Evenley. Boundary wood panel fence between garden & allotment and artisan willow panel fence along part of the boundary to neighbour (Retrospective).

5) Finance:

- a) Finance Statement: A councillor queried why there is a discrepancy of around £1800 between the total figures stated by the previous clerk minus the current payments stated. This could not be answered at the meeting as the clerk had not been asked this question prior to the meeting to allow time to investigate. The council agreed the finance statement on the agreement that the figures will be checked. *Note: The figures have been checked since the meeting and it has been found that the reason for the difference is that the previous clerk quoted assumed bank balances on the agendas (the amount in the bank minus cheques that have been sent out but are still uncashed) whereas the new clerk states the actual balance in the bank at the point at which the agenda is created.*

National Savings 5599.97

Business Premium Savings 18827.45

Community Account 2751.96

Total 27179.38

- b) Cheques as listed approved:

14/11/2014	101805	Cancelled cheque	
14/11/2014	101806	Clerk final salary	136.50
21/11/2014	101807	New clerk's salary and expenses	134.80
21/11/2014	101808	Gilroy Steel	197.00
21/11/2014	101809	Evenley village hall soup lunch	14.00
09/12/2014	101810	Delivery of Newsletters	15.00
09/12/2014	101811	Clickatell Ltd - SMS 400	16.32
10/12/2014	101812	Evenley Village Hall	33.12
22/12/2014	101813	Clerk's Salary and expenses	224.75
13/01/2015	101814	E-on Energy	160.55
13/01/2015	101815	E-on Energy	75.05
13/01/2015	101816	Anglian Water	15.38
13/01/2015	101817	M Dempsey	1,135.00
13/01/2015	101818	CPRE	36.00
13/01/2015	101819	Brackley Computer services	30.00
16/01/2015	BACS	Evenley Village Hall	14.00
			<u>2,237.47</u>

Receipts

01/12/2014	Stonebright	Newsletter Ad	25.00
08/12/2014	Barclays	Int BS acc	2.50
09/12/2014	Dickins Auctioneers (Chq 100119)	Newsletter Ad	25.00
15/12/2014	Reds/Mousemate	Newsletter Ad	25.00
07/01/2015	Bagforce	Newsletter Ad	80.00
			<u>157.50</u>

- c) Agree the cost for the removal of one horse chestnut tree on the allotments boundary – The quote includes removal of a fence panel which could create a liability to the owner of the

fence so it was proposed that this decision is deferred until this has been considered further.

- d) Consider quotes received for various maintenance works on the village hall, potentially including the ceiling stains – Councillors unanimously agreed that the quote received from MS Cole was the most suitable. **Action: Clerk to instruct MS Coles.**
- e) To agree cost of flags from Flagmakers of £312.97 plus VAT - £300 has previously been agreed. Additional £12.97 was proposed and agreed. **Action: Clerk to instruct Flagmakers.**
- f) To consider the installation of a gate/barrier at Pocket Park at a cost of £200 – Keys for this barrier will be held by Merrick, Mark @ M-Trac and JF. There will be enough space left to allow pushchairs/wheelchairs through. Vernon Bailey is very pleased that the PC are moving this along. Proposed and agreed. **Action: Clerk/JF to organise installation.**
- g) Amendments to the Financial Regulations section of Standing orders to incorporate Online Banking – this will be discussed under standing orders.
- h) Consideration of budget/proposed precept for 2015/16 – It was proposed to include an allocation of £1k in the budget to provide IT facilities/programmes/training to new councillors. A vote was taken with an equal number of votes for and against so the chair took the casting vote against the proposal. The budget was agreed but not officially voted on although the intention was clear. It was proposed that £1k for Parish Plan costs should, if not spent in the current financial year, be carried forward to the 2015 budget. This was agreed. **Action: Clerk to put in precept demand for £13,411.**
- i) Changes to Clerk's salary – 2.2% increase and £16 one off payment to be made in January. All agreed.
- j) Decision regarding Clerk attending CiLCA course starting in April at a cost of £375 (Total cost is £750, Boddington Parish Council would pay the remaining £375) plus 50% of travelling costs – This was agreed on the basis that should the Clerk leave within 6 months of commencement of the course she will be required to repay EPC any amounts paid.

6) Matters arising

- a) Consider adoption of new model standing orders (brought forward from November) – It was proposed to accept the standing orders with amendments to spelling and grammar. A councillor raised concerns that if the councillors are not aware of what is a statutory requirement they cannot be certain that all statutory items are still in the standing orders. A councillor also expressed a desire to add the communications protocol as an addendum to the standing orders. It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting. JM will work on the amendments with the guidance of the council and will circulate to the councillors. **Action: JM**
- b) Elections 2015 – Timetable and promotion to encourage new applications – JM has created a document to advertise the upcoming elections and the role of a parish councillor. Some councillors feel the document is a bit negative towards the council and they aren't happy with the section regarding age as they are concerned it is ageist. The councillors are generally happy with the document with some small amendments (such as the removal of the section discussing age). It was asked by a parishioner if there will be a meeting specifically to meet with prospective candidates as the parishioner believes that a meeting had been suggested previously. The council agreed that this had been discussed but there is no longer time to arrange this and prospective candidates would be very welcome at the next parish council meeting.
- c) Report on Impact of the changes to RAF Croughton – The USAF intends to consolidate its forces with the aim of saving £48 million per year. The first phase of construction is likely to be in 2016 depending on planning approval. Concerns were expressed about the extra traffic this will generate and the extra strain on resources as visiting forces are not required to pay council tax so there will not be a significantly higher amount of funding to pay for the extra resources needed. KC conveyed his disappointment that all of the parish council was invited to this meeting but only the chair received the invite. AT apologised for this oversight but advised that there will be further meetings that the councillors could attend and ask any questions they have.

- 7) Village risk assessment – MG advised that due to the approval of works in item 5d there are no further issues to report.
- 8) Allotments - There are no H&S issues. There is one ½ plot vacant. JK has suggested this is advertised in the next newsletter and if there are no applications then the plot could be offered to the first on the waiting list.
- 9) Pocket park issues – All litter has been removed and the park is in a very good condition as it has also been mown by SNC. A spring clean up is probably not required as the only item that still needs dealing with is a hedge. It was suggested that a sign be put up on the noticeboard to encourage users to look after the area. **Action: JF to create and put up sign.**
- 10) Update on Parish Plan – MG has contacted all on the group other than AT and the group has now been reformed. The plan is being revised and is expected to be available for presentation to the parish council at the next meeting. Depending on the requirement for a 4 week consultation period, it may be possible to adopt the plan in April.
- 11) Update from ward meeting - It was agreed in the ward meeting to write a letter to the Police commissioner, from all 3 parish councils and the councillors present, asking that he request revenue funding to manage additional enforcement for traffic created by HS2. It was announced in the meeting that the cottage hospital is due to close in March. AT advised that since the meeting this has now been extended which allows more time for other solutions to be found.
- 12) Annual parish meeting arrangements – Chris Wragg has agreed to speak at the meeting regarding HS2. There is still a need for someone to speak about traffic and speeding, particularly on Broad Lane. The PCSO has been approached to attend but cannot commit. **Action: Clerk to contact other potential speakers.**
- 13) Speedwatch/VAS data – There were no questions raised on the speedwatch data.
- 14) HS2 issues – Problems associated with the construction – Brackley Town Council are submitting a petition, particularly focused on the roundabout on the A43. They are likely to be heard by the select committee w/c 16 Feb and they would like EPC to be one of their witnesses at this hearing. MG has already provided some photographs to Brackley Town Council and he intends to work with Mike Baul to gather further evidence.
- 15) Correspondence – A letter has been received from the Village Hall Management Committee to inform the Council that the VHMC has had a complaint from a hirer about organisers of the village lunch accessing the hall too early.
- 16) AOB – Mr & Mrs Millard would be happy to jointly take on the position of village correspondent. Brian Sinclair is considering taking on the role of highways warden but needs more time to consider this. Joyce Stevens has taken on the role of noticeboard warden.

MEETING CLOSED at 9.45 p.m.

Date of next meeting: 16 March 2015

It is incumbent on all councillors to support and promote policies and decisions democratically decided at Parish Council meetings