

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for Eynsham
held on Tuesday 5 March 2024 at 7.30pm at Eynsham Village Hall

Present: Approximately 70 members of the public.

1. **To receive apologies for absence** – None.
2. **To confirm the minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting of 7 March 2023** - The minutes of the meeting of 7 March 2023 were approved.
3. **To welcome village organisations to present information of community interest.** – Cllr Ross Macken (Chair), Eynsham Parish Council welcomed all those present for an informal-style meeting. Community organisations and businesses displayed material about their activities in both the main and small halls. Cllr Macken discussed the Council’s mission statement ‘a great place to belong’ and its relation to the Strategic Plan. Councillor recruitment was highlighted.
4. **To receive reports from each of the Parish Council’s Committees/Groups:-**
 - (a) Finance & General Purposes Committee – Cllr Macken presented the 23/24 Budget Overview, key issues and changes. The replacement Pavilion and Village Hall improvements are priority projects. It was noted that grants were awarded to 5 groups who contribute to the community (First & Last £500, Eynsham Good Neighbour Network £400, Oxfordshire Play Association £500, Witney Baby Bank £100 and Citizens Advice £200).
 - (b) Planning Committee – Cllr Macken discussed revisions to the Neighbourhood Plan and stewardship of community assets. Updates on the proposed Garden Village, West Eynsham Strategic Development Area, the A40 Park & Ride/A40 Improvements and Botley West Solar Farm were provided. Updating the Neighbourhood Plan is ongoing and the Council continues to promote stewardship of community assets with developers.
 - (c) Amenities & Estates Committee – Upgrades to Old Witney Road Play Area have taken place and Eynsham Parks charity is being established for management of Oxford Road Playing Field (South) and Fishponds. A community Art Trail project is planned using S106 funds. Dovehouse Close Play Area improvements are needed and it was noted that the Council will be working to undertaking grounds maintenance in-house from 2025.
 - (d) Traffic Committee – The Old Witney Road traffic calming project was outlined. The committee will be considering additional Vehicle Activated Signs where they are most needed to slow vehicles. HGV management in the centre of the village is an ongoing project.
5. **Closing remarks and thanks** – An update was requested by residents on the ongoing closure of Conduit Lane and when it might re-open. Cllr Macken provided an update accordingly.

The formal part of the meeting closed at 7.52pm and was followed by more than 15 village groups providing displays of their activities. Refreshments were provided by the Parish Council. The evening ended at c.10.00pm.

Signed:

Dated: