



Minutes of Ewelme Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 14th June 2023

Present: Gemma Benoliel (GB/Chairman) David Solomon (DS)
Roger Moore (RM) Nigel Layton(NL) Barry Tindall (BT)
Freddie VanMierlo (FVM) Sue Cooper (SC) Andrea Powell (AP)
Joanna Brock (Clerk) 23 members of the public

- 80/23 **Apologies for absence:** Sally Stockings (SS) is away.
- 81/23 **Declarations of interest:** NL declared an interest in 85/23 as he is the owner of Thatchings.
- 82/23 **Minutes of last meeting 17/05/2023:** These were agreed and signed.
- 83/23 **Public session:** No one wished to speak at this time but speak in other sections.
- 84/23 **County & District Councillor reports:** SC, AP and FVM sent reports before the meeting and also attended the meeting. SC and AP's report mentioned council grants available for food banks. The Wallingford campsite and pool is now open and they have been refurbished with money from the Community Infrastructure Levy. FVM spoke about the unpaid carer strategy and possibly moving the council offices from County Hall to Speedwell House. He mentioned the Town and Parish charter, OCC is working to strengthen the relationship with local town and parish councils. SC asked FVM about the County's policy regarding vegetation encroaching onto footpaths and sight lines for traffic. FVM said OCC's policy does include keeping sightlines and footpaths clear.
- 85/23 **Planning**
P23/S1619/HH & P23/S1620/LB: Thatchings, Ewelme, OX10 6HQ. Amendments to applications P22/S2261/HH & P22/S2262/LB (main house) and P20/S4621/HH & P20/4783/LB (kitchen extension). Reconstruction and restoration of the main house following a fire in 2022, and demolition of existing 1950s single single-storey lean-to extension and chimney and replacement with timber clad extension. RESOLVED EPC have no objections.
P22/S2963/HH: Cottesbrooke, Ewelme, OX10 6HB. Extension and alterations to existing house. RESOLVED EPC have no objections.
- 86/23 **Speed indicator device (SID) and traffic:** EPC is deciding whether to install a SID on The Street and has been asking for residents' opinions. A temporary SID was installed on The Street and data collected. When the SID was switched off the data showed that the 20mph limit was having an effect, the SID was then switched on and it further slowed speed. EPC wrote to residents close to the pole site and also wrote an article for the EN asking for residents' opinions. There was mixed feedback, many were concerned about the height of the pole. DS explained that a taller pole is needed for various reasons including for the solar panel to charge, to stop vandalism and for road safety. Some residents had reservations about the SID being near the nature reserve and in a conservation area. Several people suggested the second SID should be

installed in other locations, Cat Lane or between the village hall and primary school. One resident said that SIDs can be most effective when speed limits change. Other suggestions were to make The Street look more pedestrian friendly. DS had previously researched shared use zones in the Netherlands. In these areas, the road looks narrower and there are cobblestones at the edges, however these are very expensive and can be visually intrusive. It was also mentioned that this type of road surface is not good for cyclists. Cars parked on the road can be effective at slowing traffic, but can hold up larger vehicles. DS said having speed bumps may come with a requirement for street lighting. Several residents said the traffic seemed to have increased in the village recently. DS said some of the sign locations may not be effective and are blocked by overgrown vegetation. The topic of traffic volume and weight on Green Lane and Eyres Lane was discussed. DS told the public that OCC recently had an area weight restrictions engagement. DS gave detailed feedback including submitting comments in addition to putting pins on the map. DS chased up his submission and is waiting to hear from OCC. FVM said EPC has been the most prolific responder to traffic management in the area. One resident suggested there were areas by blind bends and junctions that would benefit from a SID, for example Hampden Way, the Shepherd's Hut and Parsons Lane, also chicanes could be put at entry points. Some residents were very concerned about the safety of children and said it was not safe for children to walk alone in the village any more and were concerned for the children waiting for school buses, the traffic is very heavy at this time. One resident mentioned that there is a lot of speeding at night. At least one resident would like all the signs removed in the village. DS suggested the devices could be temporarily installed around the village and monitor where they are most effective. DS agreed to produce a draft plan for the future deployment of the SIDs through the village and to circulate this via the Facebook page, Ewelme News and EPC website.

AP said there is a meeting on 29th June with Thames Valley Police which she is attending.

FVM said there is an ongoing investigation into a local operator. DS said that the Hazell & Jefferies' (H&J) Certificate of Lawfulness allowed 7 vehicles on and off the site each day. EPC did an informal count on one day and the vehicle count came to over 70. EPC wrote to OCC and this is now under investigation. OCC have issued H&J a Planning Contravention notice and officers are doing regular site visits. FVM said OCC are chasing a certificate of lawfulness application but have not yet received one. OCC have a new HGV strategy which is about reducing HGVs on rural roads with weight restrictions and are looking into areas for additional restrictions. FVM said residents should report potholes on FixMyStreet.

DS was generally thanked for his efforts towards traffic calming in the village.

- 87/23 **Landslide:** Thames Water (TW) attended the Annual Parish meeting, and told residents their plans for putting things right after the burst pipe on Days Lane and subsequent landslide. TW contacted RM and asked for feedback after the meeting so RM wrote another letter to TW. Both letters are available in the EN and on the EPC website. The aging pipeline is now being investigated by TW's planning network. RM said their priorities are to get the bank repaired, until this is done the mud will continue to cascade into the village, clearing and repairing the drains. The responsibility lies with TW but OCC are the owners of the bank and responsible for the

road drains so any action cannot be done without permission from OCC. RM reported that yesterday and today a lorry has been in the village to clear the drains. TW have reported the debris in Kings Pool to the environment agency. RM said TW will respond to RM's letter by the 21st June and will answer any questions not originally answered. RM now communicates directly with the supervisors and feels it is progressing.

88/23 **Car park:** This was not discussed.

89/23 **Ewelme Historical Archive website:** Yvonne Solomon (YS) said after the success of the archive exhibition at the jubilee event it was decided to have a website to store all the archive information digitally and make it available to the public. AP and BT said they have contacts for website agencies. EPC agreed that YS could spend up to £500 to start the project.

90/23 **Ewelme News:** There have been two meetings with the editor of the EN. The editor would like to continue to edit the magazine but not continue with the advertising and invoicing. It was decided that the Clerk will take on the advertising. It was also decided to pay the editor a fee of £300 for the running of the magazine and this would be paid quarterly.

91/23 **Wilding:** The Working to Regenerate Ewelme's Nature (WREN) group are still researching the current Grundon site consisting of 55 hectares, to turn it into a nature reserve. WREN have received two quotations for a ten year plan which includes wildflowers and hedge laying. Grundon will meet EPC and WREN on the 6th July. BT was pleased to report that OCC didn't cut the wildflowers on Martyn's Way and that the hedging has been successful at the Common. GB said that vegetation was encroaching across the footpaths along Green Lane, BT said his team will cut this. GB also said some hedges from residential properties along The Street are encroaching across footpaths. The Clerk will write to the residents. AP mentioned that the 20mph sign by the Watercress Centre is covered by vegetation, it is believed this is the responsibility of the Chiltern Society.

92/23 **Health & safety:** The guttering has been fixed at the pavilion. The broken bench at the top of Burrows Hill has been removed. There are bits of metal left behind but EPC will not take responsibility for this. There's a dead tree at risk of falling over by Kings Pool, the owner of the tree will be informed of their responsibility.

93/23 **Village Maintenance including outdoor gym, pavilion, play area & the Common:** BT completed the playground inspection in June, NL will do this for July. The tractor was not working so a part has been ordered and BT will fix it.

94/23 **Other items of interest:**

It was decided to convene in August with the finance meeting half an hour before the public meeting.

It was decided that Rebecca Lanigan (RL) would work with EPC on various projects and working groups including traffic, Benson Millstream Centre and be EPC's village hall representative.

95/23 **Accounts and Administration:**

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

96/23 **Reports from meetings, training and other events:** Nothing to report.

97/23 **Correspondence:** It was decided not to contribute towards the International Tree giveaway.
It was decided to hire the pavilion to the preschool for free for their special event.

The meeting closed at 2150

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Date of next meeting – 12th July 2023-

Appendix

Ewelme PC Payments & Receipts June 2023

Ref no:	Payments for authorisation:	
DD	Administration costs	1071.40
	E-on	182.12
	Royal British Legion	100.00
	Sue Ryder	300.00
	Home Start	200.00
	Benson library	250.00
	Ewelme preschool	800.00
DD	Grundon	48.30
14.06.23.02	NP Design & Print	568.00
14.06.23.03	J Martin	30.00
14.06.23.04	HMRC	80.65
14.06.23.05	PATA payroll	25.80

14.06.23.06	J Olds - internal audit	250.00
14.06.23.07	ElanCity - SID	2,807.99
	Clerk's expenses (from other sheet)	15.10
	PC debit card payments (below)	0.00
		6,714.26

Date	Receipts since last meeting:	
16/05/2023	Lee Beckett - EN	48.00
17/05/2023	Oxford Aerials - EN	48.00
17/05/2023	Iswariah - EN	48.00
22/05/2023	C. Kinash - EN	48.00
06/06/2023	E Firth - pavilion hire deposit	100.00
01/06/2023	Airband comm	20.00
30/05/2023	Roadknight - mugs	10.00
23/05/2023	G. Benoliel - mugs	175.00
19/05/2023	Grundon - bin hire refund	156.00
19/05/2023	Running Imp - mug refund	8.04
		661.04

EPC debit card purchases

Date	Item	Cost
	Nil	
		0.00