

**EPWELL PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD ON MONDAY 11<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023**  
**IN EPWELL VILLAGE HALL AT 8PM**

Councillors Present

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

Christine Coles (Parish Clerk) and seven villagers

**23/58. To receive apologies for absence**

Cllr George Reynolds

**23/59. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda**

No interests were declared.

**23/60. To approve the minutes of the meetings of 10<sup>th</sup> July and 17<sup>th</sup> August 2023**

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

**23/61. Public participation session**

One member of the public spoke about the Epwell Village Assistance group and asked if it has run its course. He spoke about the Community Led Plan which was done in 2014. He felt it was worth reading and the Parish Council doing a review of what has been achieved plus a revision of things yet to be done. He asked if the Village Hall have a wheelchair? The format of the website could be reviewed to get more interest.

Another member of the public thanked the Parish Council and other village organisations for bringing the village together. He was grateful to see life returning to normal again. Drains have not been cleared and heavy rainstorms are affecting houses.

Another member of the public spoke about some of the new speed signs which damage the environment and are in place where cars cannot speed. Several people have contacted the Chair. Another member of the public congratulated the Parish Council on achieving the 20mph limit so quickly. It helps pedestrians as 30mph is fast on foot.

Food vans driving through the village and being stopped by a resident for safety reasons was briefly discussed. To be discussed at the next meeting.

**23/62. To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda**

The Chair will contact a carpenter re the making of a cabinet for the TV screen in the village hall.

**23/63. To discuss the playground inspection report and playing field grass**

A vote of thanks was given to Cllr White and Cllr Platt for all their work in the play area a few months ago. The play inspection has been done. Some wood is showing signs of decay. There is money in the budget to make the necessary repairs when required.

A villager cuts the playing field grass but it requires more regular cutting. The hedges either side require cutting.

*Action: The Chair to contact the landowner about the right hand side hedge.*

**23/64. To discuss the 20mph scheme and speed around the village**

Most people were in favour of lowering the speed limit to 20mph and this was identified in the Community Plan in 2014. The placement of the 20mph repeater signs has caused some concern. The question has been asked if they are necessary but the law states they have to be in place. Highways are only allowed to use their own poles and some extra poles have been put in. Highways have agreed to visit the village in the next 10 days to look at the concerns raised.

**23/65. To receive an update on the meeting with Voneus**

Following the village meeting the Chair had written a report. It was a successful night. There is more work planned in Birds Lane (9-16 October) and Back Lane (16-20 October). As a sign of goodwill, Voneus will help to repair the roads within the 30mph limit where they are digging. They have agreed to leaflet drop residents to advise of any disruption and not close any roads unless they have to.

**23/66. To discuss the clearing of footpaths**

Some footpaths are very overgrown and vegetation is overgrowing from properties.

*Action: The Chair to put a message on the Whats app group about keeping paths clear.*

**23/67. Financial Report**

*To receive the cashbook and bank reconciliation*

The current bank balance in the HSBC account is £13,048.52.

The current bank balance in the Lloyds account is £1,233.05.

*The following payments were approved under statutory powers:-*

- £123.60 to Playsafety Ltd (playground inspection)
- £200.00 to Epwell Village Hall (hire of hall and grass for Kings Coronation celebrations)
- £45.00 to OPFA (membership). This payment was deferred. Councillors to read the benefits of this membership and to be discussed at the next meeting.

**23/68 To receive an update on planning**

- *Appeal Ref APP/C3105/Y/22/3307696 - Insertion of dormer window to roof of existing lean-to extension to rear of listed farmhouse at Rectory Farmhouse, Back Lane. Appeal dismissed.*

**22/69. To receive the following correspondence**

- Highways, Road closure (junction of Thatchers Close to 240m past the Square) on 23.10.23. The information and maps supplied seem unclear.

*Action: The Chair to find out the correct information.*

- Highways, Preparing for Winter. Free bags of salt are available and salt bins are to be checked so they can be filled. It was agreed to order one bag of salt to be delivered to the bank opposite the village hall.

*Action: Councillors to check the grit bins. The Parish Clerk to order the free bag of salt.*

**23/70. To receive Councillors Reports**

Cllr Rudge noted the activity weekend went well.

A meeting took place with MP Victoria Prentis at the pub. Short notice was given about the event and 15-20 people attended.

The clearance of the Chur was discussed. It was cleared about 20 years ago by the village in one afternoon. The road needs reinstating otherwise it will disappear.

The Epwell Village Assistance (EVA) group was set up during the covid pandemic and an extension of winter plans. It has been used. It requires renewing and people being reminded that they are on it. The Chair will send a message once a year asking who wants to stay on or be removed. Both Chris Hurst and Cllr Rudge want to be removed. It was agreed to include Councillor names and numbers in the next newsletter.

*Action: The Chair to ask Harriet to include Councillor details in the next newsletter.*

The Community Led Plan will be an agenda item in November.

The wheelchair in the village hall was thrown away as it was old. They are available to hire.

Website and communication – Chris Hurst to send Harriet a note asking people to look at the website and to ask if any volunteers can help with the administration of it.

**23/71. To note date and time of next meeting**

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 8pm

Meeting Closed 9.15pm.