

EPWELL PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 10TH JULY 2023
IN EPWELL VILLAGE HALL AT 8PM

Councillors Present

Gavin Lloyd-Thomas (Chairperson), Peter Gibson, Matthew Platt (arrived late), Nicola Rudge and Norman White

Christine Coles (Parish Clerk) and one villager

The Chair welcomed Peter Gibson to the Parish Council. He thanked him for getting involved in local democracy. He also thanked Toby Brook for standing.

23/40. To receive apologies for absence

No apologies were received.

23/41. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda

No interests were declared.

23/42. To approve the minutes of the meeting of 22nd May 2023

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

23/43. Public participation session

Sir Charles Pollard congratulated the Parish Council on their work to adopt a 20mph limit within the village. He was delighted and others residents are too. EPC has been aware since the publication of the Community Plan that speed on the Shutford road has been a concern. The adoption of 20mph limits is a national initiative and has already been adopted in some neighbouring villages.

23/44. To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda

Litter pick – A successful litter pick had taken place by the Sibford Scout Group. Rubbish was collected within the 30mph limit. A letter of thanks will be sent to Ash Taylor, the Scout Leader.

New flagpole – The Parish Council are awaiting a formal quote.

23/45. To receive an update on the playing field maintenance and discuss a long term solution

A huge vote of thanks was given to Cllr White and Cllr Platt and all the volunteers for their skill and hard work. There is still painting to be finished. The annual inspection will take place this month. There are still further jobs to complete. The equipment is 15 years old, a regular annual program of maintenance work will need to be established to ensure the play equipment remains usable. The idea of a QR code to receive donations was discussed. This will be put on the next agenda. Donna Boyles and Lizzie White will be invited to the next meeting to discuss fundraising ideas.

23/46. To discuss road safety by the Mill

The Chair will reassure the Owners of the Mill that road safety on the corner by their property is not their responsibility.

23/47. To discuss the installation and appropriate location for a new basketball hoop in the playground

It was agreed the area in front of the birch tree is the best place to put it and it was agreed to allocate £100.00 for materials to install it.

Action: Cllr White to liaise with Donna Boyles about the agreed location.

23/48. To discuss road maintenance issues outside the 30mph zone

Nadira Thain is the village Highways Super User and works within the 30mph. OCC have their own representative who inspects other roads and reports problems. Any resident can use www.fixmystreet.com to report all types of issues administered by Oxfordshire County Council, like faulty street lights, fly tipping, graffiti, dog fouling and POTHOLEs.

23/49. To discuss the need for Councillor training and approve expenditure

Councillor training is available and can be booked via the Parish Clerk.

23/50. To thank the Trust for its contribution towards the Village Hall entertainment system.

A payment of £308.00 was received from the Trust towards the TV bracket. A vote of thanks was given. Councillors briefly discussed getting a simple wooden cabinet made to hide the TV screen with removable doors.

Action: The Parish Clerk to contact Nick Smith for a quote.

23/51. Financial Report

To receive the cashbook and bank reconciliation

The current bank balance in the HSBC account is £13,783.54.

The following payments were approved under statutory powers:-

- £135.88 to N Rudge (Coronation expenses)
- £195.32 to M Platt (Coronation expenses)
- £74.81 to G Lloyd-Thomas (Coronation expenses)
- £689.52 to Shipston Building Supplies (materials for play area)
- £1363.20 to DIY Marquees (purchase of marquee for events)
- £18.00 to G Lloyd-Thomas (Domain renewal)
- £1073.07 to Cherwell District Council (By-Election charges 15 June)
- £453.60 to Nigel Prickett (grass cutting)
- £79.00 to Nigel Prickett (grass cutting)
- £134.40 to Nigel Prickett (supply and paint posts for play area)

To approve new bank signatories

It was agreed that Cllr White and Cllr Gibson would be signatories for the HSBC account. This account will be closed soon and the money moved to the Lloyds account. It was agreed that Cllr Lloyd-Thomas and Cllr Gibson be signatories on the Lloyds account. Cllr Gibson will replace Paul Neal.

Action: The Parish Clerk to send the new signed HSBC mandate in the post.

23/52. To receive an update on planning

No planning applications had been received.

22/53. To receive the following correspondence

- OCC, Community Tree Care Volunteers. One tree was planted in each parish earlier in the year and OCC are reaching out to each community to recruit a volunteer who will care for it and water it. A poster has been put on the village notice-board.

23/54. To receive Councillors Reports

The Chair had attended the online Q & A Chairs session run by Oxfordshire Association for Local Councils. Recent topics discussed included Crime Prevention/EV Charging/Climate Emergency/Car Sharing/Active Travel/Support for Public Transport/Tree planting. The Chair will approach OALC and propose they run Q&A sessions specifically tailored for the smaller parish council who have very different issues than the larger councils such as Bicester and Witney. EPC briefly discussed the definition of a Climate Emergency. If a Parish declares an emergency it put plans in place to alleviate its impact on the environment and encourages its residents to do likewise. More information is required as to what it entails and what is the definition of an emergency.

23/55. To note date and time of next meeting

Monday 11th September 2023 at 8pm

Meeting Closed 9.00pm.