



**Minutes of the meeting of the parish council held on  
Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 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), Cathy Knott (CK) clerk, and 19 members of the public

**110/24 To receive apologies for absence and welcome**

Apologies accepted from Matt Brown (MB) and Jean Morgan (JM). The chairman welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

**111/24 To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the meeting of the parish council held on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2024.** The minutes were approved and signed.

**112/24 To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda for report only**

75/24 location of Gigaclear banner – cllr PC advised negotiations are in hand.

101/24 the clerk advised that, since elections are scheduled for May 1st next year, the council’s annual meeting must be held within 14 days of councillors taking office. As a result, the meeting confirmed at the last meeting (21<sup>st</sup> May) has been brought forward to May 14th, and additional meeting dates will be confirmed following the elections.

107/24 overgrown vegetation – cllr JPB will speak to the homeowners.

**Action: JPB**

**113/24 To receive declarations of interest related to business on the agenda**

115/24 – cllr SB for Lucy Burnham invoice; cllr CR for Barnowl Farm invoice

101/24 – cllr CR for Barnowl Learning Loft meeting invoice.

127/24 – cllr PC Director of the Red Lion.

**114/24 To consider a response to Acorn’s public consultation on improved proposals for Astwick Green Energy (anaerobic digester) and to provide an update on actions taken by EPC**

The chairman provided an update on the recent developments since EPC received a letter from Quatro, acting on behalf of Acorn Bioenergy, at the end of August. Several parishioners also received a flyer from Acorn outlining revised proposals for Astwick Green Energy and inviting them to participate in an informal public consultation.

Key dates and actions so far:

- **04.09.24:** The chairman, along with cllrs MB and SB, met with Acorn’s public relations team.
- **06.09.24:** The chairman and cllr MB held a meeting with MP Sarah Bool.
- **11.09.24:** A public meeting was held at Barnowl Farmshop Learning Loft.

A suggested response to the public consultation was discussed which the clerk will circulate.

It was agreed that our objections to WNC, once the application is formally submitted, should focus on three key issues: policy compliance, traffic impact, and the suitability of the location.

Please be assured that substantial work is being carried out behind the scenes to oppose this proposal.

**115/24 Finance: (different from agenda)**

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

Account balances	£
Community	10,433.10
Business Saver	20,572.08
National Savings	5,926.93
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36,932.11</b>

Income received since the last meeting			TOTAL
Claydon Auctioneers, Forge Coffee & Bag Force (x 3 newsletter donations)			270
Evenley Cricket Club (mowing share)			800
The Wood Oven (Electricity payment 3 x visits)			60.00

<b>Payments made since the last meeting</b>	<b>NET</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>GROSS</b>
Lucy Burnham (newsletter delivery fee)		0	30.00
C. Knott (August salary)		0	655.80
HMRC (tax)		0	87.80
J. Peyton Bruhl (repairs to electric cupboard on the village green)		0	16.59
SSE (streetlight electricity) DD	101.88	6.13	108.01
British Gas (electricity on the Green) DD	15.12	0.77	16.25
EVHMC (July meeting)		0	23.50
Cloudy IT (August monthly subs) DD	31.40	6.28	37.68
Barclay Card (Hydramex - Womble paint and Four Seasons – defibrillator pads) DD	94.59	18.91	113.50
PKF Littlejohn LLP (external audit fee)	210.00	42.00	252.00
Clockwork Design Ltd (advert in Life in Brackley magazine for mowing tender)	50.00	10.00	60.00
<b>Payments submitted for approval</b>	<b>NET</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>GROSS</b>
C. Knott (Sept salary)		0	655.60
HMRC (tax)		0	88.00
Barbara Osbourne (PAYE service July-Sept)		0	70.50
Barclay Card (Mailchimp subs x 2 & Asda ink) DD	40.28	3.17	43.45
SSE (streetlight electric) DD	105.25	6.33	111.58
British Gas (electricity on the Green) DD	14.54	0.72	15.26
Cloudy IT (monthly subs) DD	31.40	6.28	37.68
PWLB (Loan repayment for replacement streetlights) DD		0	1750.05
Barnowl Jerseys (May meeting)		0	25.00

**d. To receive an update from the internal controls' councillor**

Cllr SB has checked the accounts and reported no discrepancies.

**e. Annual audit; to approve the end of year accounts and to note the external auditors report**

PKF Littlejohn Ltd has completed its review of the annual governance and accountability return (AGAR) and a notice of conclusion has been put on the noticeboard and website. There were no matters raised by the external auditor. Cllr SB and the chairman thanked the clerk for her work on this. The clerk advised our internal auditor John Marshall is retiring and will be replaced by Kirsty Buttle (also through Northants CALC) next year. The chairman will send a letter of thanks to John.

**f. To make arrangements for a budget meeting**

It was agreed to meet on 30.10.24. **Post meeting note:** the date of the budget meeting has changed to 06.11.24.

**116/24 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 <b>WNC: Approved</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 <b>WNC: Refused</b>
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
2024/1768/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
21/03266/F (Cherwell DC)	Site clearance, construction of new site access from the B4100, permanent and temporary internal roads, an internal roundabout and a foul drainage station, diversion of an existing overhead power cable and public right of way, and soft landscaping OS Parcel 2636 NW of Baynards House, Ardley Ardley with Fewcott	EPC: object Cherwell DC: consultation
Appeal Notice for 2024/1699/FULL	Front & side single storey extension (resubmission 2023/7481/FULL). Location: 34 Broad Lane, Evenley.	Appeal made to the Secretary of State against WNC

### **117/24 To nominate councillors to attend the 77<sup>th</sup> Northants CALC AGM on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October**

Councillors MB and JM will attend on behalf of EPC.

### **118/24 To respond to the draft Local Transport Plan consultation**

People are being encouraged to share their views on a Local Transport Plan being developed by WNC. Cllr JPB attended a virtual session to learn more about the plan on 5<sup>th</sup> August and the chairman and cllr MB attended a briefing on 5<sup>th</sup> September.

One of the main aims of the plan is to connect people better; Brian Sinclair (Evenley's bus service liaison) has been instrumental in lobbying for a return of a bus service in the village; he thanked villagers for responding to the survey earlier this year organised by go-travel-solutions. Evenley features strongly in the results, so we need to keep up the pressure. On the back of Brians efforts, over the summer cllr MB wrote to WNC's head of transport asking whether they would support a link to a service Oxfordshire County Council is funding; a bus service to Bicester passing through Mixbury (operated by Ability) or support with the reinstatement of some sort of service to Brackley from Evenley. For more information and the chance to have your say: [Have your say on the draft local transport plan for West Northants | West Northamptonshire Council](#) (the consultation closes on 17.10.24). The chairman thanked Brian for his support and for persevering with this matter.

### **119/24 To receive a quote for granite setts along the East side of the Green**

The clerk has requested a quote from Raybell and Sons to edge 90m on the East side. She is awaiting a response so it will be included on the next agenda.

### **120/24 To receive a proposal to purchase a mower for the village green**

The chairman advised that the parish has faced some challenges this year, prompting the formation of a working group a few months ago to explore possible solutions.

Cllr SB explained that the parish council sought bids from around 20 contractors to handle grass cutting. However, only three contractors responded. Currently, we pay £90 per cut for maintaining the Green, but the tenders we received range from £280 to £1000 per cut. This shows that the cost of grass cutting is likely to rise significantly, by more than 50%. Moreover, the current contractor has stated they will no longer maintain the grass in Evenley after this year.

One potential solution is for the parish council to purchase a cylinder mower with funding input from the cricket club and Evenley Matters. Owning our own mower would give us more control over grass cutting on the Green and protect us from the rising costs of hiring contractors. However, we would still hire a contractor to maintain the village verges. We applied for HS2 funding to help with this, but it was declined because maintaining public open spaces is the parish council's statutory responsibility.

The cricket club has agreed to contribute £2000 towards the mower and will also cover the labour, fuel, and annual maintenance costs. We have also applied for funding from Evenley Matters, which we hope will be reviewed at their next meeting on October 22nd.

The chairman proposed we purchase a second-hand mower (with contributions) for the Green and to appoint Kris Sheppard, a village resident, to cut the verges (this tender was the preferred choice of the working group). Councillors unanimously agreed.

### **121/24 To provide an update on the Christmas Get Together on 13<sup>th</sup> December**

The event will run from 7.30pm until Midnight at Evenley Village Hall. Admission will be £5 (under 18's free) and will include entry into a raffle. Residents will need to register with the clerk and places will be available on a 'first come first serve' basis due to restriction on numbers. Any profit made will be donated to Katharine House Hospice. Promotional posters will be put up around the village and information is available on our website at:

[Events | Evenley Parish Council](#)

### **122/24 To advise on a date for the village fete 2025**

The fete will be held on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September. Evenley Matters is organising and all help will be greatly appreciated.

### **123/24 To agree on a location for the grit bin, Church Lane**

The current placement of the bin, located in front of the allotment wall, has been causing access issues, especially when cars park opposite it. This has been particularly problematic for larger vehicles, such as agricultural machinery, and recently, a passing vehicle struck the bin. While the bin has since been moved to a safer location, as it is owned by WNC, the clerk will report the issue and request its relocation to a more appropriate spot.

### **124/24 To accept councillors reports on the following areas (if there is anything to report):**

- a. **Allotments** nothing to report.
- b. **Evenley Common** cllr CR has cut the grass and trimmed the inside of the hedge. He will attend to the rest at a later date.
- c. **Street Lighting** light no. 13 has been reported faulty; the clerk will request a replacement.

- d. **Footpaths** signs/discs are looking worn; it was agreed to order more from WNC.
- e. **Village Hall** the chairman met with the VH chairman after receiving bus shelter plans from the architect. This was followed up with an email raising concerns about sightlines etc; the chairman will respond.
- f. **Website** the clerk advised our old website is still live despite requests to remove it. Please add the new one to your favourite's list [Evenley Parish Council](#).
- g. **Village Green and Trees** it was noted some of the trees need trimming back. The chairman and cllr CR will see if it's something they can do or whether they need to appoint a tree surgeon. Cllr SB advised the Green is due to be aerated.
- h. **Newsletter** the autumn edition should be ready for publication next week.
- i. **HS2 & Highways** cllr MB has written to Nick Henstock, Director of Highways and Transport regarding safety issues relating to Evenley roundabout and the cycle path to Brackley.
- j. **Three-year action plan** architectural plans for the bus shelter have been received (see 'e').
- k. **St. George's Church** the Revd. George Frost is the new rector in the Astwick Vale Benefice. More information can be found at: [Astwick Vale Benefice](#)
- l. **Anaerobic Digester** see 114/24.

**125/24 To note correspondence received that requires discussion**

- Emails regarding parking issues in Church Lane – covered under 123/24.
- Letter from Unity Trust bank regarding changes to current account – noted.
- Resident request to add more wooden bollards on the Green – it was agreed we have enough now; the chairman will respond.
- Donation request from HomeStart Daventry & South Northants – it was agreed this is out of our remit.

**126/24 To receive areas for improvement suggestion(s) from members**

None received.

**127/24 Councillors questions/comments**

- Cllr PC provided information on the Red Lion; Marston's has sold it to Admiral Taverns which takes ownership later this month.
- Cllr SB advised the interest rate for EPC reserves is low. He and the clerk will investigate regulations and better options to maximise funds.
- The chairman asked if someone would water the plant boxes whilst she's away; cllr CR volunteered.

**128/24 Public Participation session** (*members of the public invited to address the council through the chairman*)

A member of the public advised the pathway on the corner of Church Lane is overgrown with ivy. Councillors will investigate.

**129/24 Close**

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

**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 21<sup>st</sup> October 2024, 7.30pm at Evenley Village Hall.**