
Notes of the annual parish meeting held on Monday 24th April 2023, 7.30pm at the learning loft, Barnowl Farm Shop, Bicester Hill, Evenley

Present: cllr Spencer Burnham, cllr Paul Crompton, Cathy Ellis (chairman), cllr Jeff Peyton-Bruhl, cllr Charles Reader, cllr Sue Ricketts, Cathy Knott (clerk) and ten members of the public

1. Welcome

Cathy Ellis, chairman welcomed everyone.

2. Confirm the minutes of the virtual meeting held on Wednesday 25th April 2022

The minutes were agreed and signed.

3. Chairman's report

Welcome. And so disappeared another twelve months. Looking back its always difficult to remember what we achieved in the previous year, but that's because it was in fact rather busy!

In May, we agreed our three-year action plan and have been working at a greater and lesser extent on that. In June the parish came together again to celebrate HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee and what a turnout we had, and raised some £1200 for the church to buy a new lawnmower. Sadly we then found ourselves marking her majesty's death in September and organised a book of condolences and tried to keep abreast of flag protocol! This of course has led to the upcoming Coronation of King Charles III and we are hard at work organising the celebration for this historic day in less than two weeks time. I must offer on behalf of the residents a big thank you to all the helpers already involved with this great event. Already between bunting making and tent moving we have created a great sense of community. Thank you all.

Lots of green things have been happening! We have continued to quietly tidy up the overgrown Pocket Park, retitled back to its original name of Evenley Common and much of the credit for this goes to Charles Reader. Jeff, Charles and I planted trees both on the Green and Evenley Common and installed new benches on both. Thank you to the 'Friends of Evenley Common' and its treasurer Michael Genner for donating remaining funds for a bench here and to Naomi Curtis' family for the new bench in her memory on the north-west corner of the village green. On that same side of the Green, we have installed granite setts to protect the edge and along the south side, installed more wooden bollards to try to stop inconsiderate and impatient drivers pulling up on to the green to pass cars so destroying the verge along that side too. So far so good.

Today when I look out on the green, it is a carpet of vibrant emerald. A far cry from its sorry state earlier in the year. Our maintenance programme has begun and is already showing effect. Thank you to Spencer for his work on this and to Andy Reader who has taken the central wicket to new highs. It looks fantastic so here's to some great cricket from our teams out there this Summer!

Elsewhere in the parish, in conjunction with a resident, we've moved the village gates on Bicester Hill to improve visibility at the bottom of the hill. We are now waiting for Northants Highways to reinstall the 30 mile-an-hour signs before we can remove the remnants of the old gates. Likewise we are waiting for Northants Highways for the new sign for Evenley Common, to repair potholes, to solve the drainage issues on Broad Lane.... I could go on, but it is almost a full-time job lobbying agencies about these issues. Be reassured, the state of the A43 has been raised months ago with National Highways, lorries accessing the village with HS2, a rogue lamppost in Church Lane, chasing planning issues.... These are all very boring but essential to the smooth running of the parish but sadly require constant lobbying.

And onto planning. The biggest planning application to hit this parish for years landed last Summer. A newly-formed untested company, under Spanish hedge-fund ownership, Acorn applied to build one of the UK's largest anaerobic

digesters in our parish, within 200m of residents' homes and less than one kilometre of the main village of Evenley. We researched and wrote a detailed fact sheet and distributed it to residents, district councillors, nearby parish councils, Brackley Town Council, landowners and our MP and have continued to work with all of these people to lobby against its construction. These last couple of months, Sue and I have been busy behind the scenes getting ready to speak at the strategic planning committee with other parties to ensure a coherent message. This meeting keeps being delayed and so the project continues to hang over us.

In better news, the village won a silver award at the Northamptonshire Village Awards. Engendering a sense of community is quite rightly at the heart of these and we continue to encourage this through the Remembrance Sunday gathering, singing around the Christmas tree (and what a tree it was this year, thanks David), supporting church tidy-ups and organising the Coronation event.

And finally... last week many of us attended the funeral of a much-loved and very supportive resident last week. It was an apt reminder of how many people do so much for this village today, tomorrow and of course yesterday. To all of you, from all of us thank you and to all those residents who we lost last year, our thoughts are with your families.

Cathy Ellis
Chairman
Evenley Parish Council

4. To receive reports from village groups, committees and organisations

The following reports were submitted:

St. George's Church

We must start our report with a huge thankyou to the Parish Council and Evenley Matters, for monies received to buy a replacement ride on lawn mower which was much needed. We also received very generous donations from two residents for the Christmas Tree and the cherry picker, which enabled Mr Chapel and Paul Bennett to carry out the repair to the clock hand. Whilst the cherry picker was available Cathy Ellis and Charles Reader reduced the height of a yew tree.

We appreciate all the village support for our many events raising money for the church and various charities. It was wonderful and most appreciated to see so many volunteers at our two churchyard tidy ups. Regarding the church yard, we are aware that the wall has collapsed in several places and we are currently getting quotes for repairs.

Our Parish Share is approximately £18,000 and is an annual cost we have to find and again we are immensely thankful to the villagers who donate monthly to St. George's by standing order.

We are always grateful for any help and assistance from the village with the many jobs that are needed for its day to day running, but of course the main purpose of the church is that it is there to provide spiritual support and welcome to everybody and we hope we provide that.

We have our annual APCM on Saturday, 22 April at 10.00 to which everyone is welcome and where we will try and answer any questions you may have.

We look forward to seeing you all at the church fete on Saturday, 24 June at 2.00 – 4.30.

Jose Golding
Church Warden

Evenley Cricket Club

First team

The start of the 22' season had arrived, the first in which all the usual 'pre-Covid' rules were to re-instated. The lads started the season with a lot of fight and determination, everyone giving their all, even in the matches that just weren't going our way. This path seeming to continue, was halted by some fantastic results against top teams, including Wroxton, Silverstone Byfield and Thornborough. The team adapted well to the changes made in the bowling and batting line-up, especially the younger players like Harvey Baul, Kian Brooke and Ben Armstrong, who each played pivotal parts in matches. Other honourable mentions include Jonty Devine, Jez Backon, Josh Barber, James Connor, Joe Walker who capitalised on situations and gave us all a fighting chance.

Although the season ended in relegation out of the Premier Division, the squad are now driven by the opportunity to win the title in division 1 and promotion back to the Premier league.

Second team

The Second team had a successful season which saw a solid mid table finish and a semi final place in the cup. This was due to wins over Woodford Halse, Printers, Thornborough, Crown and Preston Bissett.

We rotated the team throughout the season which led to several highlights from many individual. Some of the notable batting performances include Matt Wethey and Kian Brooke's mammoth 297 not out stand against Woodford Halse, Dave and Freddie Walker both scoring 50's in the away game against Woodford Halse, then smashing 177 runs off 20 overs against Preston Bissett in the cup. The team also had a solid performance against Thornborough chasing down the total for the loss of only 1 wicket.

There were some excellent bowling performances too. Our leading wicket taker was Ben Armstrong who bowled consistently all year which resulted in a few first team appearances as well. Honourable mentions must also go to Harvey, Neil, Freddie, Dave, Andy Reader and Tom Darby who all took wickets when it mattered and put in some economical spells which won us games and made us competitive.

The team are looking forward to the coming season where we go again. Our target is to beat every team in the league once whether that be home or away and to have another good cup run. We have some emerging talents coming through which will help us build upon the strong squad of players we already have.

Kim Golding

Evenley WI Report

This is the annual report for Evenley WI (EWI) for 2022/2023 and covers the period September 2022 – January 2023. EWI meets on the first Monday of each month at Evenley Village Hall at 7.30pm. All meetings were face to face meeting and all Covid restrictions have been lifted.

The EWI Committee has continued to meet monthly via Zoom.

- At September's meeting we welcomed Frances Reader who provided the group with a Tai Chi demonstration and members were encouraged to join in with the practice.
- The annual meeting was held in October. After the formalities of the meeting, we had a quiz and social time with alcoholic and non-alcoholic refreshments offered, which was fun.
- Evenley WI welcomed Andrew Jackson from Brackley Hogwatch at the November meeting. Andrew explained the research the Brackley Hogwatch are undertaking into hedgehog juvenile sickness and mortality. Andrew was accompanied by two guest hedgehogs and provided us with a very informative and interesting talk. The Craft group had completed a beautiful Remembrance Day poppy wreath, ahead of the Remembrance Day service, which was displayed for all members to see.
- The group had a fun time at the December meeting. We welcomed Maggie Hicks and Susan Lilley to the meeting, they had very kindly decorated the hall and led us through the Christmas craft activity, which was decorating a jam jar for a tealight Christmas decoration. Ample supplies of mulled wine and mince pies were available throughout the evening. The tea light activity was followed by Evenley Handbell Ringers joining us for festive songs and a sing along. Members were given the opportunity to try their hand at ringing after the performance which was noted to be challenging.
- Simon Robbins, a local beekeeper joined us for the January 2023 meeting to provide the group with an insightful and amusing presentation on a year in the life of a beekeeper. Simon brought props and samples of honey and honeycomb along to the meeting.
- Evenley WI baked ten cakes for Cynthia Spencer hospice, which were delivered on 23 January 2023
- Evenley WI was invited to the Brackley WI Group Carol service on 04 December 2022. Deborah Davis, Evenley WI President read a bible scripture passage.
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- The interest groups continue to be well supported, the current groups listed below meet regularly:
 - o **Cinema and Theatre Group**
 - o **Walking group**
 - o **Coffee and Cake group**
 - o **Poppy and Craft Group:** the group will focus on making sufficient poppies to make a poppy cascade for the 2023 Remembrance Day service.

At this time, we have 28 paid up Members.

Zelda Carr
Evenley WI Secretary

Evenley Residents Association/Evenley Matters

- 1 Evenley Matters continues to fund several lunches, teas and other events for over-60s from the Parish. These have all been popular and well attended.
- 2 Funding is available for a 2023 children's Christmas Party if one or more people want to organise something. This has been very popular in the past with local children and grandchildren.
- 3 The funds being distributed by Evenley Matters were raised at village fêtes held from 2012 to 2019. There is £1034.26 remaining in the kitty.
- 4 Over the years, ERA has purchased various items of equipment which are available to use at local events. This includes a couple of gazebos/marquees, banners, first aid tent etc etc. Please get in touch with Nic if you want more information.
- 5 If anyone is interested in organising a village fund-raising event (such as a fête, table sale safari etc) please contact Nic Hamblin in the first instance (nichamblin@hotmail.com) or Mike Baul (info4mike@baul.co.uk). ERA can help with insurance and other support for events, as well as equipment as above.
- 6 Evenley Residents Association (ERA) and its newer funding arm Evenley Matters (EM) have agreed to re-integrate and this will take place later in 2023.
- 7 People currently involved in ERA/EM are Jacky Alder, Mike Baul, Kirsty Burnham, Angie Crompton, Nic Hamblin, Ian Inshaw, Jean Morgan and Liz Warrender.

Jean Morgan
Secretary

The following questions were put forward to Jean Morgan:

Question: when will Evenley Residents Association (ERA) and Evenley Matters (EM) merge?

Answer: at the last meeting in November 2021, it was agreed to merge ERA and EM and have one constitution. The group hopes to meet again in July this year.

Question: several residents have asked exactly how much money is in the ERA account?

Answer: Jean advised she doesn't know.

Question: residents have raised a pot of money over the years from summer fetes. When the two groups merge, what will happen to that money?

Answer: EM has £1034.26 in the pot, but I don't know how much ERA has. The group will need to discuss what happens to the money.

Question: Going forward, if another fete is organised, will the funds go to ERA or EM? More volunteers will come forward if they know how the money raised is being spent.

Answer: money raised at fetes is ringfenced. A group debate needs to be held regarding the rest of the money.

Question: Who makes up the committee for ERA?

Answer: I'm unsure, I think it's myself and Mike Baul.

5. Close of the meeting

The meeting closed at 7.50 pm.