

PWELL PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 18TH JULY 2022
IN EPWELL VILLAGE HALL AT 8PM

Councillors Present

Gavin Lloyd-Thomas (Chair), Paul Neal, Matthew Platt, Nicola Rudge and Norman White

Christine Coles (Parish Clerk) and one villager

- 22/46. To receive apologies for absence**
Cllr George Reynolds (CDC meeting)
- 22/47. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda**
None.
- 22/48. To approve the minutes of the meeting of 11th May 2022**
The minutes were approved and signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.
- 22/49. Public participation session**
Treasurer of the Echo discussed the Echos finances and hoped to find new volunteers, both editorial and administrative.
- 22/50. To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda for report only**
The Village Hall bench is back in place. A big thank you to Alan and Carol Griffin. The bench looks as good as new. It is still to be fixed to its base.
Action: A thank you note will be put in the Epwell Echo.
- Village Email - The Parish Clerk has drafted a response sheet and it is hoped it will be set up by the end of the summer. Village groups such as the Parish Council, Epwell Trust, Church, Village Hall Committee and Playing field committee will be able to use it.
- There is a new playground sign in place.
- 22/51. To receive an update following the Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations**
The Chair thanked all those involved. The celebrations including the beacon lighting and tea party were a great success and enjoyed by the many residents that attended.
- 22/52. To approve the CDC Code of Conduct**
A new model Code of Conduct was circulated. The Chair read out the seven Nolan Principles and the purpose. Training will follow. It was agreed that EPC would accept and adopt the new Code with immediate effect.
Action: The Parish Clerk to notify CDC.
- 22/53. To receive a report from the Cherwell Parish Liaison meeting**
The Chair and Parish Clerk attended the meeting at CDC Council Offices on 8th June. It was emphasized that CDC set their budget in November 2021 with no idea that inflation would rise to 10%. Business Rate targets which are set by Central Government are likely to provide less revenue in the future. There will be less money available through the New Homes Bonus Grant. The message was that CDC has a challenge to meet its budgetary responsibilities.

CDC has done a lot of work to help Ukraine people come here to live and work. Contact details for the **Homes for Ukraine scheme** is ukraine.support@cherwell-dc.gov.uk More details can be found on www.cherwell.gov.uk. Work is in progress on the Local Plan 2040, local consultations will follow.

22/54. To discuss the future of the Epwell Echo.

Mr Christian Lejeune wishes to step down as treasurer after Christmas and Cllr Nicola Rudge hopes to pass the editorship to a new individual or team. New volunteers are sought to shape and run the Echo in the years to come. The EPC wishes to continue to support the Echo. Cllr Neal suggested that money is ring fenced within the precept to guarantee financial security. It was suggested that advertising rates could be increased in line with neighbouring village publications.

Action: Cllr Rudge to put an advert for a new editorial team in a future issue.

22/55. To discuss the play inspection report

The play inspection will take place this month. The Parish Council are waiting for the full report and invoice.

22/56. Financial Report

To receive the cashbook and bank reconciliation

The bank balance is £12,556.88.

A donation cheque of £458.29 was received from the Epwell Trust for the bench. This will be banked.

*The following payment was approved under statutory powers
£552.00 to N Prickett (grass cutting)*

AGAR for year ending 31st March 2022

To approve and sign the Certificate of Exemption, Section 1 and Section 2

The documents were presented and it was agreed to approve them. The Chair and Responsible Financial Officer (Parish Clerk) signed the Certificate of Exemption, Section 1 and Section 2.

Action: The Parish Clerk to return the documents to the external auditor and place all relevant paperwork on the website.

22/57. To receive an update on planning.

There are three current applications to consider but the Parish Council were not notified in time to discuss tonight. This has now been rectified with CDC. A separate extraordinary meeting has been arranged to take place on 27th July in the village hall at 8pm. Councillors are to look at the online papers before the meeting. Councillors will remain impartial and each application is to be considered on its own merits.

22/58. To receive Councillors Reports

The Parish Clerk is progressing the new Lloyds bank account and setting up online banking.

22/59. To note date and time of next meeting

Monday 12th September 2022 at 8pm

Meeting Closed 9:00pm