

EPWELL PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF AN ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 22ND MAY 2023
IN EPWELL VILLAGE HALL AT 8PM

Councillors Present

Gavin Lloyd-Thomas, Matthew Platt, Nicola Rudge and Norman White

Christine Coles (Parish Clerk) and two villagers

The meeting was attended by Mr Toby Brook and Mr Peter Gibson who will both be running in the forthcoming election for the Parish Council on 15th June. The Chair welcomed them to the meeting.

23/33. Elections

Election of Chair and signing of Acceptance of Office form

It was proposed by Cllr Platt and seconded by Cllr White that Cllr Lloyd-Thomas be Chair. He signed the Acceptance of Office form.

Election of Vice-Chair

It was proposed by Cllr Lloyd-Thomas and seconded by Cllr White that Cllr Rudge be Vice-Chair.

23/34. To receive apologies for absence

No apologies were received.

23/35. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda

None.

23/36. To approve the minutes of the meetings of 13th March and 4th April 2023

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

23/37. Public participation session

There were no matters to raise.

23/38. To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda

To place a curved mirror on the bend. This was suggested as a safety feature but it is important to maintain the character of the village. Therefore it was considered and agreed not to be appropriate.

To arrange a litter pick. The Chair will ask the Scout Group to see if they can assist. The verges have not been cut yet and the Parish Council are waiting for the cow parsley to die down. The verges will be cut in approx 10 days time.

23/39. To discuss the proposal to introduce a 20mph limit through the village

As evident in the Community Plan 2014, concern has long been expressed about excess speed particularly on the Sibford Road. There is now an OCC 20mph consultation in place and the deadline to respond is 26th May 2023. The Parish Council support the proposal to reduce the Village speed limit to 20mph. If the proposal is agreed as well as replacing the existing 30mph gateway signs, repeater signs will be put up.

OCC will use existing poles to minimize the visual impact. There will be no cost to the Parish Council.

23/40. To discuss the Election of a New Councillor

Following the resignation of Paul Neal and the request from ten electors, there will be a By-Election on Thursday 15th June 7am to 10pm in the village hall. Two villagers have put themselves forward. It was agreed not to have poll cards which would have cost an additional £750.00. The Parish Council welcomes all who show an interest in local democracy.

23/41. To receive an update on the new steps at the bottom of Ambleside

Work has been done by the Countryside Service to improve the steps on Church Lane accessing the footpath.

23/42. Financial Report

To receive the cashbook and bank reconciliation

The current bank balance is £14,354.94.

The following payments were approved under statutory powers:-

- £18.00 to Parish Clerk (SLCC membership)
- £2715.00 to Blinkhorns (audio equipment)
- £190.48 to CDC (dog bin emptying)
- £931.42 to Zurich Municipal

AGAR for year ending 31st March 2023

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

The internal audit has taken place and thanks was given to Alan Burkinshaw. It was agreed to approve and sign the Certificate of Exemption, Section 1 and Section 2.

Action: The Parish Clerk to forward the Certificate of Exemption and Notice of Electors Rights to the External Auditor and prepare the paperwork for the website by 30th June 2023.

23/43. To receive an update on planning

An update was given on an older application:

23/00493/LB, Replace existing thatch roof covering to detached outbuilding with natural grey slate at the Village House, Birds Lane. Granted by CDC.

23/44. To receive Councillors Reports

Cllr Rudge reported a missing slat on the bridge near Rectory Farm.

Action: Cllr White to have a look.

The local pub have recently said they are missing out on bookings due to a lack of temporary accommodation.

An area of land was briefly discussed which could be used as a community orchard and be under village control. This is a project for the future. Councillors will find a local group with a similar project (Tysoe) to visit and discuss. The idea in principle was agreed. It is still the opinion of the Council that there is little interest for allotment in the village.

Cllr Platt to chase the official quote for the new flagpole.

The play area was discussed as some equipment requires urgent attention. It has been closed off for the time being whilst repairs are sorted out. Cllr White has agreed to source the materials for the zip wire. Councillors agreed to meet on 1st June at 5.30pm to make a list of materials and what needs doing. A concerted effort will be needed by volunteers to make the playground fit for purpose and be ready for the annual inspection in July.

23/45. To note date and time of next meeting
Monday 10th July 2023 at 8pm

Meeting Closed 9.00pm.

DRAFT