



## Minutes of Ewelme Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 14th February 2024

**Present:** Gemma Benoiel (GB/Chair)

David Solomon (DS) Sally Stockings (SS) Nigel Layton (NL)  
Roger Moore (RM) Freddie VanMierlo (FVM) Andrea Powell (AP)  
Joanna Brock (Clerk) 4 members of the public

- 21/24 **Apologies for absence:** Barry Tindall (BT) is away. Sue Cooper (SC) as AP is representing SODC.
- 22/24 **Declarations of interest:** None.
- 23/24 **Minutes of last meeting 10/01/2024:** These were agreed and signed.
- 24/24 **Public session:** No one wished to speak at this time but spoke later in relevant sections.
- 25/24 **Community Shed:** R. Field is heading this project and previously presented to EPC two years ago. They are looking at a site by the allotments on St Helen's Avenue in Benson. Both Benson Parish Council and OCC own this land. R. Field is asking for a letter of support from EPC. They are also asking for people to help with the project. DS suggested an article is written for the EN. RM offered his expertise.
- 26/24 **County & District Councillor reports:** FVM sent a County Council report before the meeting and SC and AP sent a District Council report.  
AP mentioned the SODC CIL grant which will be available soon. EPC will email an expression of interest regarding the car park expansion. The joint Local Plan consultation is active. It includes dark skies and environmental policies.  
FVM said the OCC budget will be agreed at the end of February. They will increase funding for children's and adult services. OCC will be investing over one million pounds in highways including flooding. The Watlington ring road consultation is open. The Hazell & Jefferies' CLEUD application is going through the process at OCC. If the Officer responds to it positively it will go through another process. The number of County Councillors will increase to 69 and some boundaries will change in the Council.
- 27/24 **Planning**  
**P24/S0153/HH:** Little Wren Cottage, Ewelme, OX10 6HG. Single storey and first floor extensions. RESOLVED EPC has no objections to this application.
- 28/24 **Accounts and Administration:**  
(a) RESOLVED finance report accepted.  
(b) RESOLVED new income and expenditure authorised. *See appendix.*  
RESOLVED all invoices to date authorised.  
(c) Cricket club grant: the practise netting needs to be replaced on the Common. The club have raised around £5,000 and they will apply to EPC for the remaining cost. The Clerk will write to the cricket club and ask them to formally apply to EPC.
- 29/24 **Ewelme – Nolay Twinning Society:** The Society are asking for a grant towards the events which will be held in Ewelme this year. NL will discuss this in more detail with the Society.
- 30/24 **The Pound:** EPC would like to make the Pound more accessible by removing the fence. This will be done by WREN.

- 31/24 **Bus shelter:** the first quote for replacing all the roof tiles is approx. £2,000. Two more quotes will be obtained.
- 32/24 **Car park expansion:** it has been confirmed with Fords Farm that an expansion will not impact the farmer on the Common. A working group will be formed and a meeting arranged before the April meeting.
- 33/24 **Metal detecting on Council land:** BT has asked for permission to metal detect on Council land. It was agreed that permission will be given subject to previously circulated terms & conditions.
- 34/24 **Traffic:** the SIDs are operating well and DS will write a report shortly. It was felt that speed had increased on The Street without a SID. If the Hazell & Jefferies' Certificate of Lawfulness is passed, EPC will consider remote censoring.
- 35/24 **Great British Spring Clean:** It was agreed to have a litter pick in the village on Saturday 13/04/24 from 9am. The Clerk will book the equipment.
- 36/24 **Benson Veteran Cycle Club rally:** the annual rally is on 07/07/2024. It was agreed to permit the club to use the pavilion on this date in the morning.
- 37/24 **Airband:** Airband has paused installing superfast broadband in the village due to financial difficulties.
- 38/24 **Landslide:** there hasn't been any confirmation that Thames Water is coming on the 24<sup>th</sup> to start repairs.
- 39/24 **Cow Common:** The Chiltern Society (CS) have said that 7 gates out of the 8 gates on the Common could be replaced. The cost of the materials could be funded by EPC, TOE and maybe DEFRA. The Chiltern Society would carry out the work for free. A metal gate is approx. £600. It was felt that only one gate is needed to be urgently replaced and EPC would like to replace it with wood. The Clerk will contact CS and ask for a quote for wood and also some pictures of the metal style gate. EPC are happy to fund materials for the one gate that urgently needs replacing.
- 40/24 **Neighbourhood Plan (NHP):** An informal meeting was held on 07/02/2024 to discuss the five year review. It was agreed that the NHP was generally fit for purpose with some minor changes. A leaflet will be sent to houses and parishioners will be asked for feedback on the NHP.
- 41/24 **Wilding:** A. Walker (AW) has ordered 25 plants to fill in the plants that died after planting last year. AW obtained 6 free oak trees and these have been added to the hedge. AW is looking into other grants for further hedging. The CS are suggesting AW attends a basic lower level chainsaw training course which isn't useful in the parish. It was agreed to fund one person to attend a £800 higher level chainsaw training course. The Watercress Centre have given permission for AW to use their equipment.
- 42/24 **Health & safety:** The playground's minor repairs have been fixed.
- 43/23 **Village Maintenance including outdoor gym, pavilion, play area & the Common:** It was agreed to use J. Martin for the refurbishment of the pavilion exterior at a cost of £535.
- 44/24 **Reports from meetings, training and other events:** NHP held on 07/07/24 see 40/24.
- 45/24 **Correspondence:** Already covered.

46/24 Other items of interest: None.

The meeting closed at 2135

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of next meeting – 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024

### Appendix

#### Ewelme PC Payments & Receipts February 2024

Ref no:	Payments for authorisation:	
	Administration costs	1,133.40
DD	Grundon	64.04
DD	E-on	85.50
14.02.24.02	Red Box Fire Control	63.60
14.02.24.03	J Martin Property Maintenance	95.00
14.02.24.04	VHM hall hire	120.00
14.02.24.05	NP Design & Print - EN	568.00
14.02.24.06	Ashridge - A. Walker	32.74
	PC debit card payments (below)	0.00
		<b>2,162.28</b>

Date	Receipts since last meeting:	
24/02/2024	Cricket club pavilion hire	605.00
10/01/2024	Fords Farm	1,440.74
		<b>2,045.74</b>

#### EPC debit card purchases

Date	Item	Cost
	Nil	
		<b>0.00</b>