

EWSHOT PARISH COUNCIL

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EWSHOT PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON MONDAY 8 JANUARY 2024 AT 7 PM  
IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

**Present:** Cllr G Bredin (Chairman), Cllr D Rook and Cllr C Turner.

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

<b>24/001</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>
	Cllr E Jennings and Cllr D Morgan-Jones.
	Cllr T Collins (Hart District Council).

<b>24/002</b>	<b>Approval of the Minutes of the meeting of Ewshot Parish Council held on 11 December 2023</b>
	<b>RESOLVED:</b> To approve the Minutes of the meeting of Ewshot Parish Council held on 11 December 2023.

<b>24/003</b>	<b>Matters arising from the Minutes</b>
	None.

<b>24/004</b>	<b>Announcements from Chairman, Clerk and Members' Questions</b>
	None.

<b>24/005</b>	<b>District and County Council Report</b>
	<p><b>Hart District Council (HDC):-</b> None.</p> <p><b>Hampshire County Council (HCC):-</b> Cllr Parker advised that his monthly report would shortly be circulated by email. He highlighted the main issue in his report which related to the upcoming consultation by HCC on how to make budget savings of £132 million by April 2025. He encouraged everyone to respond to this consultation.</p> <p>Cllr Parker also reported that notification had been received from SSEN regarding road closures. Ewshot Lane would be closed from 14 January for two weeks from Dares Lane towards Redfields Lane (stopping before the houses). There would also be works on the A287 from 17 January to the end of March which would not involve a road closure but there would be temporary traffic lights in place.</p>

<b>24/006</b>	<b>Declaration of Interests and Requests for Dispensations</b>
	None.
<b>24/007</b>	<b>Public Participation</b>
	None.
<b>24/008</b>	<b>Planning</b>
	There had not been any consultations by HDC on any planning applications.
<b>24/009</b>	<b>Highways Issues at Doras Green</b>
	Cllr Parker agreed to follow up with HCC officers on this.
<b>24/010</b>	<b>Reinstatement of Verges – Dares Lane and Ewshot Lane; Beacon Hill</b>
	<p>An email had been received from the Assistant Highway Manager at HCC advising that the all the work planned for Ewshot Lane had been completed. There was one section of ditch in Dares Lane between Oaklands Animal Feeds and the property named Old Carpenters that still needed to be repaired as this had been missed by the County Council’s maintenance provider. This work would be undertaken, subject to any budgetary constraints, in the spring / summer of 2024.</p> <p>Regarding the pipe across Dares Lane, the Assistant Highways Manager confirmed that he had previously commented that it would be his aspiration to link the ditch outside Oakland Farm to the piped system which ran down Dares Lane before it discharged into the ditch alongside the A287 Farnham Road. Unfortunately he did not think such improvements looked likely to be realised in the forthcoming financial year(s) because of a need to focus limited resources on schemes which resolved or mitigated flood risk to habitable spaces within properties or businesses.</p> <p>The Chairman expressed his disappointment at this response and advised he would respond to see if anything could be done. This issue was causing water to run down Dares Lane and across the A287 which could be dangerous especially in the cold weather when it froze.</p>
<b>24/011</b>	<b>A287 - Flooding</b>
	It was noted that the area at the top of the A287, near the roundabout junction with Beacon Hill Road, was flooded again and during the recent heavy rain this had been as bad as it had before any remedial works had been carried out.

	<p>It was suggested that if parts of the A287 would be closed off for works that the opportunity should be taken to look into the flooding and try to resolve the issue for good. Cllr Parker agreed to raise this with Highways officers but he reminded the meeting that the highways team were very restricted by budgets and were mostly only carrying out works associated with road safety.</p> <p>Cllr Rook requested that where works were not being done that HCC communicate the reasons for this so it could be passed on to residents.</p>
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<b>24/012</b>	<b>Fly Tipping on A287</b>
	There was nothing to update on this.

<b>24/013</b>	<b>Repair of roundabout A287/Beacon Hill Road</b>
	It was confirmed that the signage on the roundabout between the A287 and Beacon Hill Road had not been repaired and the Clerk would chase this up with HCC.

<b>24/014</b>	<b>Rural Fibre Optic Rollout</b>
	There was nothing to update on this.

<b>24/015</b>	<b>CCTV Maintenance and Repair</b>
	It was noted that the upgrade to the CCTV system would be carried out on 12 December.

<b>24/016</b>	<b>Enhancing parish communication and engagement</b>
	There was nothing to update on this.

<b>24/017</b>	<b>Hart Climate Change Engagement Group</b>
	There was nothing to update on this.

<b>24/018</b>	<b>Farnborough Airport</b>
	<p>Cllr Turner advised that the Chairman of the Farnborough Noise Group had been served with an antisocial behaviour injunction by the Police claiming he had conducted an “aggressive and relentless campaign against Farnborough airport.”</p> <p>Cllr Turner reported that he would be attending the Noise Sub-Committee on 23 January and he had put forward a number of suggested items for discussion including: the type of noise monitoring equipment used; the pollution measurement</p>

	<p>criteria; peak noise measurement – rather than average noise; future airspace changes and consideration for the mitigation of noise by dispersing flights rather than concentrating them over a small area; and the location of the noise monitoring equipment. He would report back after the meeting.</p> <p>There was a discussion about the planning application currently being considered by Rushmoor Borough Council (RBC) to increase the number of flights allowed. It was thought that the planning application would need to be determined within 12 weeks (the same for all planning applications) and if RBC missed this deadline the airport would be able to appeal to the Planning Inspector for non-determination and the Planning Inspector would make the decision.</p>
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<b>24/019</b>	<b>Risk Management</b>
	<p>Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated the Annual Risk Assessment which had been updated slightly to reflect current arrangements.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To adopt the Risk Assessment as amended.</p>

<b>24/020</b>	<b>S106 Project Proposals from the Village Hall Committee</b>
	<p>There was no update on this.</p>

<b>24/021</b>	<b>Grant Applications</b>
	<p>A grant application had been received from Ewshot Village Hall requesting funding to purchase new curtains.</p> <p>It was <b>AGREED</b> to award Ewshot Village Hall a grant of £594.52 for the purchase of new curtains.</p>

<b>24/022</b>	<b>Community Orchard</b>
	<p>An email had been received from HCC asking if the Parish Council owned any land that would be suitable for the creation of a community orchard. The Chairman advised that this had previously been considered and some fruit trees had been planted on the recreation ground at the top, close to the tennis court. Unfortunately the weather in this area had not been kind to the trees and as a result only a couple had survived and were still there. The Parish Council did not own any other land that would be suitable.</p>

<b>24/023</b>	<b>Citizens Advice Hart – outreach sessions</b>
	<p>The outreach sessions by Citizens Advice Hart had been confirmed as 20 February, 19 March and 16 April. Posters had been displayed on the noticeboards and</p>

	<p>arrangements had been made to put information in the parish magazine. It was suggested that a poster be put up in the Windmill pub and information be added to the village Facebook group. It was requested that £60 be allocated to pay for room hire for these sessions.</p> <p>It was <b>AGREED</b> that £60 be allocated for room hire for the outreach sessions by Citizens Advice Hart.</p>
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<b>24/024</b>	<b>Tennis Court Works</b>
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	<p>As part of the budget planning process a contractor had been asked to have a look at the tennis court and recommend any works. The contractor was someone that had been used previously for works on the tennis court. He had recommended that a pressure wash, moss treatment and repairs to damage caused by weeds be carried out as soon as possible as the surface was slippery, which was potentially dangerous and before any further damage was caused by weeds. He had also recommended that a colour spray be undertaken in the spring/summer. Quotes had been sought from two other companies and one had provided a quote but it did not include the repairs to the surface. The Clerk advised that she had chased up the contractors to provide quotes for the full job but these had not been received in time for the meeting.</p> <p>The meeting discussed the quote received and felt that the pressure wash, moss treatment and minor repairs needed doing as soon as possible to make sure the tennis court was safe for users. If this could not be done very soon the tennis court would need to be closed until the work could be carried out. It was agreed to accept the quote received without waiting for the other quotes, provided the work could be done very soon, as it was from a well-established contractor that had been used previously and the work had become urgent. It was agreed that further quotes be sought for the colour spray that would be done in the spring/summer.</p> <p>It was <b>AGREED</b> to accept the quote from Housden Courts for the pressure wash, moss kill and minor repairs to the surface of the tennis court.</p>
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<b>24/025</b>	<b>Purchase of Poppies</b>
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	<p>In September 2022 10 poppies had been purchased to place on the lampposts during remembrance. The Chairman advised that one poppy had been stolen in 2023 so there were only 9 left and he felt it would be nice to have some more across the village.</p> <p>It was <b>AGREED</b> that up to £100 be spent on the purchase of additional poppies for the lampposts.</p>
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<b>24/026</b>	<b>Summary of Receipts and Payments for Q3 to 31 December 2023</b>												
	<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><b>RESOLVED:</b> To approve the summary of receipts and payments for quarter three.</p>												
<b>24/027</b>	<b>Bank Reconciliation to 31 December 2023</b>												
	<p>The RFO had produced a bank reconciliation to 31 December 2023 which had been circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To accept the bank reconciliation to 31 December 2023.</p>												
<b>24/028</b>	<b>Approval of Precept 2024/2025</b>												
	<p>At the last meeting a budget of £36,886 for 2024/2025 had been approved. Authorisation was now sought for this amount to be set as the precept amount.</p> <p>This budget contained a 0% change and would not increase the amount each householder would need to pay compared to 2023/2024. There had been an increase in the Parish Council's tax base which meant that there would be a small increase in the sum received by the Parish Council without having any effect on the amount each household would pay.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To approve the precept as £36,886 for 2024/25. Proposed by Cllr Turner, seconded by Cllr Bredin and agreed unanimously.</p>												
<b>24/029</b>	<b>Interim Internal Audit</b>												
	<p>It was noted that an interim internal audit had recently been completed and the report of the auditor, which contained no recommendations, had been circulated.</p> <p>It was <b>AGREED</b> to note the interim report of the internal auditor.</p>												
<b>24/030</b>	<b>Approval of Payments</b>												
	<p>The following payments were approved:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>January Payroll</td> <td>£573.93</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC - tax</td> <td>£16.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Larkstel – Bin emptying (January)</td> <td>£188.70</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gary Bredin – reimbursement for Christmas event</td> <td>£41.95</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Information Commissioner – Data Protection Fee</td> <td>£40.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>April Skies – Interim Audit</td> <td>£172.50</td> </tr> </table>	January Payroll	£573.93	HMRC - tax	£16.00	Larkstel – Bin emptying (January)	£188.70	Gary Bredin – reimbursement for Christmas event	£41.95	Information Commissioner – Data Protection Fee	£40.00	April Skies – Interim Audit	£172.50
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Sleeptight Security – CCTV Upgrade - deposit	£400.00*
Sleeptight Security – CCTV Upgrade – deposit (VAT)	£80.00
Sleeptight Security – CCTV Upgrade	£635.00
Allan Lang Timber Sales – Christmas Trees	£504.00*
Ewshot Village Hall Grant (Curtains)	£594.52
*payment already made from within previously approved budgets	

<b>24/031</b>	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b>
	It was noted that the next meeting was due to take place on 12 February 2024 which was half term so consideration would be given to bringing it forward by one week.

<b>24/032</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>
	<p>The Chairman reported that the Christmas tree recycling point on the recreation ground was up and running and there had been quite a number of trees deposited which had been removed by HDC. The recycling facility would be available until 28 January.</p> <p>It was noted that it had been announced that a new state of the art replacement for Frimley Park Hospital would be built by 2030. Suitable new sites were currently being sought.</p> <p>Cllr Rook requested that a litter pick take place along the A287. The Clerk agreed to request that HDC carry this out in the first instance.</p>

**The meeting ended at 7.35 pm**

**Signed**.....

**Dated** .....