

EWSHOT PARISH COUNCIL

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EWSHOT PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON MONDAY 13 MARCH 2023 AT 7 PM  
IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

**Present:** Cllr G Bredin (Chairman), Cllr D Rook (Vice-Chairman), Cllr E Jennings, Cllr D Morgan-Jones and Cllr C Turner.

**In Attendance:** Alison Ball (Clerk). Cllr T Collins (Hart District Council). Cllr S Parker (Hampshire County Council).

<b>23/53</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>
	None.

<b>23/54</b>	<b>Approval of the Minutes of the meeting of Ewshot Parish Council held on 6 February 2023</b>
	<b>RESOLVED:</b> To approve the Minutes of the meeting of Ewshot Parish Council held on 6 February 2023.

<b>23/55</b>	<b>Matters arising from the Minutes</b>
	On Minute 23/52 Any other business it was confirmed that the landowner of the small triangle of land at Doras Green Lane and Heath Lane had been contacted about the anti-social behaviour taking place on his land. He had agreed to look at securing the pill box. The local PCSO had also been informed and she had agreed to visit the site.

<b>23/56</b>	<b>Announcements from Chairman, Clerk and Members' Questions</b>
	None.

<b>23/57</b>	<b>District and County Council Report</b>
	<p><b>Hart District Council (HDC):-</b> Cllr Collins advised that HDC had set aside £1,000 per ward for grants for events organised to celebrate the Coronation. This would be administered in much the same way as the Jubilee fund. Cllr Jennings advised that it was unlikely there would be any eligible events in the village as, at the current time, the only things being planned were being held at the pub and a very informal picnic and games on the recreation ground, weather permitting.</p>

	<p><b>Hampshire County Council (HCC):-</b>          Cllr Parker advised that he had recently circulated his report by email. He also confirmed that the County Councillor grant scheme would be opening early this year on 1 April specifically to allow for grants to be awarded for Coronation events.</p>
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<b>23/58</b>	<b>Declaration of Interests and Requests for Dispensations</b>
	Cllr Rook declared an interest in agenda item 8, specifically the planning application for 1 Crondall Heights as a near neighbour.

<b>23/59</b>	<b>Public Participation</b>
	None.

<b>23/60</b>	<b>Planning</b>
	<p><b>(a) 22/02847/FUL 1 Crondall Heights, Farnham Road</b> Change of use of land from agricultural to residential and erection of two outbuildings (part retrospective).</p> <p>A response to this application needed to be sent to HDC by 10 March so the following had been agreed by email had been submitted prior to the meeting: The Parish Council objects as the proposal to extend into the agricultural land to provide an extended garden is encroachment into the countryside and will be detrimental to its character and the countryside setting.</p> <p>The response was NOTED.</p> <p>At the meeting it was suggested that it would be useful to have a map showing the boundary of the residential land and agricultural land to help with future planning applications at Crondall Heights. It was understood that such a plan had not been included as part of the original planning permission.</p> <p><b>(b) 23/00419/FUL Stillers Farm, Ewshot Lane</b> Change of use of land to external storage yard including erection of 4 storage containers with associated surfacing and boundary treatment.</p> <p>It was <b>AGREED</b> to submit an objection due to the encroachment into the countryside and unsuitable access. Final wording to be agreed by email.</p> <p>(NOTES: (1) Cllr Rook declared an interest in item (a) as a direct neighbour and she took no part in the discussion of the application or the decision; and (2) notification of item (b) had been received too late for it to appear on the agenda but it was agreed to consider the item so as not to unnecessarily delay a response.)</p>

<b>23/61</b>	<b>Neighbourhood Plan</b>
	<p>The meeting was reminded that Cllrs Morgan-Jones and Turner had met, virtually, with planning officers at HDC and it had been agreed that a Neighbourhood Plan (NP) was not suitable for Ewshot. It was, however, felt that there may be some benefit in formulating a design code setting out what any development in the village should look like. Cllr Morgan-Jones had agreed to look into this and report back.</p>
<b>23/62</b>	<b>Highways Issues at Doras Green</b>
	<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>As agreed at the last meeting the wearing away of the metalling on the side of Heath Lane had been reported to Hampshire Highways and a response had been received saying that no maintenance was required. Cllr Turner did not feel this response was satisfactory and Cllr Parker agreed to follow up if the Clerk provided him with the HCC reference number and Cllr Turner provided him with photographs of the issue.</p> <p>An email had been received from Hampshire Highways regarding the village gateway sign that currently said "Doras Green". Contact had been made with HCC about this following a complaint from a member of the public saying that the sign was misleading as it was not the right wording and/or location. The Clerk had checked the records and these showed that the Parish Council had agreed that the sign should say "Doras Green Lane" and this has been passed on to HCC but they had used the words "Doras Green" omitting the "Lane". HCC had confirmed that they would not usually put a street name on a village nameplate due to concerns about it being misleading to approaching motorists as they would already be travelling along Doras Green Lane when they saw the sign. However, HCC had offered to change the nameplate if the Parish Council felt it would be clearer with the words "Doras Green Lane". HCC has also offered to re-erect the Doras Green nameplate further south on Doras Green Lane on one of the approaches to Doras Green with another similar sign provided on the other approach to Doras Green. This was discussed and it was agreed that the signage was helping with slowing vehicles and as such it should be left in the current location with the current wording.</p>
<b>23/63</b>	<b>Reinstatement of Verges</b>
	<p>This item had been added to the Agenda to monitor the progress of HCC to reinstate the verges damaged as a result of the closure of Redfield's Lane, particularly Dares Lane and Ewshot Lane. Cllr Parker did not expect there to be any work on this until</p>

	the weather improved and the backlog of work relating to the pot holes that needed filling had been addressed.
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<b>23/64</b>	<b>A287</b>
	As agreed at the last meeting the build-up of litter on the verges alongside the A287 and Beacon Hill Road had been reported to HDC. A litter pick had been carried out along the A287 and it was agreed that this had made an improvement. The litter clearance on Beacon Hill would be followed up. A large amount of fly tipping alongside the A287, which had been there for sometime, had also been reported and HDC had agreed to carry out a site visit and look into land ownership in this area.

<b>23/65</b>	<b>Beacon Hill Road</b>
	It was confirmed that HDC had agreed to carry out a litter pick along this road but it had not been done and it would be chased up.

<b>23/66</b>	<b>Tree Works</b>
	<p>On grounds maintenance the Chairman confirmed that the lengthsman and his team had recently carried out lots of hedge trimming. The hedges around the recreation ground had not be flailed this year as they had been cut quite severely in 2022 but the lengthsman had cut back sight lines exiting the car park and the hedges around the car park.</p> <p>Cllr Morgan-Jones suggested an audit of all the grounds work be conducted so this could be planned and budgeted for. It was agreed that residents should be consulted on what they would like the Parish Council to do. It was agreed to discuss this outside the meeting and bring ideas to the next meeting.</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 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 and a response had not been received. Cllr Collins confirmed that HDC had recently appointed a permanent person to the role of Tree Officer and it was hoped this would improve response times.</p> <p>A quote had already been accepted for all the work on the trees recommended in the tree survey and the company doing the work had confirmed they did not have any availability until May. It was hoped that permission for the work on the TPO tree would be granted before then. If not the work on the TPO tree would need to be</p>

	separated from the other tree work that needed doing. There would be additional costs if the work needed to be done on two separate occasions.
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<b>23/67</b>	<b>Bin Emptying 2023/2024</b>
	<p>It was reported that the contractor that emptied the bins on the recreation ground had advised that costs would be increased by 10% from April to cover increased costs associated with insurance and fuel and an uplift in the waste disposal costs. The Clerk had contacted other local clerks and the consensus was that there were no other companies operating in the local area that would do the same job for less money.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the contract for bin emptying 2023/2024 with Larkstel be approved and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Rook, seconded by Cllr Bredin and agreed unanimously.</p>

<b>23/68</b>	<b>Grass Cutting 2023</b>
	<p>Quotes had been sought for the grass cutting for 2023. Only a limited number of responses had been received with several declining to quote. Three quotes had been received with the 2022 contractor, NJL Box Green, being the middle quote on price. The Chairman advised that he had been happy with the work they had carried out in 2022 and suggested that the quote from NJL Box Green be accepted even though it was not the lowest quote. He felt that they were known to be a good, reliable contractor and it was a very small saving to go with the cheapest quote. NJL had also confirmed that they could offer a three year agreement on the basis of an RPI increase in each annual anniversary with a ceiling of a maximum of 6%. It was suggested that due to the issues experienced in finding a contractor willing to do the work that this be accepted.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the quote from NJL Box Green for grass cutting for 2023 be accepted and that the three year agreement be accepted. Proposed by Cllr Bredin, seconded by Cllr Rook and agreed unanimously.</p>

<b>23/69</b>	<b>Enhancing parish communication and engagement</b>
	<p>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.</p>

<b>23/70</b>	<b>Rural Fibre Optic Rollout</b>
	<p>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.</p>

<b>23/71</b>	<b>Coronation</b>
	This had been discussed under minute 23/57 above.

<b>23/72</b>	<b>Farnborough Airport</b>
	The Chairman advised that there was a workshop coming up that he recommended Cllrs Jennings and Rook attend. He would forward on the details and give them a briefing before attending.

<b>23/73</b>	<b>Savings Accounts</b>
	<p>At the last meeting it had been advised that the Clerk had looked into what savings accounts were available to the Parish Council and what the returns could be. At that meeting the Clerk had recommended that a one year bond with Cambridge and Counties Bank be opened and it had been agreed that Cllrs Morgan-Jones and Turner would 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 had been done and it was suggested that £36,000 be put into a one year bond with Cambridge and Counties and that this account be set up as soon as possible. These funds represented the amount set aside for the future repair or replacement of the play area, the tennis court and some of the funds set aside for highways projects. As regular checks of the play area and tennis court were made there was confidence that neither would need any significant work in the next 12 months.</p> <p>In addition it was suggested that money be transferred from the current account at Lloyds to the savings account at Lloyds. The savings account was currently earning 0.7% interest. It would be necessary to keep a rolling three months of expenditure in the current account with the rest kept in the savings account.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That (1) a one year bond account be set up with Cambridge and Counties and that £36,000 be transferred into this account; and (2) funds be transferred into the Lloyds savings account ensuring a three months rolling expenditure be kept in the current account. Proposed by Cllr Turner, seconded by Cllr Morgan-Jones and agreed unanimously.</p>

<b>23/74</b>	<b>Section 106 Money</b>
	Cllr Jennings advised that she was waiting for a meeting of the Ewshot Village Hall Committee (EVHC) to take place to discuss this. She would report back with any progress.

<b>23/75</b>	<b>Grant Application</b>
	<p>An application had been received from Victim Support for a grant of £50 to put towards the purchase of security items that would be provided free of charge to victims and their families. This would include things such as personal alarms and small home security items such as window or door alarms to help make people feel safer in their own homes. This was not a locally based charity but the application form claimed that 36 residents of Ewshot had received support in the last year.</p> <p>It was requested that the local PCSO be contacted to check the legitimacy of this grant application.</p>

<b>23/76</b>	<b>Insurance 2023/2024</b>
	<p>Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated quotes that had been received for the insurance for 2023/2024. The Parish Council usually used a broker to recommend the most appropriate insurance available, which had been done this year but in addition BHIB had also been asked to provide a quote. The BHIB quote was the cheapest and the Clerk was satisfied it provided adequate insurance. BHIB also offered a three year long term undertaking which reduced the price and committed them to not increasing the price for at least three years.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the quote from BHIB be accepted for insurance in 2023/2024 and that the Parish Council agree to a three year long term undertaking.</p>

<b>23/77</b>	<b>Payments</b>												
	<p>The following payments were approved:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">March 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 (March)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£171.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Insurance Premium</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£660.90</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MGB Services – hedge cutting</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£540.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Community Heartbeat Trust – annual defib maintenance</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£151.20</td> </tr> </table> <p>It was noted that there had been a delay in making the payments following the February meeting as no one had done the second authorisation of the transfers. The Clerk advised that she had put a note in her diary as a reminder to check this one week after each meeting. It was also agreed to set up a whatsapp group for communication on important matters such as this and anything that needed urgent action. All were satisfied this should prevent this from happening again.</p>	March Payroll	£532.05	HMRC – tax	£15.00	Larkstel – Bin emptying (March)	£171.60	Insurance Premium	£660.90	MGB Services – hedge cutting	£540.00	Community Heartbeat Trust – annual defib maintenance	£151.20
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<b>23/78</b>	<b>Correspondence</b>
	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.
<b>23/79</b>	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b>
	<p>It was noted that the next meeting was due to take place on 24 April 2023.</p> <p>There was a brief discussion about the Annual Parish Assembly. The Clerk confirmed that this was not a parish council meeting but a meeting of the community that was chaired by the Chairman of the Parish Council and had previously been organised by the Parish Council. It was agreed that as there had been very little attendance by members of the public in the past that this meeting not be organised by the Parish Council.</p>
<b>23/80</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>
	<p>It was noted that the councillors would be meeting informally with the agents acting for Oak Park Golf Course to listen to details of the proposed changes at the golf course and how these might impact on the village particularly the roads.</p> <p>Cllr Turner reported that he had signed up to the HCC initiative Solar Together as a private individual and he had not had a good experience. He would forward details onto Cllr Parker so he could look into this.</p>

**The meeting ended at 8.15 pm**

**Signed**.....

**Dated** .....