

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

Councillors Present

Peter Gibson, Matthew Platt, Nicola Rudge and Norman White

Christine Coles (Parish Clerk) and one villager

24/48. Election of Chair

It was proposed by Cllr Rudge and seconded by Cllr White that Cllr Platt be Chair. He signed the Acceptance of Office form which will be kept on file.

24/49. Co-option of New Councillor

Toby Brook was welcomed and co-opted onto the Parish Council. He signed the Acceptance of Office form which will be kept on file.

24/50. To receive apologies for absence

District Councillor Chris Brant (work)

24/51. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda

No interests were declared.

24/52. To approve the minutes of the meeting of 16th May 2024

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

24/53. Public participation session

No matters were raised.

24/54. To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda

- To discuss the quote for a new parking sign. The price for an A4 sign is £36.00.
Action: The Parish Clerk to circulate a proof.

24/55. To receive an update on the meeting with the Highway Engagement Team

A site meeting was held with Cllr Platt and representatives of the Highway Engagement Team. Thanks was given to Nadira Thain on the brilliant work she has done as a fixmystreet.com Super User within the 20mph limit.

The entire village drainage system is to be renovated/dug out/cleaned out/rodded through, with particular attention to resolve the flooding in Church Lane.

The road surface at the Ford was discussed.

Inadequate drainage at Epwell Mill was noted. Epwell Parish Council are to liaise with others and adjoining farms to ensure ditches are adequately maintained.

A resurfacing scheme initiated by Nick Watson four years ago to resurface the road between Epwell Mill and Epwell Grounds will now go ahead, part of the Shennington Road towards Yarnhill Farm is to be included and bits of the Shutford Road outside the cottages.

Planings/waste from the scheme (if assessed to be free of carcinogens) could be used to fill the verges between Crofts Barn and the Christmas Tree Farm.

A grit bin will be placed on the hill between Quarry Farm and Rectory Farm.

Action: Cllr Platt to submit a safety report to Kathryn Gash.

Potholes on the top road can be reported on FMS. OCC are now able to instruct repair teams to find and fix within an area if appropriate. The worst problems are in the unofficial laybys and passing places that have evolved alongside the road. Although these are outside the council's remit, Nick Watson recognised the issue and noted that if any schemes in the area happened to have some clean planings to dispose of, this would make an ideal disposal location. EPC can organize off carriageway filling with soil if an opportunity arises.

Outside Sibford Heath Farm. EPC to liaise with the owners of Epwell Woods to seek permission for new drainage to allow the water to continue its natural journey into the woods.

FMS Users. The teams on the other end of FMS are trained to assess requirements based on photos and videos. The more angles users can include the easier it is for them to do their job. Reference objects to give scale can be used. Members of the public can report holes in the wider road network of the parish.

24/56. Financial Report

To receive the cashbook and bank reconciliation

The current bank balance in the Lloyds account is £13,866.31.

The following payments were approved under statutory powers:-

£18.00 to Parish Clerk (SLCC Membership)

£379.20 to N Prickett (grass cutting)

24/57. To receive an update on planning

One application had been received.

- *24/01520/F, Demolition of timber garage and erection of new garage with games room above at 1 The Close. No objection from PC.*

24/58. To receive the following correspondence

OCC, Spruce Up your signs. OCC have kits to loan out to villages to clean their own road signs.

The details will be kept on file.

24/59. To receive Councillors Reports

The ditch outside Sands Farm requires further attention. The area did dry up but is wet again.

Action: The Chair to speak with the home owner and see how work is progressing.

Cllr Rudge spoke about the two planters outside the village hall. It was agreed she could replace the tubs, compost and plants and spend up to £100.00.

The Parish Clerk noted the play equipment will be inspected this month. She will forward the report after the inspection and it can be discussed at the next meeting.

Nigel Prickett has cut the village but footpaths are overgrown again.

24/60. To note next meeting date and time
16th September 2024 at 8pm

Meeting Closed 8.47pm.

DRAFT