

EPWELL PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 11TH MARCH 2024
IN EPWELL VILLAGE HALL AT 8PM

Councillors Present

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

Christine Coles (Parish Clerk) and one villager

24/17. To receive apologies for absence

Cllr Platt (personal)

24/18. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda

No interests were declared.

24/19. To approve the minutes of the meetings of 22nd and 26th January 2024

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

24/20. Public participation session

Mr Hurst was at the meeting and spoke about a couple of items.

A 100 club could be organised to raise money for the Village Hall/Church and ERA. Hornton run a similar scheme. Mr Hurst has approached the VHC.

Action: The Parish Clerk to get advice from OALC.

The website is running but requires additional support in keeping it updated. The Chairman suggested we use village events to highlight the need for volunteers, for this and other tasks.

After a meeting between the PCC and Cllr Rudge it has been agreed that the PCC will take ownership of the flagpole. There are safety concerns when accessing the tower to raise the flag. The Diocese has to be involved if changes are to be made. An inspection takes place every 5 years and advice will be sought on how to resolve the problem. Safe access to the tower is required for maintenance. There is a national programme showing what flags should be flown and when. The Chair has a copy.

24/21. To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda

A huge thank you to Harriet Brook who has edited the Echo for several editions and is stepping down due to new responsibilities, namely Oliver, many congratulations.

There is a new editorial team in place. Many thanks to Marie Woodward and Caroline Frost for assuming the roles of joint editors. The Echo's future is once again secure. The editorial team encourages residents to send in content for inclusion in the Echo.

Overflow churchyard – The Chair is to thank the trust for assuming stewardship of this piece of land.

24/22. To discuss a donation of a memorial bench for the triangle of grass near Westwell

A memorial bench is being privately donated and fitted. It will replace the existing plank and stump bench. Once in place, EPC will take responsibility for its maintenance.

It will be added to the PC asset register once fitted.

24/23. To discuss the offer of a free Portrait of the King

The portrait has been ordered and will be given to the Village Hall Committee.

24/24. To agree and produce a map of the grips which require repair

The OCC Cyclical Maintenance team will add this to their programme of works.

Action: The Chair to mark up a map showing priority areas and ask for a site visit.

24/25. To receive an update on the church flagpole following the meeting with the PCC

This was covered under Matters Arising.

24/26. To discuss the clearing of drains

Many drains in the village are blocked and are not clearing, in particular from the Mill to Broadlands Corner.

Action: The Chair to report on Fix My Street.

24/27. Financial Report

To receive the cashbook and bank reconciliation

The current bank balance in the HSBC account is £12,999.52.

The current bank balance in the Lloyds account is £450.05.

Discussions and bank visits are ongoing with HSBC to close the account.

The following payments were approved under statutory powers:-

£462.70 to Parish Clerk (hours)

£115.60 to HMRC

£22.32 to Parish Clerk (mileage)

£168.00 to OALC (membership)

24/28. To receive an update on planning

- *24/00230/OUT, Outline planning permission for the conversion of an agricultural barn into residential use with all matters reserved except for access including landscaping, upgrading of the current access route and a new agricultural access on OS Parcel 6935 South of Parish Boundary and North of Epwell Grounds Farm, Shenington Road. Comments made at extraordinary meeting held on 22nd January.*

24/29. To receive Councillors Reports

The Countryside and Tree Service have carried out tree work recently in the parish. Wood has been seen in the forest near The White House.

Action: The Parish Clerk to ask the Tree Service if they left the wood in the forest.

A villager is talking to Highways about improving width reduction signage on Church Lane. The Parish Council for many years have tried to resolve this problem without success. EPC feels such matters that effect the village as a whole should be approached collaboratively.

Action: The Chair to arrange a meeting with the villager and discuss what attempts have been made in the past and how to take the issue forward.

24/30. To note next meeting date and time

Thursday 16th May 2024, timings TBC.

Meeting Closed 9.00pm.

DRAFT