

EPWELL PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER 2021
IN EPWELL VILLAGE HALL AT 8PM

Councillors Present

Gavin Lloyd-Thomas (Chairman), Chris Hurst, Paul Neal, Nicola Rudge and Norman White

Christine Coles, Parish Clerk and two villagers

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and he introduced the new Parish Clerk, Christine Coles.

72/21. To receive apologies for absence

There were no apologies.

73/21. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda

There were no interests to declare.

74/21. To approve the minutes of the meeting of 28th July 2021

The minutes were approved and signed.

75/21. Public participation session

There were no matters to discuss.

76/21. To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda for report only

20 is Plenty Signs – These have been ordered but not invoiced. The signs will be placed on the approaches to the village on Sibford road.

Defibrillator – Cllr Neal has agreed to take responsibility for periodically checking the operational status of the defibrillator. The pads may need replacing soon. EPC will maintain the defibrillator and ensure it is in working order.

The Hook Norton First Responders group are having an open day at Hook Norton Brewery on 16th October. Any resident interested in the work of the First Responders, defibrillator training or first aid training is welcome to attend. Subsequently the group coordinator is intending to run a series of training events for the surrounding villages. Dates TBC.

Bench outside the village hall – This has been removed and is being repaired.

77/21. To receive an update on the playing field and inspection report

The safety inspection was carried out on 23rd July and thanks was given to Cllr White and his team for all their work. Essential work has been carried out to fix the faults identified in the report.

78/21. To receive an update on the new village website

The new website is ready to be transferred to a new server and this will happen in the next few days. It was agreed to place a big advert in the next Epwell Echo to encourage residents to look at it.

New email addresses were briefly discussed. All Councillors were encouraged to setup their new email address.

79/21. To receive an update on the cutting of the verges and the effects on bulbs and wildflower planting.

The Chair has spoken to Nigel Prickett and agreed on three cuts per year. The cuts are to be carried out at the end of Spring, Summer and late Summer.

The PCC has a successful programme of management of the church yard, advice may be sort from Alison

Pollard. In order to replicate this success village wide.

A schedule for bulbs and wildflowers planting will have to be drawn up.

Action: Cllr Hurst to circulate the PCC programme of cuts. The Chair to speak to Epwell Gardening Group (EGG) to ascertain if the group would be interested in managing the verges.

Cllr Hurst and Cllr Rudge will investigate further.

80/21. To discuss a request to prepare a feasibility study on request bus stops

This is work in progress.

81/21. Financial Report

The updated cash book and bank reconciliation were presented at the meeting. There are no cheques to approve tonight.

Online banking will be set up and is currently work in progress.

82/21. To receive an update on planning

There were no new planning applications to consider.

83/21. The following correspondence was received and circulated:

- Lord Lieutenancy Office, Platinum Jubilee Celebrations
- OALC, Oxfordshire 2050 Consultation
- OCC, Civil Parking Enforcement
- CDC, District wide Community Governance Review

Two items of correspondence were highlighted:

- Lord Lieutenancy Office, Platinum Jubilee Celebrations June 2022. Beacons will be lit on 2nd June and street parties held on 5th June. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.
- CDC, District wide Community Governance Review. Responses had to be filed by 15th September. The Chair has asked if a parish boundary change can be considered in the terms of reference for the forthcoming CDC revenue. At this stage it is a discussion item only. The proposed change would include 2 fields and a wood currently in the parish of Sibford. The reason being that the area of land is an important part of the local amenity. (this view point was not universally agreed by members of the council). The option is being explored and there is no guarantee it will happen.

84/21. To receive Councillors Reports

Funding for projects – Under the Central Government Fund, there is a Community Ownership Fund, £150M over the next four years to acquire local assets and run them. The playing field owned by Hook Norton Brewery could be purchased. Current rent is £20 per year.

Action: Cllr White to speak to the HNB solicitor.

The idea of setting up a cinema in the village hall will be explored further.

Action: The Chair to speak to the VHC.

TOE have money for local projects including wildlife, access to green spaces, bulb planting and wildflowers. They have given money to Sibford and other villages. Trees and bird boxes could be included.

Action: The Chair to forward to Cllr Rudge.

Training - The Chair has attended one training course and will attend a second in due course.

Memorial Bench - The memorial bench for Oliver Boyles was discussed and it was agreed in principle to purchase the bench. The trust will make a contribution and the bench will become a PC asset.

Budgetary ideas - Councillors to think of ideas for next years budget. Discussions will start in November ready to set the precept amount in January.

85/21. Date and Time of next meeting

Monday 15th November 2021 at 8pm in Epwell Village Hall

Meeting closed at 9.10pm

DRAFT