



## Minutes of Ewelme Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 10th April 2024

**Present:** Gemma Benoliel (GB/Chair) David Solomon (DS) Nigel Layton (NL)  
Sally Stockings (SS) Barry Tindall (BT) Andrea Powell (AP) Joanna Brock (Clerk)  
3 members of the public

68/24 **Apologies for absence:** Sue Cooper (SC), AP is representing SODC.

69/24 **Declarations of interest:** None.

70/24 **Minutes of last meeting 13/03/2024:** These were agreed and signed.

71/24 **Public session:** No one wished to speak at this time but spoke later in relevant sections.

72/24 **County & District Councillor reports:** FVM sent a County Council report before the meeting and SC and AP sent a District Council report.

AP said SODC has adopted a new no empty homes policy. SODC will support the owners of empty homes to help homes become reoccupied. The focus will be on making homes available for those who are in most need of housing. The Police and Crime Commissioner election is in May. The former Crowmarsh SODC site will stay as a development site with a range of different uses. Thames Travel are making changes to their bus route and cost of service. Freddie VanMierlo (FVM) has sent an email today asking that there be a meeting to discuss the changes.

73/24 **Planning**

**P24/S0869/HH:** The White House, Ewelme, OX10 6HX. Alterations and extension to main house and new outbuilding. RESOLVED EPC raise no objection to the proposed alterations and extension. However, EPC wish to lodge an objection with regard to the proposed new outbuilding on two grounds:-

1. Inappropriate design. This property is within the Chilterns National Landscapes and the Ewelme Conservation Area. The proposed outbuilding is similar to a classical temple in design, and far from "Ewelme vernacular" in appearance. We consider it inappropriate for this location. It would be highly visible to neighbours (it is about 5 m from the property boundary) and is likely to be visible from the public highway.
2. Inappropriate location. Although set within a large plot the proposed location is close to the property boundary (about 5 m), about 30 m from the main property; it would be closer to the neighbouring house (of the order of 25 m). Because of the natural slope of the land the ground level at the proposed location is about 3 m above the ground level at the neighbouring house, adding to the level of visual intrusion. The boundary between the properties is an old grown-out hedge of mature trees representing virtually no visual barrier below a level of many metres; the tangle of roots below would make it almost impossible to grow an effective low-level screen without destroying the trees and removing the roots.
3. Overall, we consider that the proposed building at the proposed location represents an unacceptable level of visual intrusion to the neighbouring property at Michaelmas Lodge.

74/24 **Accounts and Administration:**

- (a) RESOLVED finance report accepted.
- (b) RESOLVED new income and expenditure authorised.  
RESOLVED all invoices to date authorised.

(c) **Regular payments were agreed to:** NP Design & Print, Azalea Landscapes, Oxford IT Solutions, Ewelme News, Red Box Fire Control and subscriptions to OALC, SLCC and NALC.

- 75/24 **Parish Council Website:** The current website is very slow and not user friendly. The Clerk has contacted another company as recommended by NALC. The annual subscription would be £350 (ex VAT) the current cost is approx. £100. The Clerk will research whether the email accounts can be hosted separately and if other councils are satisfied with the recommended company.
- 76/24 **Annual Parish Meeting:** This will now be held on 8th May after the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. The subject will be the proposed expansion of the Common car park and local organisations will be invited to speak.
- 77/24 **The Pound:** The fence will be taken down this week.
- 78/24 **Bus shelter:** BT is still waiting for a second quote.
- 79/24 **Litter pick:** EPC is holding a litter pick on 13<sup>th</sup> April. The Shepherd's Hut has offered to provide refreshments after the event. GB will open the pavilion and bring refreshments and the Clerk will attend the last hour and close up.
- 80/24 **Landslide:** R. Moore (RM) attended the meeting and gave an update. The objective is for Thames Water (TW) to make good after the landslide in the village and to avoid a recurrence. As RM has recently resigned from EPC, NL will take on the task of communicating with TW.
- 81/24 **Health & safety:** There has been a delivery of bark for the play area which will be spread when the ground is dry.
- 82/23 **Village Maintenance including outdoor gym, pavilion, play area & the Common:** The front door, back door and veranda have been painted.  
A long term resident has recently passed away and her husband would like to erect a bench on the Common in her memory. RESOLVED this has been agreed. The resident will purchase the bench and EPC will take ownership of it to include the maintenance.  
Cow Common gates replacement: RESOLVED EPC will apply for a grant from TOE to replace all gates on the Common.
- 83/24 **Reports from meetings, training, and other events:** None.
- 84/24 **Correspondence:** Robert Field from the Community Shed has asked that EPC support the project. RESOLVED the Clerk will send a letter of support.
- 85/24 **Other items of interest:** None.

The meeting closed at 2115

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

Date of next meeting – 8th May 2024

**Appendix**

**Ewelme PC Payments & Receipts April 2024**

Ref no:	Payments for authorisation:	
	Administration costs	1,124.40
DD	E-on	85.50
DD	Grundon	40.14
02.10.04.24	Oxford IT Solutions	12.00
03.01.10.24	J Martin	150.00
	EN - Willett refund	96.00
		<b>1,508.04</b>

Date	Receipts since last meeting:	
05/04/2024	SODC precept	15,000.00
25/03/2024	EN - Shepherd's Hut	270.00
26/03/2024	EN - Call Out Plumbing	48.00
		<b>15,318.00</b>

**EPC debit card purchases**

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