

**EPWELL PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD ON MONDAY 12<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2026**  
**IN EPWELL VILLAGE HALL AT 8PM**

Councillors Present

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

Christine Coles (Parish Clerk)

**26/01. To receive apologies for absence**

Cllr Gibson (personal)

**26/02. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda**

No interests were declared.

**26/03. To approve the minutes of the meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

To carry forward and approve at the next meeting.

**26/04. Public participation session**

No members of the public were present.

**26/05. To receive an update on the play park**

A good session with a big working party was held in the play park before Christmas looking at the current equipment and tidying up. A whats app group has been set up to communicate and start to fund raise. Local companies may match fund raising and grant funding will be explored. New equipment will be costly and the approximate cost of four new pieces is approximately £40K. Installation may be an extra cost. This work will be spread over a number of years. The appropriate scale of equipment suitable for the children in this village will be considered. The existing equipment will be taped up and a sign put up to say closed until further notice.

*Action: Councillors to arrange a new date to meet at the end of January/early February. The Parish Clerk to contact Cllr Chris Brant to ask if an application can be made to his Cllr Priority Fund. The Parish Clerk to send details of a play park company to Cllr Brook.*

**26/06. Financial Report**

*To receive the cashbook and bank reconciliation*

The current bank balance in the Lloyds account is £13,915.05.

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

£100.00 to Kestrel Ridge LLP (Christmas Tree)

£333.60 to N R Prickett (grass cutting)

£20.00 to Hook Norton Brewery (playing field rent)

*To consider a donation request from Citizens Advice West Northants and Cherwell*

Citizens Advice West Northants and Cherwell (CAWNAC) is an independent charity, one of 208 advice charities that comprise the national Citizens Advice network. In the last financial year they have supported local people with over 13,000 issues. It was agreed to give a donation of £50.00 as it is a worthwhile cause.

*Action: The Parish Clerk to process the donation.*

**26/07. To set the precept for 2026/27**

Expenditure for 2026/27 was discussed. Some costs like grass cutting and insurance will go up with inflation. It was agreed to keep the precept level the same as last year. It will be set at £6350.00.

*Action: The Parish Clerk to notify CDC.*

**26/08. To discuss the following highway matters**

- Winter gritting. The grit bins were used in the recent snowy weather. Some grit bins will need refilling later in the year.

**26/09. To receive an update on planning**

New

- Appeal Ref APP/C3105/W/25/3371183, Newlands, Shutford Road. Appeal allowed.

**26/10. The following correspondence had been circulated**

- OCC, New booking system at Household Waste Recycling Centres. A new booking system is being introduced from 14<sup>th</sup> January. Residents can book 30 minutes before their time (subject to availability) or up to two weeks in advance and will need to show ID when they arrive. The detail is on the website.
- Cotswolds National Landscape, Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) Management Plan. Noted.

**26/11. To note next meeting date and time**

16<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 8pm.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.55pm.