



## Minutes of the Ewelme Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12th March 2025

**Parish Councillors present:** David Solomon (DS/Chair)

Barry Tindall (BT) Sally Stockings (SS) Rebecca Lanigan (RB) Paul Stillaway (PS)

**District Councillors present:** Sue Cooper (SC)

Joanna Brock (Clerk) 1 member of the public

- 35/25 **Apologies for absence:** Nigel Layton (NL) is working and Andrea Powell (AP) is attending a planning meeting.
- 36/25 **Declarations of interest:** None.
- 37/25 **Minutes of last meeting 12/02/2025:** These were agreed and signed.
- 38/25 **Public session:** The public spoke in 43/25 & 49/25.
- 39/25 **Planning:**
- **P25/S0215/HH:** Cat Lane House, Ewelme, OX10 6HX. Repairs and alterations to garage building, including clay tile roof to replace corrugated metal sheeting. RESOLVED EPC have no objections.
  - **P25/S0558/HH & P25/S0560/LB:** High House, Ewelme, OX10 6HQ. Existing wall taken down and rebuilt and extending the wall to the boundary. RESOLVED EPC have no objections.
- 40/25 **County & District Councillor reports:** FVM sent a report before the meeting. SC & AP sent a monthly report before the meeting and SC attended the meeting. SC said there are lots of grants currently available and also a grant funding advice session at the Cornerstone in Didcot on 20<sup>th</sup> March. BT, PS & DS will attend this session. The new garden waste payment system is now open. A parishioner reported that trees and bushes had been cut down in the village without authorisation. An SODC officer attended and although permission had not been sought beforehand, it would have been given. The Officer sent a warning letter to the landowner rather than taking legal action.
- 41/25 **Review policies:** Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Reserves policy, Planning committee policy, Risk assessment, Tractor risk assessment, Equality policy, Health & Safety policy, Grant policy, Training & Development policy, Publication scheme, Data Protection policy, Councillor's Code of Conduct, Debit card policy, Memorial bench policy. These policies were reviewed and readopted.
- 42/25 **Accounts and Administration:**
- (a) RESOLVED finance report accepted.
  - (b) RESOLVED new income and expenditure authorised. *See appendix.*  
RESOLVED all invoices to date authorised.
  - (c) Asset register was readopted with no changes.
  - (d) Pavilion hire cost and terms & conditions were reviewed with no changes.
  - (e) Direct debits were approved to E-on, Castle Water & Grundon.
  - (f) Regular payments were agreed to NP Design & Print, Azalea Landscapes, Oxford IT Solutions, Ewelme News editor, Red Box Fire Control and subscriptions to OALC, SLCC and NALC.
- 43/25 **Common flooding:** DS met with L.Travers (LT), a Flood Risk and Drainage Engineer from SODC today. Levels were taken of the recreation area. LT said there is a pond by the cattle trough and to improve

the drainage the level of the land on the recreation side could be raised. LT will write a report for EPC. OCC currently has a grant available to help with the impact of flooding on sports facilities.

- 44/25 **The Great British Spring Clean:** It was agreed to organise a litter pick for Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April. The Clerk will contact SODC and book the equipment.
- 45/25 **Car park extension:** It was decided not to pursue this. The feedback from the village was that the majority felt the extension would have a negative impact on the village. Also, it is unlikely EPC will get permission to extend onto common land. PS mentioned how damaged the verges were beside the road. This is partly due to the building work taking place at the cottage.
- 46/25 **Water pollution from RAF bases and landfill:** A report in the Guardian looked at 'forever chemicals' in groundwater and concluded that this is particularly high at RAF sites. BT and NL will organise a meeting with the Station Commander at RAF Benson. DS will ask M.Powell whether he can present his findings from the Environment Agency to EPC.
- 47/25 **Traffic:** Benson PC are in the process of sending comments to OCC regarding the Hazell & Jefferies' CLEUD. The decision meeting at OCC will not be held before June.
- 48/25 **Benson Bulletin:** The Benson Bulletin (BB) may stop circulation in Ewelme. The BB is independently funded but is asking EPC to make a contribution of approx £400 a month for it to continue to be delivered to Ewelme residents. EPC already fund the Ewelme News at a loss, so the decision was made not to financially contribute towards the BB.
- 49/25 **Green Spaces:** A. Walker (AW) has been cutting back more trees in the triangle at the end of the Common road. He said the hedge that was attacked by the cattle is showing around 80% survival rate so AW is maintaining this. Bird surveys are still being carried out by BT and AW. BT said a parishioner has organised a meeting with Grundon regarding sustainability on their land. It was agreed to extend the tree survey to cover additional trees in the village that EPC is responsible for at a cost of £300 extra. AW and BT will have a look at the trees classed as 'red' and see whether the work can be carried out by themselves.
- 50/25 **Annual Parish Meeting (APM):** DS thought a presentation from Grundon or Severn Trent on the subject of recycling would be an interesting topic for the APM. DS contacted Grundon and is waiting for a reply. It was resolved to hold the APM on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May before the Meeting of the Parish Council and invite local groups to share what they have been up to in the last year.
- 51/25 **Outdoor exercise on Common:** SODC have asked parishes with green spaces whether they would give permission to hold free outdoor exercise classes for the community on their land. It was agreed to give permission. The Clerk will ask that EPC are informed in advance of any classes in case there is an activity already taking place on the Common.
- 52/25 **Health & safety issues:** The Clerk will chase up the handyman for the play area maintenance work. SC reported that the signs are very faded in the playground. BT will take a look and report back to the Clerk, a new sign may be needed.
- 53/25 **Village maintenance:** Covered in other sections.
- 54/25 **Reports from meetings and training courses:** RB and PS attended the Councillor Fundamentals course on 26/02/2025 and found it very informative. The Clerk had a meeting with the internal auditor on 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

55/25 **Correspondence.** Covered in other sections.

56/25 **Other items of interest.** The Clerk will apply for an extra Councillor seat for EPC. A parishioner enquired as to whether EPC had set up a village website as part of the Queen's Jubilee. It was decided at the time not to go ahead with this, but DS felt that a village calendar would be useful. RB suggested a physical diary held at the shop that people could events add to.

The meeting closed at 2145

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

Date of next meeting – 9th April 2025

### **Appendix**

#### **Ewelme PC Payments & Receipts March 2025**

<b>Ref</b>	<b>Payments for authorisation:</b>	
12.03.25.02	Administration costs	1,222.99
	HMRC	196.84
12.03.25.03	PATA payroll	37.35
12.03.25.04	Primary Tree Surgeons Ltd	1,578.00
12.03.25.05	OALC subscription	240.00
12.03.25.06	VHM hall hire	120.00
DD	Grundon	16.34
DD	E-on	54.63
	Debit card purchases	0.00
		<b>3,466.15</b>

<b>Date</b>	<b>Receipts since last meeting:</b>	
03/03/2025	EN advertising - Good Oaks	115.00
03/03/2025	EN advertising - Iswariah	48.00
28/02/2025	EN advertising - Grimebusters	48.00
28/02/2025	EN advertising - Purely Plants	138.00
28/02/2025	District Cllr grant	928.00
		<b>1,277.00</b>