

EWSHOT PARISH COUNCIL

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EWSHOT PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2023 AT 7 PM
IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr D Rook (Vice-Chairman in the Chair) (until 7.47pm), Cllr E Jennings, Cllr D Morgan-Jones and Cllr C Turner.

In Attendance: Alison Ball (Clerk). Cllr S Parker (Hampshire County Council) (until 7.45pm).

23/25	Apologies for Absence
	Cllr G Bredin (Chairman) Cllr T Collins (Hart District Council).
23/26	Approval of the Minutes of the meeting of Ewshot Parish Council held on 9 January 2023
	RESOLVED: To approve the Minutes of the meeting of Ewshot Parish Council held on 9 January 2023.
23/27	Matters arising from the Minutes
	None.
23/28	Announcements from Chairman, Clerk and Members' Questions
	None.
23/29	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. The report contained, amongst other things, details of the Pan-Hampshire County Deal, including a directly elected leader and extensive devolution from central government down to the local area. He confirmed that most of the details related only to the functions of HCC, bringing benefits at a county level and would not directly involve or impact on parish councils. District councils were being included in the process.

	Cllr Morgan-Jones advised that he was happy to read in Cllr Parkers report that the review of the criteria for 20mph speed limits within Hampshire was progressing and this could be beneficial for the village. He was, however, saddened to read in the report that drain covers were being stolen. Cllr Parker advised that the old fashioned cast iron covers did have some value and had been target for thieves. Any stolen covers were being replaced with ones made of a composite material that were not as attractive to thieves.
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23/30	Declaration of Interests and Requests for Dispensations
	None.

23/31	Public Participation
	None.

23/32	Planning
	<p>(a) 23/00036/HOU The Old Blacksmiths Cottage, Beacon Hill Road Demolition of shed and double garage and erection of a two storey double garage and store.</p> <p>A response to this application needed to be sent to HDC by 31 January so the following had been agreed by email had been submitted prior to the meeting: No objection.</p> <p>The response was NOTED.</p> <p>(b) 23/00105/HOU 2 Bushylease Cottages, Redlands Lane Erection of a detached garage.</p> <p>It was AGREED to submit no objection.</p> <p>(c) 22/02878/HOU Brackenhurst, Farnham Road Removal of roof and creation of a first floor, two storey front extension, single storey rear extension following demolition of conservatory, first floor balcony to west elevation and alterations to windows and doors. Amended location plan.</p> <p>It was AGREED to submit no objection.</p> <p>(d) 23/00219/HOU Roughgrove Cottage, Church Lane Erection of a single storey rear infill extension and conversion of garage to habitable accommodation to include the replacement of the garage door with a window.</p> <p>It was AGREED to submit no objection.</p>

(NOTE: item (d) above was received too late to appear on the agenda but it was agreed to consider the item at the meeting as the response needed to be submitted before the next meeting.)

23/33	Neighbourhood Plan
	<p>Cllrs Morgan-Jones and Turner had met, virtually, with planning officers at HDC to discuss why Ewshot should or should not develop a Neighbourhood Plan (NP). The planning officers had confirmed that there were no proposals to convert any land in and around the village to land for building on and the village did have protection as it was already surrounded by SSSI land, SANG land and MOD land. The Parish Council would be involved in the development of the HDC Local Plan and could feed in any specific requirements. For these reasons it was felt that a NP was not needed for the village. It was, however, felt that there may be some benefit in formulating one or more design codes setting out what any development in the village should look like. Cllr Morgan-Jones agreed to look into this and report back.</p>
23/34	Highways Issues at Doras Green
	<p>Cllrs Turner and Parker confirmed that there was no update on progress with the installation of the Vehicle Activated Sign at the Heath Lane/ Doras Green Lane crossroads.</p> <p>An email had been received from Hampshire Highways confirming that the road surface at the crossroads had been assessed and it had been found that there were no defects that would meet current intervention levels. Cllr Turner agreed to follow this up as the metalling on the side of Heath Lane was wearing away causing the carriageway to narrow. This was getting worse after each frost.</p> <p>Cllr Parker advised that the very wet weather, followed by the very cold weather had taken a toll on all the roads and Hampshire Highways were being kept very busy with emergency repairs, particularly pot holes. In addition many of the staff who would usually work on the roads were currently being diverted to drive the gritting lorries.</p> <p>Cllr Rook confirmed she had recently attended a public consultation by Quatro on the development proposals at Oak Park Golf Club. If the proposals went ahead there would be a significant increase in traffic along Heath Lane. It was agreed to write to HDC requesting that, in the event that a planning application be submitted, thought be given to the impact on the surrounding roads and that funding be sought to make improvements to the highways including a reduction in the speed limit on Heath Lane and any other impacted roads. Cllr Turner agreed to contact HDC about this.</p>

23/35	Highways Issues as a result of the temporary closure of Redfields Lane
	Cllr Parker advised that the works at the roundabout were almost finished and the remedial works to the verges in the village were on the 'to-do' list.
23/36	A287
	<p>It was noted that the flooding at the top of the A287 appeared to have been alleviated by the recent works carried out by Hampshire Highways however it was felt that this would not be a permanent solution and the Parish Council would continue to lobby HDC to do a more in depth assessment of the area.</p> <p>Concerns were raised about the amount of litter on the verges alongside the A287 and Beacon Hill Road. This had recently been reported to HDC and Cllr Collins had been asked to follow this up. Cllr Morgan-Jones suggested this was a task for the lengthsman and the Clerk confirmed that the lengthsman had cleared the litter from the verge by the footpath along the A287 on many occasions but he would not clear the verges without footpaths as it was too dangerous.</p>
23/37	Beacon Hill Road
	<p>There was no update on Beacon Hill Road.</p> <p>Cllr Jennings asked that consideration be given to reporting Naishes Lane to HCC as the surface was crumbling and it was getting very dangerous. She agreed to provide photographs to the Clerk so this could be reported.</p>
23/38	Tree Works
	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 should have been received by 24 January but HDC had confirmed that due to acute staffing shortages and a high number of similar applications there was a delay. It was possible to appeal the application for non-determination in the prescribed time period but this was likely to take longer than waiting for a decision from HDC. It was agreed to wait for HDC to respond.
23/39	Enhancing parish communication and engagement
	Cllr Morgan-Jones advised that he would like to use the details provided by residents as part of the fibre optic project to formulate a better way to communicate with these residents. He confirmed that they had all given permission for their data to be used for this purpose. He would devise a plan and report back at a future meeting.

23/40	Rural Fibre Optic Rollout
	In response to a question from Cllr Morgan-Jones, Cllr Parker confirmed that he did not have an update on the fibre optic procurement but he would look into this.

23/41	Coronation
	<p>Cllr Jennings advised that she had been in touch with the Village Show Committee and they had confirmed that they would not be organising any events for the Coronation. The Coronation was taking place too early in the year to guarantee the weather for outdoor events so it had been agreed that they would organise the regular village show for July 2023. It was understood that the Windmill pub would be holding some events over the Coronation weekend. There might also be some demand for an afternoon tea for older residents of the village and Cllr Jennings would report back if this progressed as it was likely that funding would be needed for this to be able to go ahead.</p> <p>The Village Show Committee had raised the idea of a plaque to mark the Jubilee and another to mark the Coronation. This had been discussed in the run up to the Jubilee but not progressed. Costs were currently being sought for the plaques and a location was needed. It was suggested that either side of the post box outside the village hall might be suitable. Cllr Jennings agreed to report back with any further progress on this.</p>

23/42	Farnborough Airport
	<p>Prior to the meeting the Chairman had advised that he would need to step down as the Parish Council representative on the Farnborough Airport Consultative Committee due to a conflict of interests. Cllr Jennings confirmed she was happy to remain as the deputy member. It was requested that the emails relating to the airport be forwarded to all councillors.</p> <p>It was AGREED to appoint Cllr Deirdre Rook as the Ewshot Parish Council representative on the Farnborough Airport Consultative Committee.</p> <p>(NOTE: Cllr Parker left the meeting at the conclusion of this item to attend a parish council meeting in a neighbouring area.)</p>

23/43	Review of Standing Orders
	The Standing Orders had been reviewed and a minor change was recommended based on advice from the National Association of Local Councils to update standing orders to reflect current procurement threshold figures and to remove references

	<p>to the European Union. The amended Standing Orders had been circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Standing Orders, as amended, be approved.</p> <p>(NOTE: Cllr Rook left the meeting at the conclusion of this item. In the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman it was agreed that Cllr Jennings take the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.)</p>	
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23/44	Review of Financial Regulations	
	<p>The Financial Regulations had been reviewed and no amendments were recommended.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To note that the Financial Regulations had been reviewed but no amendments were necessary.</p>	

23/45	Banking Arrangements	
	<p>Consideration was given to the current banking arrangements.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the current banking arrangements were sufficient.</p>	

23/46	Risk Management	
	<p>Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated the Annual Risk Assessment which had been updated slightly to reflect current arrangements.</p> <p>Cllr Morgan-Jones expressed his view that he thought the Risk Assessment needed a drastic overhaul and he would work with the Clerk on this. It was requested that the Clerk check with the Internal Auditor what he would expect to see in the Risk Assessment.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To adopt the Risk Assessment as amended.</p>	

23/47	Savings Accounts	
	<p>Prior to the meeting Cllr Morgan-Jones had requested that the Clerk look into what savings accounts were available to the Parish Council and what the returns could be. The Clerk advised that the Parish Council currently had a savings account with Lloyds that was earning 0.6% interest. A search of the market had been conducted and it had found that many accounts were not available to parish councils. The Clerk had made enquiries with other parish councils to find out if any had recently opened a savings account and all the banks recommended had been looked into. The only</p>	

	<p>account offering a better return than the current Lloyds account was a one year bond with Cambridge and Counties Bank. This account would award 3.3% interest after one year but it would not be possible to access the money during the year.</p> <p>It was agreed that the one year bond with Cambridge and Counties was a good idea and would boost income slightly. Cllrs Morgan-Jones and Turner agreed to have a look at the projected spend for 2023/2024 and at the current allocated reserves to see how much money could be put into a one year bond. This would be brought to a future meeting for consideration.</p>
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23/48	Section 106 Money
	<p>Cllr Jennings advised that she had visited Winchfield Village Hall with the Clerk and a member of the Ewshot Village Hall Committee (EVHC) to have a look at all the projects they had completed and had planned all funded by s106 money. This had given them some ideas and it was anticipated that the EVHC would meet very soon to discuss what improvements might be needed at the village hall and whether these could be funded from s106 money. As the Parish Council representative on the EVHC Cllr Jennings would attend the meeting and would report back with any progress. It would be for the EVHC to apply for any funding but the Parish Council would need to support any bid.</p>

23/49	Payments																
	<p>The following payments were approved:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td>February Payroll</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£532.05</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC – tax</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£15.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Larkstel – Bin emptying (February)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£171.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D M Payroll Services – Payroll Services Oct to March</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£66.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>JRB Enterprises – Dog poop bags</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£76.68</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B J Cranstone</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£85.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Scottish Power</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£54.74</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Value Products Limited – signage</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£55.32</td> </tr> </table>	February Payroll	£532.05	HMRC – tax	£15.00	Larkstel – Bin emptying (February)	£171.60	D M Payroll Services – Payroll Services Oct to March	£66.00	JRB Enterprises – Dog poop bags	£76.68	B J Cranstone	£85.00	Scottish Power	£54.74	Value Products Limited – signage	£55.32
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23/50	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>

23/51	Date of Next Meeting
	<p>It was noted that the next meeting was due to take place on 13 March 2023.</p>

	<p>The meeting was reminded that the meetings in April and May had been moved as the regular meeting dates were bank holidays. The meeting in April would take place on 24 April. The meeting in May would be the Annual Parish Assembly as well as the Parish Council AGM and the main hall was usually used for this meeting. It had been advised that the main hall was only available on Wednesday 24 May and it was agreed to hold the meetings on this date.</p>
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23/52	Any Other Business
	<p>Cllr Morgan-Jones raised a query with regards to fly tipping on the verge of the A287 which had been there for some time. The Clerk agreed to report this to HDC to see why it had not been removed.</p> <p>Cllr Turner reported that drug paraphernalia was being left on the small triangle of land at the Doras Green Lane/ Heath Lane crossroads. He believed the pill box on this land was being used as a shelter for drug use. The Clerk advised that she had previously corresponded with the land owner, who did not live locally, and she would make contact to see if anything could be done such as securing the pill box to prevent access. The Clerk would also report this issue to the local PCSO.</p>

The meeting ended at 8.20pm

Signed.....

Dated