

Minutes of the meeting of the parish council held on Monday 22nd January 2024, 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), Cathy Knott (CK) clerk and Matt Brown (MB) from item 05/24, along with 15 members of the public.

01/24 To receive apologies for absence and welcome

All in attendance. The chairman thanked everyone for attending.

02/24 To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the meeting of the parish council held on 20th November 2023.

The minutes were approved and signed.

03/24 To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda for report only

164/23d footpaths – to be actioned in better weather.

Action: JM/CK

165/23 – replace small 30mph signs with larger ones on Mixbury Road (check they are reflective). Ask EWG to provide signage asking visitors to drive carefully when leaving the woods.

Action: CE/CR

04/24 To receive declarations of interest related to business on the agenda

Cllr CE for 06/24 invoice and 07/24 – re. planning application 2023/6232/FULL.

Cllr JPB for 06/24 invoice and 07/24 – re planning application 2024/0047/S73.

05/24 Co-option; to discuss applications from interested parties and resolve to co-opt

Councillors unanimously resolved to co-opt Matt Brown who duly signed his declaration of acceptance of office and electronic service of summons consent form and joined in with the meeting.

06/24 Finance:

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

Account balances	£
Community	6,086.59
Business Saver	25,802.19
National Savings	5,881.42
TOTAL	37,770.02

Income received since the last meeting		VAT
The Wood Oven (fee for electric on the Green 25.11.23 & 16.12.23)	40.00	
S. Ricketts (newsletter donation)	60.00	
Bank interest	176.63	
Payments made since the last meeting		
Evie Burnham (delivery of winter newsletter)	30.00	0
Maximow (weeding the Green)	261.00	0.00
SSE (streetlight electricity Nov 23)	98.22	5.91
C. Knott (Dec salary & backpay)	958.32	0
HMRC (tax)	130.72	0
Barbara Osborne (PAYE services)	69.00	0
Barclaycard - Mailchimp (Oct & Nov subs), Bag Force (road salt), Gov UK (Land Registry search), Black Country Metal (tree guard)	273.00	48.25
EVHMC (November meeting & soup lunch)	47.00	0
Cllr JPB (Christmas tree timer and planning banner)	50.05	0

Estate & Garden Services Ltd (Christmas tree)	290.00	58.00
British Gas (electricity on the Green)	14.54	0.72
Payments submitted for approval		VAT
C. Knott (Jan salary)	687.00	0
HMRC (tax)	56.60	0
EVHMC (December soup lunch)	23.50	0
Barclay Card - Buck Garden Centre (3 x bat boxes), Christmas Direct (xmas lights), Tesco (mulled wine for carol singing event), Jems (stationary for AD proposal) & Mailchimp (subs)	194.37	36.37
SSE (streetlight electric for Dec 23)	101.60	6.12
British Gas (electricity on the Green for Dec 23)	20.38	1.01
WAVE (allotment water)	17.51	0
Evenley WI (poppy cascade costs)	63.91	0
Mrs C. Ellis (Christmas tree costs)	39.48	0

d. To approve the budget and precept for 2024/25

Cllr SB circulated figures prior to holding a budget meeting on 12th January. He has included income and reserves use in the budget and provided details re green renovation, grass cutting and electricity.

The budget was unanimously approved and the precept was set at £26,562.00. This figure equates to an £8 annual increase per band D property (or a 9.2% increase).

It was noted there is a small budget available for printing plans (as WNC has stopped this service) but it was agreed to cap it at no more than 5 sets per annum.

The clerk will submit the precept request to WNC.

07/24 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: REFUSAL
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: pending
2023/6175/FULL	Proposal single dwelling. Location Land at Windrush, 23 Church Lane, 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: APPROVED
2023/6477/OUT	Proposal outline permission for one detached dwelling. Location: Paddock House, Barley Mow Farm, Buckingham Road, Evenley	EPC: no comment WNC: REFUSED
2023/6514/HS2	Submission in accordance with Paragraph 12, Part 1 of Schedule 17 of the HS2 (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: APPROVED
2023/7481/FULL	Front and side single storey extension. Location 34 Broad Lane Evenley	EPC: no objection WNC: WITHDRAWN
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: objection 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 (see explanation below) WNC: pending

***2023/6232/FULL -2nd amendment to plans.**

The chairman left the room due to a declaration of interest and vice-chairman JPB took the chair. Cllr JM talked through the amended plans and after a lengthy discussion suggested we amend our previous comments and add a note to say if it is approved, we would support the removal of permitted development rights. Cllr MB proposed we object as we did previously and amend our comments for refusal to reflect the latest proposed amendments. Cllrs JPB, JM and SB agreed. Cllr CR abstained from voting and cllr PC was against the decision.

The chairman returned to the meeting and cllr JPB left the room, due to a declaration of interest re ***application 2024/0047/S73** – cllr JM talked through the variations (proposed changes) to the approved plans for the two self-build dwellings and two-storey garage buildings, and proposed that we should respond as follows:

Plot 1: addition of ground floor cloakroom window – **no objection**; omit proposed hip to gable – **object**, as the hip to the east gable reduces the impact of the two-storey garage building on adjacent single-storey properties in Lawyers Close; omit front new dormer window and replace with roof lights – **no objection**.

Plot 2: addition of ground floor cloakroom window – **no objection**; relocation and enlargement of bedroom 1 gable window and increase in room size – **no objection**.

It was noted by residents that it appears work has already been undertaken to add cloakroom windows prior to gaining approval. As EPC is strongly opposed to retrospective planning, it does not support such applications in principle.

08/24 To agree on preparations regarding the anaerobic digester refusal and suspected appeal and consider funding options for professional support

The chairman advised she has spoken to the planning officer, Chris Burton following the strategic planning committee meeting on 11th December, who talked through the various scenarios going forward. He will now hand over to another officer. No-one can do anything until the applicant (Acorn) takes the next step. They have six months from the 11th December to appeal WNC's decision, and it will then be up to the planning inspector to decide on how the appeal will be heard, either;

- Written.
- Round table discussion.
- Barristers take forward.

The chairman said we all agree preparedness is key. As soon as we hear that Acorn intends to appeal, we will hold a public meeting to get the village prepared and signal our intentions to the wider 'audience'. Everyone who objected at the first round will be invited to submit comments again and we need to make sure those objections are solid. We cannot consider raising funds to help fight our cause until we know whether Acorn decides to appeal the decision. As Acorn has applications all around the country, cllr JM proposed we keep a log and monitor them to ascertain which are being approved and which are being objected to; she suggested Danny Moody at Northants CALC may be able to help with this.

Action: JM/CE

09/24 To consider a resident's proposal to drop the kerb and provide an off-road parking space to the side of 2 School Lane

Written information and plans were provided prior to the meeting (and circulated to councillors) by the resident who also attended the meeting to answer any questions. She has gained permission from Northamptonshire Highways for a dropped kerb and will use only natural materials for the driveway to promote drainage etc. The triangular piece of grass between the tarmac walkway and the kerb to be dropped belongs to the Parish Council and will form part of the drive that she will pass over with her car to access the drive.

The chairman proposed we support the proposal and seek legal advice on rights of access over privately owned land. All councillors agreed. The clerk will contact our solicitors to move it forward.

Action: CK

10/24 Allotments; to agree on a new plan introducing three smaller plots and consider a new charge per square meter

Cllr CR has measured and pegged out plots and created three new plots from tenants wishing to split theirs. The chairman and clerk met cllr CR at the allotments and cllr JPB has created a new plan. The chairman advised some parts of the allotment look very uncared for there appears to be a lot of rubbish dumped there. It was agreed to arrange a meeting with all tenants to discuss tidying the area up and to go through the rules, etc. Cllr PC suggested we hold regular inspections to keep on top of it going forward. The new plan was approved (once numbers have been rounded up) and it was agreed to charge 35p per square meter so that it is affordable for all; this covers the water and waste charges.

Action: CR/CK

11/24 To consider a proposal to support Evenley Cricket Club financially (for example; by reducing their Green cutting contribution in the next financial year)

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. Councillors unanimously supported the proposal.

12/24 To agree a date for a music event on the Green

Carried over to the next meeting.

13/24 To consider what EPC can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity in the area

The clerk explained government guidance published in May 2023 clarifies that, as a public authority, town and parish councils must:

- consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
- agree policies and specific objectives based on their consideration.
- act to deliver their policies and achieve their objectives.

She will prepare a policy including action points, in readiness for adoption at the next meeting.

14/24 To accept councillors reports on the following areas (if there is anything to report):

- Allotments** see item 10/24.
- Evenley Common** CR and CE will install the three bat boxes and plant the tree saplings once weather permits. CR has cut the hedge back.
- Street Lighting** three lights have been reported as faulty on Church Lane and Mixbury Road.
- Footpaths** JM will meet with Guy Moody, our footpath warden before our meeting in March (when the weather improves). She asked CR whether bark would make a difference for better access on very muddy footpaths. CR will investigate as it's dependent on various factors. **Action: JM/CR**
- Village Hall** PC has had a positive meeting with the chairman of the village hall committee to reaffirm lines of communication. CE has also met with the chairman to discuss the proposed bus shelter and will continue to liaise on plans going forward.
- Website** we are waiting to hear back from Zoe Timmers proposal for a new site.
- Village Green and Trees** CE advised further quotes received for trees (re minute ref 162/23). She will request quotes for root balls and keep looking for a better deal. **Action: CE**
- Newsletter** next edition to be published late February/early March, to include details on the precept and elections (including new ID rules) and a date for a churchyard tidy up.
- HS2 & Highways** CE attended the last liaison meeting and will circulate slides. HS2 is running to target. SB has reported potholes etc on [FixMyStreet \(northamptonshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.fixmystreet.northamptonshire.gov.uk) and asked residents to keep reporting anything requiring attention.
- Three-year action plan** CE will contact an architect re the bus shelter so we can prepare plans and investigate funding.
- St. George's Church** it was agreed to arrange another tidy up early March on a Saturday. Date to be confirmed.

15/24 To note correspondence received that requires discussion

- Communications from Mr Wagstaff, National Highways regarding future works between Barley Mow roundabout to the Oxford roundabout – scheduled to be carried out between October and December this year to fix broken kerbs, broken drainage and provide new footway hard standing, cut back trees and overgrown vegetation.
- Email from a resident of the Green regarding the pizza van parking at the village hall – PC will liaise with the village hall chairman. **Action: PC**
- Proposed Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans – the chairman has drafted a response which the majority of councillors supported (JM did not support).
- Email from a resident asking whether new signs installed on the Green have been given consent from WNC – the clerk has responded to advise they come under permitted development.

9.30pm standing orders suspended due to going over two hours.

16/24 To receive areas for improvement suggestion(s) from members

None received.

17/24 Councillors Questions

Cllr CR suggested installing heavy duty matting to the Green leading down to the gates at the sewage works to provide a parking area. CE advised this would not be possible due to the Green being a designated green space and we can't develop it.

The chairman thanked cllr CR for washing the signs around the village.

A request has been received for a fitting memorial to Miles who recently passed away. The chairman proposed we have another memorial bench made. All councillors were in support.

18/24 Public Participation session (members of the public invited to address the council through the chairman)

A resident raised concerns over the last planning item advising that we shouldn't speculate over things not in a planning application .

A resident asked for an update on the bollards installed by a resident on Church Lane. The chairman advised it had been passed to Northamptonshire Highways who have agreed to take action.

19/24 Close

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.

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 19th February 2024, 7.30 pm at Evenley Village Hall.

Signed: Cathy Ellis

Dated: 19.02.2024