

EPWELL PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 8th SEPTEMBER 2025
IN EPWELL VILLAGE HALL AT 8PM

Councillors Present

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

Christine Coles (Parish Clerk) and one member of the public

25/54. To receive apologies for absence

None.

25/55. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda

No interests were declared.

25/56. To approve the minutes of the meeting of 14th July 2025

The minutes were agreed. Then following the matter raised under Public Participation by a villager they were amended. Item 25/46 was amended to read 'A member of the public has reported a building which has been knocked down on land accessed off Back Lane that was formerly in the curtilage of College Farm with/without planning permission. This will be raised with CDC.' The minutes were then approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

25/57. Public participation session

A parishioner attended to request a correction to a reference in the minutes, which was agreed.

25/58. Financial Report

To receive the cashbook and bank reconciliation

The current bank balance in the Lloyds account is £12,248.96.

The following payments were approved under statutory powers:-

- £23.00 to Parish Clerk (SLCC membership)
- £139.20 to Playsafety Ltd (play inspection report)

To approve a pay rise for the Parish Clerk (effective from 1st April 2025)

It was agreed to approve the pay rise based on the NJC (National Joint Council) pay agreement and back date to 1st April 2025.

To discuss considerations for setting of the precept in January 2026

Councillors were in favour to increase the precept by inflation. To be discussed again at the next meeting and the precept figure to be submitted in January 2026.

To consider opening a notice bank account

A 32 day or 95 day notice account can be opened and earn interest.

Action: It was agreed to open an account and transfer £10,000.00. The Parish Clerk to open the account.

25/59. To discuss the following highway matters

- *Preparations for winter and salt bins.* Salt bins are to be checked and will be topped up before winter by Highways.
Action: The Chair to check the salt bins.
- *Trees overhanging or encroaching on public rights of way.* There are trees overhanging the highway, public rights of way and near electricity lines. National Grid are due to visit the village. Once they have been professional advice will be sought on next steps.

25/60. To discuss the following village matters

- *Play area safety report.* The report was circulated and there are concerns. The equipment has been damaged by the trimmer over time but new equipment could be mounted on steel brackets to protect the feet. New equipment is expensive to buy and the pieces of equipment may have to be reduced.
Action: The Chair to invite ERA to the next meeting to discuss the way forward and fund raising ideas.
- *Installation of cabinet for new defibrillator.* Other locations were discussed as the pub is not a suitable location. Other locations could be at the bottom of Thatchers Close or adjoining a property with a garage and the PC can contribute towards the annual electric costs.
Action: Cllr Gibson to research solar kits and Cllr White to enquire about installing on a property with a garage.
- *Church Christmas market.* This is not being held this year.
- *Planned fundraising event postponed due to diary conflicts.* Already discussed.

25/61. To receive an update on planning

One new application had been received.

New

- 25/02158/TCA, T1 Willow - Framework pollard at approx. 8M T2 Willow - Fell old pollard stem major decay G1 Beech Hedge - Reduce by 40% of current height approx. 6M at The Village House, Birds Lane. No objection by PC.

Older

- 25/01599/AGN, Prior approval application for an agricultural building, with wooden uprights and wooden trusses, with a corrugated green tin roof, plastic rainwater guttering with 2 downpipes, a 5,000 litre tank on the eastern side for rainwater harvesting and Yorkshire Boarding for the sides and cladding at Quarry Bank Farm Street, From Epwell To Sugarswell Lane, Epwell OX15 6LR. Prior approval not needed.

Other planning

- APP/C3105/W/25/3371183, Agricultural workers dwelling at Newlands, Shutford Road. Appeal against refusal.

25/62. The following correspondence had been circulated

- Bloxham Parish Council, Bloxham Neighbourhood Development Plan – Consultation.
- Cherwell District Council – Statement of Submission of Local Plan 2025.

25/63. To note next meeting date and time

Monday 10th November 2025 at 8pm.

Meeting closed 9.00pm.