

EWSHOT PARISH COUNCIL

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EWSHOT PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 9 JANUARY 2023 AT 7 PM
IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr G Bredin (Chairman) (until 7.50pm), Cllr E Jennings, Cllr D Morgan-Jones and Cllr C Turner.

In Attendance: Alison Ball (Clerk). Cllr S Parker (Hampshire County Council) (until 7.55pm).

23/1	Apologies for Absence
	Cllr D Rook (Vice-Chairman).
	Cllr T Collins (Hart District Council).

23/2	Approval of the Minutes of the meeting of Ewshot Parish Council held on 12 December 2022
	RESOLVED: To approve the Minutes of the meeting of Ewshot Parish Council held on 12 December 2022.

23/3	Matters arising from the Minutes
	On Minute 22/203 Draft Budget 2023/2024 it was noted that the Clerk had looked at the savings accounts available to parish councils and she would add this to the agenda for February for discussion.
	On Minute 22/207 Any other business it was advised that the Grounds Caretaker had checked all the grit bins and two needed topping up which had been reported to HCC.

23/4	Announcements from Chairman, Clerk and Members' Questions
	None.

23/5	District and County Council Report
	Hart District Council (HDC):- None.
	Hampshire County Council (HCC):- Cllr Parker advised that he had recently circulated his report by email. He went on to give updates on the various ongoing highways matters:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doras Green: Cllr Parker had contacted Hampshire Highways about progress with the installation of the Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) and he would pass on any update once received. He had also suggested that, if there could not be a reduction in the speed limit, that white lines be painted to artificially narrow the road and hopefully slow down vehicles. • Flooding on the A287: the work done to clear the drainage system seemed to have worked as there had not been any flooding in this location recently. There was still some flooding on the roundabout but it was hoped once the root ball in the carrier drain was removed this would allow the water to drain from this location. Cllr Parker had requested that further investigation be undertaken to check that all the drains along this part of the A287 were cleared. Cllr Turner asked whether the work requested by the Parish Council to install new kerbstones would be done as without this the drains would soon be blocked again. Cllr Parker advised that he had made officers at Hampshire Highways aware of this request and it would be considered during a more in depth look at the whole area. • Ditches on Ewshot Lane and Dares Lane: Hampshire Highways had previously made a commitment to repairing the ditches along these roads once the new roundabout on the A287 had been completed. As the roundabout was now fully open an order had been raised for works to repair pot holes and reinstate the ditches and verges. No date had been provided as to when this would be carried out but it would need to wait until the weather was less wet. • ESSO pipeline: works were ongoing along Beacon Hill Road for the installation of the new pipeline. There would be further disruption along this road for at least the next two to three months as the work continued. <p>In response to a question from Cllr Morgan-Jones, Cllr Parker agreed to follow up with officers on the progress of the fibre optic procurement and pass on any details.</p>
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23/6	Declaration of Interests and Requests for Dispensations
	Cllr Bredin declared an interest in Minute 23/14 Tree works as he was related to the owner of one of the companies that had put in a quote for hedge cutting.

23/7	Public Participation
	None.

23/8	Planning
	None.

23/9	Neighbourhood Plan
	Cllr Morgan-Jones had contacted planning officers at HDC to organise a meeting to discuss why Ewshot should/ should not develop a Neighbourhood Plan (NP). Cllr Turner had also agreed to be involved with this. A response was awaited.
23/10	Highways Issues at Doras Green
	This had already been discussed under Minute 23/5 County Councillors report.
23/11	Highways Issues as a result of the temporary closure of Redfields Lane
	This had already been discussed under Minute 23/5 County Councillors report.
23/12	A287
	This had already been discussed under Minute 23/5 County Councillors report.
23/13	Beacon Hill Road
	This had already been discussed under Minute 23/5 County Councillors report.
23/14	Tree Works
	<p>The Chairman advised that the Christmas tree recycling point had been set up on the recreation ground next to the car park and so far there had been no issues.</p> <p>As reported at the last meeting an application had been made to HDC for works to be carried out on a tree at Broomhill, as suggested in the tree survey, which was the subject of a Tree Preservation Order (TPO). A response to this application was awaited and no work would be carried out until approval had been given. In the meantime the Clerk had received three quotes for all the tree works recommended in the recent tree survey. All the quotes received were from reputable companies and it was agreed to accept the cheapest quote.</p> <p>RESOLVED: that, subject to receipt of approval from HDC to carry out works on the tree with the TPO at Broomhill, the quote from 1st Call Trees to carry out all the work set out in the tree report be accepted. Proposed by Cllr Morgan-Jones, seconded by Cllr Jennings and agreed unanimously.</p> <p>The Chairman advised that during one of the grass cuts the contractor inadvertently stumped some whips on the recreation ground. The contractor had agreed to replace these whips free of charge. Enquiries had been made to find out the costs involved in having spiral tree guards and canes fitted to the whips to provide extra</p>

	<p>protection. It was agreed that the tree guards and canes were unnecessary and the contractor should be asked to replace the whips as soon as possible.</p> <p>Work had been ongoing for some months to find a contractor to cut all the hedges around the play area and recreation ground. Some of the hedges could be cut by tractor and flail but in some areas there was not sufficient access and the hedges needed to be cut by hand. Quotes had been sought for the work and so far only one quote for the tractor and flail cutting had been received but four quotes had been received for the hedges that needed cutting by hand. The meeting considered the quotes and agreed to accept the cheapest quote.</p> <p>RESOLVED: that the quote from MGB Services for the hedge cutting around the recreation ground, play area and car park be accepted. Proposed by Cllr Jennings, seconded by Cllr Turner and agreed unanimously.</p> <p>(NOTE: Cllr Bredin declared an interest in the hedge cutting part of the discussion as a family member had submitted a quote. He took no part in the discussion or vote.)</p>
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23/15	Farnborough Airport
	The Chairman gave a summary of information he received at a recent briefing he had attended as part of his role on the Farnborough Airport Consultative Committee. He confirmed that details of all permitted flight paths were available on the internet.

23/16	Q3 Summary of Receipts and Payments to 31 December 2022
	<p>A summary of the figures for quarter three had been circulated prior to the meeting. This also showed the total spend to 31 December across the budget headings against the budget for the year.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To approve the summary of receipts and payments for quarter three. Proposed by Cllr Turner, seconded by Cllr Bredin and agreed unanimously.</p>

23/17	Bank Reconciliation to 31 December 2022
	<p>The RFO had produced a bank reconciliation to 31 December 2022 which had been circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To accept the bank reconciliation to 31 December 2022. Proposed by Cllr Turner, seconded by Cllr Jennings and agreed unanimously.</p>

23/18	Budget 2023/2024
	<p>The Clerk circulated revised draft figures for the Budget 2023/24. This set out the actual spend to 1 January 2023 together with the predicted spend to year end, 31 March 2023. Also circulated were details of the money spent on projects during 2022.</p> <p>The proposed 2023/2024 budget was similar to the previous year's budget with the following changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional money to start a reserves pot for any future elections; - The creation of a fund for grants for local groups for Coronation related events; - Increases to the budgets for grass cutting, hedge cutting and maintenance in anticipation of contractors increasing prices; - A pay rise for staff. <p>The meeting discussed the budget in detail, in particular the monies allocated to the reserves. Work would be undertaken to allocate targets to each of the reserve items. It was agreed that the proposed budget would be sufficient for the coming year.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To approve the budget for 2023/24. Proposed by Cllr Turner, seconded by Cllr Morgan-Jones and agreed unanimously.</p> <p>(NOTES: (1) The Chairman left the meeting during the consideration of this item. It was agreed that in the absence of the Vice-Chairman Cllr Jennings should take the Chair for the remainder of the meeting; and (2) Cllr Parker left the meeting on conclusion of this item to attend another meeting in a neighbouring parish.)</p>
23/19	Approval of Precept 2023/24
	<p>The budget suggested that a precept of £34,526 would be sufficient for 2023/24. This was a total increase of £1800 on the previous year which equated to an average of just over £4 per household per year.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the precept for 2023/24 be set at £34,526 and that the Chairman, Cllr Turner and the Clerk be authorised to complete the paperwork on this basis to return to HDC. Proposed by Cllr Turner, seconded by Cllr Morgan-Jones and agreed unanimously.</p>

23/20	Request for Funding from Fleet & District Carnival												
	<p>The Clerk advised that a request had been received from the Chairman of the Fleet & District Carnival for help with funding the general running costs of the event. She stated that costs were rising and the event had made a loss in 2022.</p> <p>It was agreed that 2023 was going to be a difficult year for many organisations and the money available to the Parish Council for local events would be reserved for events taking place within the parish or directly for the benefit of the parish.</p>												
23/21	Payments												
	<p>The following payments were approved:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>January Payroll</td> <td>£532.05</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC – tax</td> <td>£15.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Alison Ball – Reimbursement for stationery and bin bags</td> <td>£58.69</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Larkstel – Bin emptying (January)</td> <td>£171.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Information Commissioner (Data Protection Fee)</td> <td>£40.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>JRB Enterprises – Dog poo bags</td> <td>£76.68</td> </tr> </table>	January Payroll	£532.05	HMRC – tax	£15.00	Alison Ball – Reimbursement for stationery and bin bags	£58.69	Larkstel – Bin emptying (January)	£171.60	Information Commissioner (Data Protection Fee)	£40.00	JRB Enterprises – Dog poo bags	£76.68
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23/22	Correspondence												
	<p>The Clerk advised that there was no correspondence that had been received in addition to that already forwarded on and none that needed addressing that had not appeared elsewhere on the agenda.</p>												
23/23	Date of Next Meeting												
	<p>It was noted that the next meeting was due to take place on 13 February 2023 but as this was half term it was agreed to move the meeting forward one week to 6 February at 7pm in the Village Hall.</p> <p>It was also noted that the meetings in April and May needed to be moved as they were currently scheduled for bank holidays. It was agreed that the meetings be moved to 24 April and 22 May.</p>												
23/24	Any Other Business												
	<p>Cllr Turner reported that he had received feedback on the Christmas lunch for older people in the village that the Parish Council had helped to fund. There had been 33 attendees and it had been very successful.</p>												

	<p>Information had been received on potential funding available to make improvements to the village hall. Cllr Jennings agreed to discuss this with the Village Hall Committee as it would need to apply for any funds, the Parish Council could only support in any bid.</p> <p>Cllr Morgan-Jones advised that he would like items on the agenda for February to allow discussion of the Parish Council's aspirations for 2023/2024 and ways to improvement communication with parishioners.</p>
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The meeting ended at 8.25 pm

Signed.....

Dated