

EWSHOT PARISH COUNCIL

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EWSHOT PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 11 MARCH 2024 AT 7 PM
IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr D Rook (Vice-Chairman in the Chair), 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). One member of the public.

24/061	Apologies for Absence
	Cllr G Bredin (Chairman)

24/062	Presentation by Villages Oppose Warehouses
	<p>The Chairman welcomed David Harrington from the group Villages Oppose Warehouses (VOW) to the meeting and invited him to address those present.</p> <p>David Harrington gave the following presentation:</p> <p>“The threat to the rural character of NE Hampshire as a great place to live has not gone away. The speculative proposal for an enormous warehouse development on 80 acres of farmland adjacent to Junction 5 of the Motorway is still alive and kicking.</p> <p>To combat this assault a pressure group called Villages Oppose Warehouses, or VOW, has been set up by concerned citizens. See www.villagesopposewarehouses.org</p> <p>As most will know, the Pre-Application was received by Hart District Council in 2022. It was eventually rejected by Hart on several grounds – but principally because of its non-conformance with local plans and policies. However, the London-based developer, “Obsidian Strategic”, has popped up again and has announced its intention to submit a new Outline Application some time in February/March this year.</p> <p>Hart will publish the new Outline Application, when received, on its planning website and will invite comments. If the proposals are to be rejected again it is absolutely critical that a large number of comments from individuals opposing the application are received by Hart.</p> <p>But why should you?</p>

The developer's plans show five very large warehouses on land bordering the Motorway. The total warehouse floor area is some 105,000 square metres – making it 20% larger than a very similar site planned for Junction 7 and one of the very largest in the UK. You could fit 46 league football pitches into 80 acres. Each warehouse is some 20 metres tall – that's about a seven-storey flat-roofed office block.

The local flood risk, already ever-present on the M3 at Junction 5, will be increased significantly. In addition to increased incidents of flooding there are serious environmental and bio-diversity issues resulting from the proximity of SSSIs at Bartley Heath.

BUT the issue that should be of real concern to all neighbouring parishes is that of traffic on surrounding roads. The developer has declared that the site will operate round the clock, meaning 24 hours a day, every day, non-stop throughout the year. The developer's own figures claim over 12,000 – I repeat: over 12,000 - vehicle movements between 7am and 7pm alone. A significant number of these will be HGVs. Will the Motorway and Junction 5 cope with these numbers? Consider this: an extra vehicle, mainly HGVs, entering or leaving Hart's road infrastructure every few seconds, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, will not add to the quality of life for anyone in Hart. Especially when all of those vehicles start looking for 'least cost' routes or 'rat runs' and backroads in the event of traffic delays.

Junction 5, Hook, the A30, the B3349 and the A287 are going to feel that impact as well as Odiham, Hook, Crondall, South Warnborough, Hartley Wintney, etc. Those of us who use Junction 5 frequently are already aware of ever-lengthening rush-hour queues and delays.

Recent research (Hampshire Chronicle, 7 January) by Claims.co.uk has shown that Hampshire is already the most congested county in the UK. Are we really willing to add to this?

So – what can Ewshot do to influence the outcome?

VOW is discussing with parish councils – and other local authorities - how the Council, as a body, can influence Hart's eventual decision. But, just as important, will be action from you, as local residents. Not only can you register your concerns with Hart when Hart asks for your opinion, you can also alert any of your friends and neighbours who might not be hearing this to what's about to happen to this part of rural Hampshire. When the time comes – in February or March - it will be up to all of us to stand up and be counted."

	<p>Mr Harrington concluded by advising that there would be a public meeting on 28 March in the Elizabeth Hall in Hook at 7pm for all who could attend.</p> <p>The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council was aware of the proposals and would look out for a planning application so a response could be submitted.</p> <p>It was noted that these proposals did not fit with HDCs Climate Change proposals and the campaign to reduce CO2 levels. Concerns were expressed regarding the increase in traffic, particularly HGVs and the loss of good agricultural land.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Mr Harrington for his attendance at the meeting.</p>
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24/063	Approval of the Minutes of the meeting of Ewshot Parish Council held on 5 February 2024
	RESOLVED: To approve the Minutes of the meeting of Ewshot Parish Council held on 5 February 2024.

24/064	Matters arising from the Minutes
	None.

24/065	Announcements from Chairman, Clerk and Members' Questions
	None.

24/066	District and County Council Report
	<p>Hart District Council (HDC):- None.</p> <p>Hampshire County Council (HCC):- Cllr Parker advised that his monthly report had been circulated by email.</p>

24/067	Declaration of Interests and Requests for Dispensations
	None.

24/068	Public Participation
	None.

24/069	Planning
	<p>(a) 24/00309/GPDAGD Oaklea Farm, Redlands Lane Submission of application under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development)(England) Order 2015 (as amended), Part Q, for the conversion of the existing agricultural barn and store to form a single four bedroom dwelling.</p> <p>A response was required by 8 March so it had been agreed by email to submit ‘no objection’, this response was noted.</p> <p>(b) 23/02342/HOU High Firs, Church Lane Erection of a two storey front extension following demolition of existing porch, first floor side extension and two storey rear extension following demolition of existing conservatory. Amended plans. Response by 18 March.</p> <p>It was AGREED to submit no objection.</p> <p>(c) 23/02091/HOU The Dell, Church Lane Erection of a garage. Response by 19 March.</p> <p>It was AGREED to submit no objection.</p> <p>(d) 24/00458/AMCON Beacon Hill Trade Park, Beacon Hill Variation of Condition 12 attached to planning permission 18/00694/OUT dated 15/08/2019 to enable the use of unit 3 for indoor sport and recreation (padel courts) Use Class E(d).</p> <p>It was AGREED to submit no objection.</p>
24/070	Highways Issues at Doras Green
	<p>Cllr Turner reported that Doras Green Lane had been closed for repairs to a manhole cover to be carried out but no resurfacing had taken place.</p> <p>It was noted that works on Heath Lane including vegetation clearance and replacement kerbing was ongoing. It was noted that the road was due to be closed on 27 March for two days for resurfacing.</p> <p>Cllr Turner asked for an update on the Vehicle Activated Sign and Cllr Parker agreed that he would follow this up with officers at HCC.</p>

24/071	Reinstatement of Verges – Dares Lane and Ewshot Lane; Beacon Hill
	It was agreed that the Parish Council should discuss with Cllr Parker what road improvements were needed across the village to get a joined up plan to present to officers at HCC.
24/072	A287 - Flooding
	At the last meeting it had been reported that an email had been received from the Assistant Highway Manager at HCC confirming that an order had been raised to high pressure water jet and CCTV the drainage system between the county boundary and Church Lane to determine the cause of the flooding. No update had been received on this yet but it would be followed up in due course. Cllr Morgan-Jones agreed to revisit the installation of kerb stones with Cllr Parker and HCC officers.
24/073	Fly Tipping on A287
	It was noted that the litter pick along the A287 had been carried out by HDC and it looked much better. It was noted that a response from HDC/HCC on the large area of fly tipping was not expected until the next financial year. This would be kept on the agenda so progress could be monitored. It was requested that the lengthsman be instructed to cut back the encroachment of the verge onto the footpath along the A287.
24/074	Repair of roundabout A287/Beacon Hill Road
	This had been reported to HCC and it had been confirmed that it required action which should have been carried out within two months from 9 January 2024. This would be chased up as it had not been completed.
24/075	Rural Fibre Optic Rollout
	Cllr Morgan-Jones advised that he had written to Gigaclear requesting an update on the project but he had not received a detailed response. He expressed his concern as he had expected to see cables being laid in Badger Way by now but nothing was being done. He had also checked with the HCC contractor and Ewshot was still not on the list of areas they would be covering at the current time.

24/076	CCTV Maintenance and Repair
	It was noted that the work to upgrade to the CCTV system had been completed. The Clerk, Cllr Bredin and Cllr Morgan-Jones would now look at updating the CCTV Policy.
24/077	Enhancing parish communication and engagement
	<p>Cllr Morgan-Jones advised that he was in the process of getting a prototype built for other councillors to have a look at and try out. He would circulate this as soon as possible.</p> <p>Cllr Turner suggested that information be supplied at the Village Hall during the next election regarding ways to keep in touch with the parish council as residents would be attending to cast their vote. It was suggested that this be discussed with the elections team at HDC as there were very strict rules around elections.</p>
24/078	Hart Climate Change Engagement Group
	Cllr Morgan-Jones confirmed that it was possible to borrow a thermal imaging camera from HDC to look at which properties in the village were losing the most heat. He would look into borrowing this.
24/079	Biodiversity
	This was ongoing.
24/080	Farnborough Airport
	<p>Cllr Turner confirmed that he intended to attend the next meeting of the Farnborough Airport Consultative Committee which was due to take place on 21 March. He would report back after the meeting.</p> <p>It was noted that Rushmoor Borough Council had confirmed that the planning application for the expansion of the airport would not be determined until after the elections in May. A press release had advised that, despite aiming to meet the 16 week deadline which would have meant a decision in March, the need for additional information meant it was not possible to meet this deadline.</p>
24/081	S106 Project Proposals from the Village Hall Committee
	There was no further update at this time but this item would be kept on the agenda as further applications for funding were planned.

24/082	Insurance 2024/2025																
	It was noted that in March 2023 it had been agreed to sign up to a three year long term undertaking with BHIB (now called Clear Councils) and the policy would be renewed before the expiry on 12 April.																
24/083	Bin Emptying 2024/2025																
	The bin emptying contractor had advised that prices would remain the same for 2024/2025. The Clerk recommended that the Parish Council remain with the existing contractor as a review of the market was conducted in 2023 and there were no suitable alternatives at that time. RESOLVED: To appoint Larkstel to empty the bins for 2024/2025 and the Chairman be authorised to sign the contract once received.																
24/084	Grass Cutting 2024																
	It was noted that in March 2023 a three year agreement had been made with NJL Boxgreen for grass cutting and they would soon begin cutting the grass for the season.																
24/085	Approval of Payments																
	The following payments were approved: <table border="1" data-bbox="337 1129 1416 1451"> <tr> <td>March Payroll</td> <td>£573.93</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC - tax</td> <td>£16.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Castle Water – water bill</td> <td>£5.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Larkstel – Bin emptying (March)</td> <td>£188.70</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A Ball – rock salt</td> <td>£92.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A Ball – batteries</td> <td>£8.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clear Insurance Management - Insurance</td> <td>£631.91</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sleeptight Security – CCTV Final Payment</td> <td>£762.00</td> </tr> </table> <p>The Clerk asked whether she could apply for a debit card to use for purchases rather than paying on a personal card and reclaiming the money. This was becoming more of an issue for online payments and ongoing payments.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Clerk be authorised to apply for a business debit card on behalf of Ewshot Parish Council.</p>	March Payroll	£573.93	HMRC - tax	£16.00	Castle Water – water bill	£5.60	Larkstel – Bin emptying (March)	£188.70	A Ball – rock salt	£92.00	A Ball – batteries	£8.00	Clear Insurance Management - Insurance	£631.91	Sleeptight Security – CCTV Final Payment	£762.00
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24/086	Date of Next Meeting																
	It was noted that the next meeting would take place on 22 April 2024.																

24/087	Any Other Business
	<p>Cllr Jennings confirmed that she would be attending the meeting of the Crookham Almhouses on 12 March as the Parish Council representative and would report back with any issues.</p> <p>The Clerk advised that it may be necessary to purchase a new printer as the current one had developed a fault. She would look at the market and circulate some options for consideration.</p>

The meeting ended at 8.15 pm

Signed.....

Dated