

**EPWELL PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD ON MONDAY 13<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2025**  
**IN EPWELL VILLAGE HALL AT 8PM**

Councillors Present

Matthew Platt (Chairman), Peter Gibson, Nicola Rudge and Norman White

Christine Coles (Parish Clerk) and one villager

**25/01. To receive apologies for absence**

Cllr Brook (personal)

**25/02. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda**

No interests were declared.

**25/03. To approve the minutes of the meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

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

**25/04. Public participation session**

Chris Hurst was at the meeting to discuss the village website which is a mandatory requirement for the Parish Council. Current administrators are himself, Paul Neal and the Parish Clerk. The Parish Clerk puts all Parish Council documents on the website. Other work includes clearing the back up files each month to allow enough storage space. He asked if a Parish Councillor could become an administrator.

*Action: The Chair to ask Cllr Brook if he could become the administrator.*

**25/05. To discuss the collapsed building opposite the village hall**

The building opposite the village hall had collapsed. Highways came out with the appropriate road signage and repair work will start in a few weeks time.

**25/06. Highway matters**

- *To receive an update on flooding at Back Lane/Village Green.* This is being fixed by Thames Water.
- *To discuss the grip to partially alleviate flooding at Epwell Mill Corner.* A new grip has been put in place to divert the water.
- *To discuss volunteers for FMS users (separate from Super User).* More volunteers are needed to report highway issues within the village boundary.
- *To discuss the offer from a resident to provide a salt spreading service.* A resident has offered to spread salt in icy conditions. Cllr White to get further information on equipment and costs.
- *To discuss the moving of a new tree planted over the sewer main.* The tree was planted by OCC last year but it is over a drain.  
*Action: The Parish Clerk to contact OCC to ask if it can be moved.*
- *To discuss the Thames Valley sewage pumping station failure (ref 00923513).* The failure was reported and has been sorted out.
- *Clearing of stream on Cranes Farm Lower Field.* This work is complete and will assist with drainage problems at the bottom of the village.

**25/07. Financial Report**

*To receive the cashbook and bank reconciliation*

The current bank balance in the Lloyds account is £14,130.11.

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

£404.80 to Gates Hut Ltd (new bench for play area)

£36.00 to Edge Signs (new parking sign)

£100.00 to Kestrel Ridge LLP (Christmas Tree)

£247.20 to Nigel Prickett (grass cutting)

£20.00 to Hook Norton Brewery (rent of playing field)

*To set the precept for 2025-26*

Councillors discussed the budget. Costs will continue to increase such as insurance, dog bin emptying and the Clerks salary. It was agreed to increase the precept by 5%. It will be set at £6350.00.

*Action: The Parish Clerk to notify CDC.*

*To discuss grant support for Chipping Norton Theatre*

The letter had been circulated but it was agreed it is not a PC matter and the correct use of public money. The letter will be passed to the Epwell Trust.

**25/08. To discuss Spring/Summer Bank Holiday activities/ideas**

The next special celebration day is VE Day on 8<sup>th</sup> May. There could be a drinks celebration with tea and cake and fish and chips. Councillors to continue thinking of ideas.

**25/09. To discuss dates for defibrillator/CPR training and costs**

A local Community First Responder has approached Epwell Parish Council to provide defibrillator and CPR training. He has suggested 24<sup>th</sup> February but the hall may be booked. The cost is £10.00 each and the Parish Council will pay for it.

*Action: The Parish Clerk to ask if he can make 26<sup>th</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup> February.*

**25/10. To receive an update on planning**

No applications had been received.

**25/11. To receive the following correspondence (circulated)**

- OCC, Invitation to Climate Engagement Webinar on 29.01.25 2-3pm.
- Stratford District Council, South Warwickshire Local Plan, Preferred Options approved for consultation.
- CDC, Cherwell Local Plan Review 2042 Consultation Draft. The public consultation will run from 19<sup>th</sup> December 2024 to 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

**25/12. To receive Councillors Reports**

No reports were received.

**25/13. To note next meeting date and time**

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 8pm

Meeting Closed 9.15pm.