

EWSHOT ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

THE MINUTES OF EWSHOT ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD ON MONDAY 30 MAY 2022 AT 7 PM IN EWSHOT VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllr G Bredin (Chairman), Cllr E Jennings, Cllr D Morgan-Jones and Cllr D Rook (Ewshot Parish Council), Alison Ball (Ewshot Parish Council Clerk), Cllrs T Collins and W Makepeace-Browne (Hart District Council), PC Liz Wallace (Hampshire Constabulary).

Apologies for Absence

Cllr C Turner (Ewshot Parish Council)
Cllr S Parker (Hampshire County Council)

Minutes

It was noted that the last Annual Parish Assembly had been held on 8 April 2019. The meetings in 2020 and 2021 had not gone ahead due to restrictions relating to the Covid-19 pandemic. No minutes of this meeting were available.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and set out some of the activities that the Parish Council had undertaken during the last year:

- Elections – there had been two elections in 2021/2022 which had resulted in Cllrs Rook and Turner joining the Council in May and Cllr Morgan-Jones in September.
- New bins – new bins had been installed on the recreation ground.
- Repairs to car park – remedial repairs had been made to the car park.
- Fibre project – soon after he was elected Cllr Morgan-Jones took on responsibility for the project to bring fibre broadband to the village. He had done a great job with moving the project forward and getting people to sign up to the project. Unfortunately despite the target set by OpenReach being met, advice had been received that another £30,000 needed to be pledged which equated to 20 houses. Work was ongoing to achieve this.
- Doras Green/Heath Lane Junction – work had been ongoing for a long time to try to get improvements to the sightlines at the Doras Green Lane/ Heath Lane crossroads and during the last 12 months the boundary hedges on the north side had been removed and replanted further away from the carriageway. Cllr Turner had been working on this since his election in May and had worked with Hampshire Highways who had given permission for the work to be done and had also refunded all the costs incurred by the Parish Council. Hampshire Highways had very recently installed new STOP signs on the junction and work was ongoing to get a Vehicle Activated Sign installed on Heath Lane

to alert drivers to the dangers. There were many other highway safety issues in the village and these would be looked at in the coming year.

- New surface in the Play Area – the play area had been closed for a number of months so the surface matting could be replaced and new grass allowed to grow. This had been a growing concern over the last few years and it was a big job that needed doing. The good news was that the play area would be reopened on Saturday 4 June. In preparation for this reopening the new contractors had cut the grass and the entrance gate had been repaired.

The Chairman advised that in addition to the projects above the Parish Council had been continuing with the more routine works such as grass cutting, tree planting, providing the Christmas trees to the Village Hall and the Church, regularly monitoring the defibrillator and moving the SID between its approved locations. The Ground Caretaker, who had been an asset to the Parish Council, had left in the autumn 2021 and a replacement would be sought for the summer. The Chairman had continued to represent the Council on the Crookham Almshouse charity and he had recently taken up a newly created position on the Farnborough Airport Consultative Committee.

A financial report was circulated at the meeting which set out the following:

The main areas of expenditure during 2021/2022 were maintenance of the play area and the costs associated with two elections.

In summary:

Balance brought forward from previous year	£63,295
Total receipts	£35,536
Total payments	(£37,631)
End of year balance	£61,200

The year's receipts of **£35,536** had consisted, in addition to the Precept, of VAT rebates, reimbursement from Hampshire County Council for the work on the highway at Doras Green and bank interest.

The year's payments of **£37,631** had consisted of the following:

Administration costs (including staffing costs, insurance, training, room hire, subscriptions)	£8,576
Elections	£5,260
Grants and Donations	£1,772
Maintenance	£3,506
Grounds Contractors	£3,206
Audit Fees	£668

Works in Play Area	£8,875
Highways Works	£3,267
VAT on payments	£2,502

The Parish Council had brought forward £61,200 into 2022/2023 together with a Precept of £32,726. The budget for 2022/2023 included additional money for the funds being built up for the replacement of the play area equipment and the tennis court when required, for the maintenance of the recreation ground, play area and land at Broomhill and for various projects.

It was noted that the coming weekend would play host to various celebratory events for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. There would be a beacon lighting on Thursday 2 June, a lunch for the older residents and Rock on the Rec on Friday 3 June and a big village picnic on Sunday 5 June. It was hoped that across the weekend there would be something for everyone in the village.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

Open Forum

Cllr Makepeace-Browne introduced herself as she was recently elected to Hart District Council representing the Crookham West and Ewshot ward. She had previously been a district councillor representing Fleet.

The Meeting ended at 7.31 pm

Signed

Dated