

Minutes of the meeting of the parish council held on Monday 19th February 2024, 7.30 pm at Evenley Village Hall

Present: Spencer Burnham (SB), Paul Crompton (PC), Cathy Ellis (CE), Jeff Peyton-Bruhl (JPB), Charles Reader (CR), Matt Brown (MB), Cathy Knott (CK) clerk, and five members of the public.

20/24 To receive apologies for absence and welcome

Apologies received from cllr Jean Morgan (JM). The chairman thanked everyone for attending.

21/24 To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the meeting of the parish council held on 22nd January 2024.

Three inaccuracies were edited before the minutes were approved and signed;

- Under 'present' Sue Ricketts name was listed so this was removed.
- Minute 11/24 – as there were inaccuracies to amounts stated; it was agreed to amend this minute to read:

The chairman advised that the cricket club has recently spent a large amount of its reserves on wicket repairs and machinery costs. As they are co-guardians of the Green and the whole village benefits from them playing there, she proposed EPC should offer support by reducing their mowing contribution next season (for one year only). Cllr SB advised we have some contingency in the budget to be able to do this and if we cap their bill at £800 maximum this wouldn't affect the precept. It was noted the club hasn't yet applied for funding to replace and extend the length of the artificial wicket (as agreed at our meeting in November 2021) so we should politely request they leave it as it is.

- Minute 18/24 – insert the word 'not' in the first sentence so it reads 'we shouldn't speculate over things **not** in a planning application.'

22/24 To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda for report only

164/23d - a footpaths meeting has been arranged for 25th March.

165/23 – ask EWG to provide signage asking visitors to drive carefully when leaving the woods. **Action: CE**

15/24 – to discuss with EVHMC chairman the pizza van parking at the village hall. **Action: PC**

23/24 To receive declarations of interest related to business on the agenda

Cllr CE for 25/24 re planning application 2023/6232/FULL.

24/24 Finance:

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

Account balances	£
Community	5,036.37
Business Saver	25,802.19
National Savings	5,881.42
TOTAL	36,719.98

Income received since the last meeting		VAT
n/a		
Payments submitted for approval		VAT
C. Knott (Feb salary)	686.80	0
HMRC (tax)	56.80	0
EVHMC (January meeting & soup lunch)	47.00	0
Barclay Card – Buckingham YFC (Xmas tree disposal) and Mailchimp subs	33.11	0
Media Tribe (website quarterly payment)	200.00	0
Texprep (printing of documents)	44.00	8.80

SSE (streetlight electric for Jan 23)	105.00	6.31
British Gas (electricity on the Green for Jan 23)	15.72	0.78
UK Timber (for memorial bench)	119.07	23.81

d. To receive an update from the internal control's councillor

Cllr SB has checked the internal controls and advised everything is as it should be.

25/24 To consider new planning applications/to receive an update on outstanding applications:

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
2023/6060/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: APPROVED
2023/6175/FULL	Proposal single dwelling. Location Land at Windrush, 23 Church Lane, Evenley	EPC: 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/FULL	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
2023/6232/FULL	Proposed single dwelling with parking, turning and amenity. (Amended Plans & description). Location Land Rear of 22 The Green, Evenley 1st amendment to plans 19.10.23. 2nd amendment to plans 08.01.24.	EPC: object WNC: pending
2024/0047/S73	Variation of Condition 2 of WNS/2022/2078/FUL [Erection of two self build dwellings to rear] - Plot 1 variation - Ground floor cloakroom window addition to the dwelling, Garage - proposed hip to gable and front new dormer window omitted for roof lights. Plot 2 variation - Ground floor cloakroom window addition, relocation and enlargement of bedroom 1 gable window and increase in room size. Location: 17 Broad Lane, Evenley	EPC: various WNC: pending
2024/0538/FULL	Demolition of existing garage, conservatory and timber sheds and erection of 1.5 storey rear extension. Location: 32 Church Lane Evenley	EPC: Support WNC: pending
2024/0743/FULL	Replacement of workshop buildings with a new single storey dwelling (alternate to approved dwelling ref. WNS/2022/1265/FUL). Location: Old Farm Buildings Buckingham Road Evenley NN13 5LX	EPC: Support WNC: pending

26/24 To discuss arrangements for the annual parish meeting on 22nd April 2024

The chairman proposed we invite local groups and businesses to the meeting and ask them to provide an update on what is happening in our local community (as we did in 2019). The clerk will put together a list of invitees and prepare an invitation to be delivered to all parishioners.

Action: CK

27/24 To review EPC's asset register

The clerk will add three bat boxes to the asset register to bring it up-to-date. The chairman asked if trees should be included; the clerk will check. *Post meeting note:* trees should not be included on the register. Cllr SB will update our photographic record of streetlights and benches.

Action: SB

28/24 To provide an update on the new village website

The chairman advised Zoe Timmers has looked at the scale of work involved in building/redesigning a new village website and feels this isn't in her area of expertise so has proposed an alternative. She has suggested a web designer could build the site and she could produce it. This would raise costs which could be in the region of £3,500.

The clerk advised she had met virtually today with a website designer from Aubergine for Westbury Parish Council. Aubergine is the UK's leading expert in purpose-built, GDPR and WCAG 2.2 AA-compliant accessible websites for town and parish councils.

The chairman proposed we should request a quote from Aubergine and investigate costs for a GOV.UK email address as recommended by NALC (the clerk has heard there will be a grant available for this).

We will also get costs firmed up with Zoe and decide on the way forward at the next meeting. All councillors agreed.

Action: CK/CE

29/24 To agree a date for a music event on the Green

The chairman advised she is waiting for a date to be confirmed by Evenley Cricket Club for one Saturday in June/July when there is no cricket being played on the Green. She has received an email from a resident asking if the village

fete is returning this year and proposing we rest the music event. The chairman sympathised with this as it's such a big event to organise and suggested perhaps we should plan it alternate years.

Cllr CR proposed that as Evenley Matters is looking at Saturday 31st August (date to be confirmed by EM) for the fete this year, EPC should rest the music event and revisit arrangements in the autumn giving us time to book bands and get a bigger team together to organise it next year. Cllr JPB seconded and the clerk will add it to the September agenda.

Cllr MB suggested we should touch base with the chairman of Evenley Matters to advise EPC will support them in organising the fete (it was noted Mixbury Fete is the first week in September).

After further discussion, the chairman said if ECC come back with a suitable date we may have a rethink.

Regarding the 80th anniversary of D-Day on 6th June, it was agreed we should ask Evenley WI if they would like to be involved. The clerk will add it to the next agenda so we can decide on whether we should plan something on the day or if it should be commemorated the following weekend.

Action: CE

30/24 To adopt the biodiversity policy

The clerk circulated the policy prior to the meeting and councillors approved to adopt it.

Cllr MB suggested 'no mow May' could be included in the actions. It was agreed this should be a separate agenda item to discuss fully at a future meeting.

31/24 To accept councillors reports on the following areas (if there is anything to report):

- a. **Allotments** a meeting was held on 10th February at the village hall where the chairman and CR advised the plots have been pegged out and renumbered. Tenants have been asked to sort rubbish into three piles: wood, general waste and metals. We will then arrange for the scrap man to remove the metals, wood will be taken for burning if appropriate and we will arrange for a skip to be delivered if necessary for the general waste. Those at the meeting suggested the black bins are filled in the first instance for this type of waste and then we can see whether a skip is needed towards the end of the month. The chairman and CR will then cut the hedge back on the eastern boundary. The clerk is contacting those on the waiting list and we will purchase signs for each plot to make location clearer.
- b. **Evenley Common** CR and CE have installed three bat boxes. Everything is looking well but the footpaths will need a cut when weather permits.
- c. **Street Lighting** the three faulty lights have been repaired.
- d. **Footpaths** JM will be meeting with Guy Moody, our footpath warden, the clerk and CR on 25th March. CR advised that cllr JM has spoken to landowners about correspondence received regarding diverting a footpath on their land in connection with a national programme to reinstate historic footpaths which don't feature on maps published after 1922. We will wait to hear more from West Northants Rights of Way team before investigating further.
The bridge (near the railway line) with the broken railings reported last October (in Buckinghamshire) has been assessed by Bucks Bridge Structures Team. The clerk will chase for a progress report.
- e. **Village Hall** nothing to report.
- f. **Website** see 28/24.
- g. **Village Green and Trees** SB advised Mike Buchanon will be coming back to look at the Green to discuss next steps as part of the three-year plan; he will circulate updates. CE has purchased two trees and last week she, CR, JPB and James Alder planted them, removed the two dead trees on School Lane and checked all the others. The guard for the tree opposite Forge Coffee should be delivered within the next two weeks.
- h. **Newsletter** suggested items for the Spring edition include reporting on fix-my-street, music event volunteers, 'no mow May' opinions, allotment update, D-Day anniversary.
- i. **HS2 & Highways** the chairman attended the HS2 liaison meeting last Friday and provided an update on local road closures; there will be more A43 road closures but not until much later in the year. The A421 will be closed this weekend. Radstone Road; HS2 will be building a new road section of highway and a new HS2 crossing will be introduced so there will be road closures later in the year. Helmdon Road will remain closed through 2024 as the portal to the Greatworth tunnel is being built. B4525; once the Greatworth Tunnel is open there will be three weekend closures then it should be running smoothly. Wardington Road/Culworth Road; there will be phased closures throughout the year, but they will not be simultaneously.

National Grid will be installing a new service at The Piggeries, so part of Bicester Hill will be closed between 18-22 March.

The chairman thanked cllr CR and Andy for cutting the overgrowth back on Broad Lane and thanked Brackley Wombles for clearing the rubbish from the laybys.

- j. Three-year action plan** CE will contact an architect re the bus shelter so we can prepare plans and investigate funding. She asked councillors PC and MB for their assistance with this.
- k. St. George's Church** – a churchyard tidy up will take place on Sunday 3rd March at 10.30 am.

32/24 To note correspondence received that requires discussion

- Notice of bridleway diversion update, Mixbury – details on website and circulated via Mailchimp.
- To note relevant articles in Northants CALC Jan/Feb eUpdate – noted.
- Martyn's Law; how it affects Parish and Town Councils – the clerk explained this is about the threat of terrorism and protection of premises. More information will follow later in the year.
- The Government is offering town and parish councils an official portrait of His Majesty the King to commemorate the accession – the clerk has ordered one.

33/24 To receive areas for improvement suggestion(s) from members

None received.

34/24 Councillors Questions

CLlr PC raised concerns over the road erosion adjacent to the chicane. He will take photos so the clerk can inform Helen Howard (Northants Highways) and report it on [FixMyStreet \(northamptonshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/fixmystreet)

35/24 Public Participation session (members of the public invited to address the council through the chairman)

- A member of the public advised there is a deep pothole further up Broad Lane and on Bicester Hill. These will also be reported on fix-my-street.
- A member of the public advised Brackley Men in Sheds has been set up (and is a registered charity) and will be located at Evenley Wood Gardens once they have raised enough funds for a concrete base to put their building on (they have been sponsored by HS2). She advised they might be able to make allotment plot signs. The chairman thought this was a lovely idea and great to keep it local. The clerk suggested we donate the collection to them at the Christmas Carols around the tree event this December.
- A resident felt two words should be removed from item 07/24 of the January minutes as they weren't uttered during the meeting. The clerk explained this wasn't an inaccuracy.

36/24 Close

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

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 March 2024, 7.30 pm at Evenley Village Hall.

Signed: Cathy Ellis

Date: 18.03.24