



## Minutes of the meeting of the parish council held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2024, 7.30 pm at Evenley Village Hall

Present: Matt Brown (MB), Cathy Ellis (CE), Jean Morgan (JM), Jeff Peyton-Bruhl (JPB), Charles Reader (CR), Cathy Knott (CK) clerk, and nine members of the public.

### 73/24 To receive apologies for absence and welcome

Apologies accepted from Paul Crompton (PC) and Spencer Burnham (SB). The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Cllr MB requested to speak about an incident yesterday (Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June) and asked the chairman if she was okay, as she had found a note attached to her gate saying 'Evenley PC this is your fault' which left her feeling upset and targeted. It transpired that 40 notes were left at other councillors' properties and littered all around the village.

Cllr MB expressed his concerns that this is harassment of a public official. He said we are all volunteers with our main objective to make the village a better place to live; if somebody wants to criticise, get involved and become a councillor or come to a meeting and express your thoughts in the correct manner. He asked that the incident be recorded at a public meeting because if this is the start of how people wish to communicate with the parish council, there are laws that protect people carrying out public service. The chairman thanked cllr MB for raising this matter and hopes the person/s that littered the village with notes steps forward, apologises and puts themselves forward to help with the jobs that need doing around the village instead of standing on the sidelines criticising.

### 74/24 To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the annual meeting of the parish council held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

Two amendments to the minutes were made before they were approved and signed (59/24; replace 'rocketed' with 'increased' and 65/24 add 'residential' to canal moorings).

### 75/24 To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda for report only

66/24 c/o - to communicate with parishioners and landowners regarding responsibilities, expectations and the countryside code; to arrange a working party with Brian Sinclair and to ask Evenley Wood Garden landowners if they will replace two stiles with kissing gates at the bottom of Mill Lane. **Action: JM**

67/24e – the Gigaclear banner has been removed.

68/24 - the clerk has written to the owner of 10 Lawyers Close who is arranging for remedial works to be carried out.

### 76/24 To receive declarations of interest related to business on the agenda

77/24 cllr CE for Green Stuff invoice.

84/24 cllr JM member of Evenley Matters committee.

### 77/24 Finance: (different from agenda)

- Financial statement
- To note payments received
- To consider invoices to be paid

Account balances	£
Community	19,276.45
Business Saver	16,448.54
National Savings	5,926.93
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>41,651.92</b>

Income received since the last meeting			TOTAL
Allotment rent plot 10			19.60
Payments submitted for approval		VAT	
C. Knott (June salary)		0	655.80
HMRC (tax)		0	87.80
Barbara Osborne (PAYE service)		0	70.50
Clear Insurance Management Ltd (annual fee)		0	818.35
Maggie Hicks (WI bits for D-Day 80)		0	29.97

EVHMC (May; soup lunch)		0	23.50
Miss Z Timmers (website photography fee)		0	450.00
Barclay Card (Mailchimp subs)		0	12.54
SSE (streetlight electric)	101.88	6.13	108.01
British Gas (electricity on the Green)	14.65	0.73	15.38
Cloudy IT (monthly subs)	35.49	7.10	42.59
Green Stuff (planters)		0	58.72

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

Cllr SB will provide an update including reserve amounts at the next meeting; the clerk provided a list of variable direct debits and fixed direct debits which was shown on the big screen.

**d. To adopt a reserve policy**

The clerk circulated the policy prior to the meeting explaining it is good practice to transparently publish both the level and rationale of all reserves. Councillors resolved to adopt the policy.

**78/24 To consider new planning applications (if there are any) and to receive an update on applications outstanding**

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
2023/6175/FULL	Proposal single dwelling. Location Land at Windrush, 23 Church Lane, Evenley	EPC: objection <b>WNC: finally disposed of</b>
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
2024/1740/FULL	Rear extension incorporating rear raised patio, rendering existing bungalow, new front dormers and creation of new detached garage in lieu of approval 2023/6342/FULL Field View Buckingham Road Evenley	EPC: no objection <b>WNC: APPROVED</b>
2024/1768/FULL	Change of use of an agricultural paddock to a site for 5 yurts with associated outbuildings, access, car parking and landscaping, and a 3m high acoustic fence. Location: Barley Mow Farm Barn, Buckingham Rd, Evenley	EPC: no comment WNC: pending
2024/1823/FULL	Erection of 2 no. dwellings for self and custom build with associated landscaping, habitat creation and works to facilitate the development. Location: Land at Slade Farm Buckingham Road Evenley	EPC: object WNC: pending

WNS/2022/1557/EIA Anaerobic Digester - the chairman advised the date for Acorn to appeal was up until 15<sup>th</sup> June (six months from the decision notice) and WNC has confirmed they have not received an appeal. This doesn't stop them from re-applying but WNC has advised there will be no development sites along the A43 in the new five-year plan and no sites have been put forward on the call for sites. This is great news for all of us.

**79/24 Resolve to apply for advertising consent for the finger post sign**

After discussion, councillors resolved to withdraw this project and invest our efforts elsewhere.

**80/24 To review/amend councillor's register of interests**

All councillors present reviewed/amended their registers of interests.

**81/24 To review councillor responsibilities**

Changes include the following: all councillors will be equally responsible for events and planning; MB – add Police Liaison Representative, clerks' appraisal and bus shelter; JM – remove bus shelter; SB – add village green; JPB – remove bus shelter and EV charging points.

**82/24 To approve meeting dates for 2025**

Cllr JPB proposed we move meeting days to midweek or even a mix of days as Mondays aren't always convenient due to long weekends and bank holidays. It was agreed the clerk should investigate the availability of the hall and Barnowl Education Loft and will add an item to the next agenda.

**Action: CK**

### **83/24 To provide an update on the Summer Fete**

A member of Evenley Matters (EM) advised that due to availability of the Green and several other factors, there won't be fete this year. EM is meeting tomorrow and hopes to secure a date for 2025.

### **84/24 Proposal to organise proactive community events**

Cllr MB proposed to organise the following events and will check availability with the village hall;

- Village Quiz night in October (which could become a regular event)
- Village Christmas party at the beginning of December
- 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day next year; possibly on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2025

The chairman also suggested it might be nice to combine an Open Gardens with a musical event some time.

Cllr JM advised she will ask members of Evenley Matters committee at their meeting tomorrow if they would like to be involved with VE Day next year.

### **85/24 Proposal to share out jobs around the village**

The chairman has put a rota together asking councillors to help with various jobs, mainly regular watering of the Village planters. If there are any gaps, we will go out to the village to ask for help.

### **86/24 To consider replacing the village notice board**

It was agreed councillors JPB and MB will try to realign one of the doors which has dropped as there is still quite a lot of life left in the notice board. They will also fix the electricity box door.

**Action: JPB/MB**

### **87/24 To consider installing outdoor gym equipment in the village**

Cllr CR advised he has been contacted by a parishioner asking whether EPC would consider installing equipment in the village. As part of our remit is to promote health and wellbeing, he felt we should discuss the possibility.

The clerk showed Kompan equipment on the big screen ranging from £1,000 to £10,000 (which would need to be funded by grants) and discussed liability, insurance, location, usage, etc. It was agreed not to pursue this but the chairman asked cllr MB to add a fitness community event to his list.

### **88/24 To accept councillors reports on the following areas (if there is anything to report):**

- a. Allotments** only one small plot is untenanted which cllr CR is keeping on top of.
- b. Evenley Common** cllr CR has mown the paths and will trim up the overgrowth.
- c. Street Lighting** nothing to report.
- d. Footpaths** see 75/24. Brian Sinclair has strimmed footpaths on Puddleduck.
- e. Village Hall** nothing to report.
- f. Website** - the clerk showed the new website on the big screen which is almost ready to go live. Email migration has taken place and only one councillor is yet to sign up.
- g. Village Green and Trees** the chairman thanked everyone for joining forces and raking and mowing the grass on Sunday, it is now looking a lot better. There will be a meeting on Monday for interested parties to discuss the way forward and we will update everyone at our July meeting. The chairman has trimmed trees but a bit more work needs to be done.
- h. Newsletter** the Summer edition has been delivered. The chairman apologised for the date error for D-Day 80.
- i. HS2 & Highways** CE has written to our contact at National Highways (with the accident log) to say we are concerned about safety at the two roundabouts. As yet, no response has been received.
- j. Three-year action plan** we are awaiting a quote from the architect regarding the bus shelter and will concentrate on the community side of things.
- k. St. George's Church** the fete will be held on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July from 2pm.
- l. Anaerobic Digester** see 78/24.

### **89/24 To note correspondence received that requires discussion**

- Campaign to improve the safety of lithium batteries (used in e-bike and e-scooters) and their disposal – it was agreed not to sign the petition.
- After the chairman wrote to the architect of The Piggeries to advise that one of their contractors has been speeding on Broad Lane, he apologised and asked her to let them know of any other incidents as they are trying to be as amenable as they can be. She has asked that contractors don't come through the village whenever possible.

### **90/24 To receive areas for improvement suggestion(s) from members**

None received.

### **91/24 Councillors Questions**

- Cllr CR advised a lot of articulated wagons came through the village today.
- Cllr JM asked if all agreed meeting dates could be added to each agenda. The clerk advised it was only necessary to include the next meeting date as a list of dates is published separately and is available on the website and notice board.
- The chairman has been asked by several residents whether EPC could install more bollards on the East side of the Green due to its erosion. It was agreed to include an item on the next agenda.
- Cllr MB expressed his thanks to everyone who attended D-Day 80 but said he was disappointed EPC wasn't better represented. The chairman thanked cllr MB for overseeing the event.

### **92/24 Public Participation session** (*members of the public invited to address the council through the chairman*)

- A member of Evenley Matters committee advised she has written to the EM chairman to enforce what was said at the beginning of our meeting this evening as it is so unfair volunteers are criticised.
- A member of the Bridge Club asked whether information on clubs will be included on the new website. The clerk showed them the relevant page and the chairman said we will include a promotional piece on the club in the next newsletter.
- A parishioner asked us to be aware of an invasive yellow flowered weed invading the village.
- A resident said it was wonderful to see everyone helping on the Green on Sunday and thanked the chairman for organising it.
- A resident asked what the situation is with our mowing contractor. The chairman advised that due to the weather, his workload and timescales everything has been against him this year. We are looking at a contingency plan and will be able to provide more information at our next meeting.

### **93/24 Close**

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

**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 15<sup>th</sup> July 2024, 7.30pm at Evenley Village Hall.**

**Signed: Cathy Ellis**

**Dated: 15<sup>th</sup> July 2024**