

EPWELL PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 16th SEPTEMBER 2024
IN EPWELL VILLAGE HALL AT 8PM

Councillors Present

Matthew Platt (Chairman), Toby Brook, Peter Gibson, and Norman White

Christine Coles (Parish Clerk) and two villagers

24/61. To receive apologies for absence

Cllr Nicola Rudge (personal) and District Councillor Chris Brant (holiday)

The Parish Clerk to invite District Cllr Chris Brant to the next meeting.

24/62. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda

No interests were declared.

24/63. To approve the minutes of the meeting of 8th July 2024

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

24/64. Public participation session

A villager spoke about footpaths as there is no footpath warden and some attention is needed. He noted he would be happy to do this for one year. Footpaths and bridges fall under the Countryside Service (part of OCC).

24/65. 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. It was agreed to accept the quote. The Parish Clerk will order.

24/66. To discuss the rewilding of roadside verges outside the village and potential external funding sources

The previous Chair of the PC had sent some information to Cllr Platt. It encourages the planting of wildflowers. There is a decline in insect life and any action is great. There are environmental grants. The best times to plant wildflowers is February/March time. All the Councillors agreed it is a good idea.

24/67. To discuss the playground inspection report and actions to remedy

The full inspection report was circulated in the summer. The poles require replacing on the zip wire. It is a job for a working party. The long term plan for the park was discussed as there are grants available. The park is used by many from families and even outside of Epwell. Donations via a QR code to help with maintenance costs have been discussed before but it requires setting up.

Action: Donna Boyles to be invited to the next meeting.

24/68. Financial Report

To receive the cashbook and bank reconciliation

The current bank balance in the Lloyds account is £16,890.31.

The following payments were approved under statutory powers:-

£290.40 to N Prickett (grass cutting)

£132.00 to Playsafety Ltd (play inspection)

£414.71 To Parish Clerk (hours)

£103.60 to HMRC (Clerks tax)

£22.32 to Parish Clerk (mileage)

24/69. To receive an update on planning

No applications had been received.

24/70. To receive the following correspondence

- Villager, drainage. This is ongoing.
- OALC, To discuss the proposed increase in subscriptions for 2025/26 and whether to support or not. OALC are proposing to increase prices by 7%. Last year the price was £140.00 & VAT. This year it will be £180.00 & VAT. OALC provide support and offer training. It was agreed to support the increase.
Action: The Parish Clerk to reply to OALC.
- Highways, Preparing for Winter. Councillors to check the salt in the salt bins.
- Katharine House Hospice, Bereavement Volunteers. On the notice-board. The Parish Clerk to send to Cllr Brook for the newsletter.
- AGE UK, Changes to Winter Fuel Payments. Noted.

24/71. To receive Councillors Reports

The pavilion was discussed as it requires ridging on the roof. It was agreed to set aside £200.00-E300.00 for the work.

The recent incident in the village was discussed and the Parish Council wished to record their condolences to the family. The defibrillator was used and all the emergency services were in attendance. New pads and a battery have been ordered. Instructions on how to use the defibrillator will be put in the next newsletter. Epwell Trust thanked all those involved that tried to help.

Action: The Chair to contact James Clarke of HNB about training.

24/72. To note next meeting date and time

Monday 11th November 2024 at 8pm

Meeting Closed 9.00pm.