

**EPWELL PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD ON MONDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 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

**22/64. To receive apologies for absence**

None.

**22/65. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda**

None.

**22/66. To approve the minutes of the meetings of 18<sup>th</sup> July and 27<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

The minutes were both approved and signed as a true and accurate record of the meetings.

**22/67. Public participation session**

There were no matters to discuss.

**22/68. To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda for report only**

Village communication – effective and timely ways of communicating with residents are still under discussion, *Ref: 22/71*

Code of Conduct – It was adopted and CDC were notified.

Epwell Echo – The appeal for a new editorial team to take over the production of the Epwell Echo has had no responses. Cllr Rudge will compile the last edition in November. It is very much hoped that a new editorial team can still be found. *SINCE THE MEETING HARRIET BROOK HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO ASSUME THE EDITORIAL RESPONSIBILITIES AT THE ECHO. MANY THANKS TO HARRIET.*

**22/69. Playing Field Annual Inspection - To discuss a response, plan and budget for repairs.**

As a result of the play safe annual inspection, a number of repairs and maintenance work need to be done. It was agreed to spend up to £1000.00 on the repairs.

*Action: Cllr Neal to ask the original supplier of the playground equipment to quote for the material necessary to carry out the repair to the Disc swing. Cllr White will organise a working party to carry out repairs in due course.*

**22/70. To discuss the steps at the bottom of the footpath by Ambleside**

Cllr Rudge has spoken to the Countryside Access officer but she is leaving her post. A new access officer is yet to be appointed. For H&S and public liability reasons, EPC has been advised that Countryside Services have to build the steps but are understaffed at present. It is unlikely to be done this winter. In the meantime Councillors suggested a handrail could be erected and the surface improved which would improve access and be much safer.

*Action: Cllr Rudge and the Parish Clerk to find out the name of the replacement staff member*

*and to continue to communicate with them.*

**22/71. The best way to utilize those residents wishing to be involved in council business**

Ms Nadira Thain has volunteered to be a Fix My Street Super User. Her details will be forwarded to OCC. The role is a new initiative to improve OCC and community liaison on public highway matters. Many Thanks to Nadira.

A number of residents have expressed enthusiasm to help with projects and maintenance of village assets and landscape.

Extending the current Whatsapp group to include all households was suggested as a means of effective and immediate communications with most residents. The ownership of smartphones now straddles all ages and demographics.

*Action: Mr Toby Brook volunteered to write some guiding principles based on his experience of such a group in his previous village. Many Thanks.*

**22/72. To discuss a proposed budget for 2023/24**

The budget for 2023/24 will be set at the EPC meeting on the January 16<sup>th</sup>

The Chair asked Councillors to think about any predicted expenditure for the next financial year for consideration at the next meeting and inclusion in the budget. Celebrations to mark The Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023 will be budgeted for.

**22/73. Financial Report**

*To receive the cashbook and bank reconciliation*

The bank balance is £13,992.19.

*The following payment was approved under statutory powers*

£121.80 to Playsafety Ltd (play inspection)

£36.94 to Parish Clerk (Book of Condolence)

£36.00 GeoXphere Ltd (Parish Online)

£190.48 to Cherwell District Council (dog bin emptying)

£572.00 To Parish Clerk (hours)

£143.00 to HMRC

£40.83 to Parish Clerk (expenses)

£44.64 to Parish Clerk (mileage)

*To receive an update on online banking*

This is progressing slowly. It was agreed the signatories would be Cllr Neal and Cllr Lloyd-Thomas.

**22/74. To receive an update on planning**

New applications

- 22/01335/LB, Remedial work covering flood in 2021 at Yarn Hill Cottage, Birds Lane. Supported by PC.
- 22/02440/F, FELDON BUNGALOW. Demolition of conservatory and garage, erection of two storey side extension, raising of roof above living room to main ridge height, pitched roofs to new and existing dormer to front, replacement of windows and doors, re-build porch and re-finish exterior brickwork Councillors discussed this application. The materials are in keeping with the surroundings and the property needs updating. It was agreed to support the application.

*Action: The Parish Clerk to notify CDC.*

Planning matters determined

- 22/01696/LB and 22/01693/F, Insertion of a dormer window to roof of existing lean to extension to rear of listed farmhouse at Rectory Farmhouse, Back Lane. Refused
- 22/02249/F, Erection of frameless glass single storey link, alterations to rear entrance canopy structure, replacement of roof covering to existing outbuilding (resubmission of 21/01797/F at the Village House, Birds Lane. Refused by CDC.
- 21/02019/F, Erection of new 4 bedroom infill dwelling in village at land access of Back Lane. Granted by CDC.
- **FOR INFORMATION**

Neighbours are no longer individually notified about planning applications. A public notice will be displayed in a prominent position adjacent to the property. Interested parties can access detailed information on the Cherwell District Council planning portal and requests to be notified about future applications can also be made. [www.cherwell.gov.uk/planning](http://www.cherwell.gov.uk/planning)

**22/75. To receive Councillors Reports**

The dog bins are being used but dog poo is still being seen around the village. Please be a considerate dog owner and PICK or FLICK (where appropriate) your dogs POO.

**22/76. To note date and time of next meeting**

16<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 8pm.

Meeting Closed 8.45pm