

EPWELL PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 13TH MARCH 2023
IN EPWELL VILLAGE HALL AT 8PM

Councillors Present

Paul Neal, Matthew Platt and Nicola Rudge

Christine Coles (Parish Clerk) and two villagers

The meeting was Chaired by Nicola Rudge in the absence of Cllr Gavin Lloyd-Thomas.

23/14. To receive apologies for absence

Cllr Gavin Lloyd-Thomas (personal) and Cllr White (personal)

23/15. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda

None.

23/16. To approve the minutes of the meeting of 16th January 2023

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

23/17. Public participation session

A villager asked if a curved mirror could be placed on church land by the bend. Enquiries will be made.

23/18. To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda

- a. Purchase of tent/marquee for village events. Cllr Rudge has been given lots of information about sizes, types and prices. This will be circulated to Councillors before a decision can be made.
- b. Parish Tree – The tree planted by OCC is now on the Main Road near the village sign on the Shutford side. It is the responsibility of the parish to look after it in the future. Maintenance will mainly consist of watering (with use of grey water during any hosepipe bans), weeding, upkeep of the ties, supports and cage, topping up mulch and reporting any issues to the Tree Service.

23/19. To receive details from the new Fix My Street Super User

Nadira Thain (NT) is the new Fix My Street Super User. She undertook training in the New Year and learnt what is safe and what is not safe. Potholes have to be a certain size before they can be reported. She has reported lots of potholes, mainly in Birds Lane and Back Lane. Her area is within the 30mph speed limit. Some have not been filled in properly and have been reported again. Villagers are encouraged to report potholes via Fix My Street with photos if it safe to do so. NT asked for the support of the Parish Council and would like the roads resurfaced.

Action: NT to forward pothole details for inclusion in the Echo.

23/20. To discuss the village website and the VHC becoming users

The VHC would like access to the village website and be able to link their hall directly. This is in hand.

23/21. To discuss plans for the Coronation of King Charles III in May

A bbq on Saturday evening with games was discussed. The Queens portrait in the hall was discussed and whether something similar, on a smaller scale, should be done for the King. It was agreed it could and to spend £100.00 on wood. CDC are offering a Coronation grant and it was agreed the PC should apply.

Action: The Parish Clerk to apply for the CDC Coronation grant.

23/22. To discuss and agree a date for a litter pick

Monday 8th May 2023, part of the Kings Coronation weekend, is a volunteering day. It was agreed to try and co-ordinate a litter pick.

Action: The Parish Clerk to order equipment from CDC.

23/23. To discuss the provision of allotments

As food prices are going up again a suggestion to approach Epwell Trust about the provision of an allotment area was discussed. EPC to look into ownership of the field next door.

Action: Cllr Rudge and the Clerk to draft letters.

23/24. Financial Report

To receive the cashbook and bank reconciliation

The current bank balance is £12,754.03.

The following payments were approved under statutory powers:-

£156.00 to OALC (membership)

£40.00 to Hook Norton Brewery (2 years rent for playing field 2022 and 2023)

£508.80 To Parish Clerk (hours)

£127.00 to HMRC

£11.16 To Parish Clerk (mileage)

To acknowledge the payment from the Councillor Priority Fund

A grant payment of £2000.00 has been received from Cllr George Reynolds. This will be used to purchase a new flagpole. Thanks was given to Cllr Reynolds. The Chair did receive a written quote which will be circulated.

Action: The Clerk to ask Cllr Lloyd-Thomas to circulate the quote that he has received.

23/25. To receive an update on planning

One application had been received since the last meeting

- 23/00493/LB, Replace existing thatch roof covering to detached outbuilding with natural grey slate at The Village House, Birds Lane. It was agreed to support the application.

23/26. To note date and time of next meetings

Monday 22nd May 2023 (Parish Council meeting and Annual Parish Council meeting). Timings to be confirmed nearer the time.

Meeting Closed 9.05pm.