

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR EYNSHAM
held on Tuesday 21 April 2015 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Eynsham

Present: Gordon Beach (Chairman), Parish Councillors: Sue Brown, Sue Osborne, Sue Johnson, Jane Baldwin, Tricia Crowley, Richard Andrews, Dennis Stukenbroeker, Andy Bickley, Peter Emery and Andy Mosson, Oxfordshire County Councillor: Charles Mathew, West Oxfordshire District Councillor Peter Emery, Parish Clerk: Rachel Faulkner and 32 members of the public and local organisations.

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all those present to the Annual Parish Meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

1. Apologies for Absence

Eynsham Parish Councillors: Mrs Verity Hughes, David Rossiter, Nick Relph.
Residents Pamela and Donald Richards.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting – The minutes of the meeting of 15 April 2014 were agreed as accurate.

3. Matters Arising from the previous Minutes – None

4. Notification of any other business – Trevor Green – asked to discuss Grass Cutting

5. Parish Council Chairman's Report – the Chairman's report was tabled. No questions were asked.

6. Police Report – The report was tabled by PC Martyn McHale.

6. Fire Service Report – The report had been tabled and made available in the Annual Parish report.

9. Oxfordshire County Councillor's Report - Cllr Mathew had previously tabled his report. Resident asked about the future organisational structure of local government. Councillor Mathew said he felt it was inevitable that a unitary authority would come. He said that the District Councils were generally in a better financial state than the county. Councillor Mathew reported that the travellers had been given notice to quit the site but had been leave to stay whilst one of the children finishes exams. Larry Poole asked about the possibility of the cycle path between Eynsham and Botley. Councillor Mathew responded that he supports the path in principle but does not feel it represents good value for money in the current financial situation. He said that he was concerned that the cost would be more than anticipated.

Councillor Mathew was asked about gravel extraction. He said that there is far less demand than in previous years. He said that he continued to object to the County Council's plans for extraction. Further examination in July and he hopes that the inspector will not approve. Marshall Leopold asked for information about the Toll Bridge and improvements to the A40 to further inform residents about how feasible it is to consider Eynsham a preferred development site.

Councillor Mathew said that modelling had been done to investigate a Smart Card for the Toll Bridge to improve traffic flow. The estimated cost was given as £440,000 to £470,000. Councillor

Mathew and the MD of Siemens who gave the estimate for production are due to meet with the owner of the Toll Bridge to see if they can help with funding.

Regarding the A40, Councillor Mathew agreed that a radical solution was needed. He said that he was not convinced that a Park & Ride was a good solution. He agreed that if extra housing was required in this area then major infrastructure improvements were required.

Andy Swarbrook, Chair of the Allotments Committee asked about the crossing over the B4449 between the Bitterel and the Allotments. Councillor Mathew said that money had been agreed to fund illuminated signage on the B4449. Money was also been given by Oxfordshire County Council to clear some of the scrub at the entrance to the new Wharf Stream Way.

10 West Oxfordshire District Councillors' Report – A report had been produced by Councillor Peter Emery.

Marshall Leopold asked Councillor Emery about future development.

Councillor Emery said that the Eynsham / Woodstock area had been allocated 1631 houses over next 16 years to 2031. It was anticipated that 250 houses would be allocated to Eynsham as it had been considered by the council to have some of the best facilities and infrastructure to support extra housing.

Councillor Emery asked that residents access the Local Plan and comment to the District Council by 8 May.

Professor John Dowling said that as some of the houses in the 1631 allocation had already been built there are 1316 houses yet to be built across the area of Eynsham and Woodstock and surrounding village. Professor Dowling asked how many houses were actually to planned to be built in Eynsham.

He felt that the figure of 250 was very conservative and selected only one category of growth. He felt that the Neighbourhood Plan should be approached with as much realism as possible with a real understanding of the intentions

250 houses between now and 2031.

Resident asked about how the sewers would cope with the anticipated growth in housing.

Councillor Emery said that Thames Water were regularly consulted regarding the impact on the sewers. Councillor Mathew said that it was not only sewers but also water supply.

Resident asked if we are not being realistic about the future plans and Eynsham could end up taking more of its share of the allocation of housing.

Professor Dowling said that in the draft Local Plan Eynsham was identified as being part of a Knowledge Spine meaning that it could easily be identified as overspill from the City and South Oxfordshire.

11 Eynsham Community Primary School Report and Bartholomew School – reports had been received from both schools.

Professor Dowling asked to draw to Mr Hamilton's attention that fact that the demographic that has so far engaged with the Neighbourhood plan were over 50 and that is was important to engage with the younger generation and families.

A resident congratulated Mr Hamilton on the progress the school is making and the behaviour of the children. He expressed concern about the influence of the Church of England. Mr Hamilton explained that they had become Multi Academy Trust with the Community Secondary School, Primary School and 6 feeder schools.

Eynsham – community secondary school and community primary school.

1200 students anticipated. New 8 classroom block is due to be built and new block for the 6th Form.

Resident asked about how many students attend from outside the Eynsham/Cassington area.

There is 210 student capacity in each year group. Currently 60 student in each year group come from outside the immediate area.

Posy Parrinder asked about the future growth of the secondary school. Mr Hamilton said that he would like to cap the school at 1250 intake with 210 in each year group.

Trevor Green asked why there was a requirement for a zebra crossing outside the school. Mr Hamilton explained that there had been 4 recent incidents near the school and it was required for safety reasons.

12. Eynsham Charities – Two reports were received.

13. Playing Fields Managers' Report – A report had been received.

Resident asked about the incidents of dog fouling on the Playing Fields and wondered if more signage might help.

14. Eynsham Village Hall Management Committee Report – The Report had been received.

15. Allotments Association Report – A report had been tabled and circulated.

16. Neighbourhood Plan – Eynsham Futures.

Meeting on 28 April at 7.30pm in the Bartholomew Room. The group is keen to recruit new members and Ms Parrinder asked that anyone who is interested in getting involved should contact her. She explained that the group was created to look at the impact of development on the community and infrastructure. They are keen to talk to local business, developers, land owners, councils and to take a much more proactive role in deciding where future developments might go. There are financial benefits for communities who have a Neighbourhood Plan in place. Although Ms Parrinder explained this was not the reason for doing it, it was an advantage.

17. Any other business.

Trevor Green asked why the grass is not cut at the Chilbridge.

A resident explained that an area of Shakespeare Road is regularly missed off the cutting schedule. The chairman asked the Clerk to look into this.

Bob Hammersley proposed a vote of thanks to the Parish Council

The Chairman thanked everyone present for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm

Signed:

Dated:

Items for the Council to consider:- None