

EYNESHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs Sue Lee
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Minutes of the meeting of Eynsham Parish Council held on Tuesday 4 December 2007 at 7.30pm in the Bartholomew Room, Eynsham

Present: Mr G Beach (Chairman), Mrs A Beavis, Mrs. L Gerrans, Mrs. M Jones, Ms S Osborne, Ms J Tinson, Mr R Andrews, Mr T Green, Mr D Rossiter and Dr F Wright;
County Cllr. C Mathew and 4 members of the public.

In Attendance: Mrs. S Lee - Clerk

07/150 Apologies for Absence were received and accepted from Mrs V Hughes, Mrs L Pialek, Mr J Miller, Mr E Taylor and District Cllrs Mrs M Stevens and Ms F Pike.

07/151 Declarations of interest – none.

07/152 Minutes of the meeting of 6 November 2007 were unanimously agreed as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman with amendments at the vote in 07/140 to show one against rather than one abstention as recorded.

07/153 Clerk's Report - circulated

The report was circulated and the following items were discussed:

- Parish Drop in to start in February – 1st Sat of each month - 2 Feb Mrs Pialek and Clerk, 1 March Mrs Beavis and Clerk – will trial for 3 months and see if there is any interest. County Councillor Mathew expressed an interest in attending a session. Clerk to put details in Echo
- 92 Acre End Street are planning works to the apple tree and have cleared all the remaining apples. They are happy to discuss the work planned with the Parish Council and advised that the tree is question is an old Eynsham apple variety. Clerk has thanked them for their quick response.
- 92 Dovehouse Close have requested permission to put some paving stones down along the edge of their drive to allow for easier access to their car. It was unanimously decided that this could go ahead and Clerk to advise.
- Changes to public participation have been advised by OALC – Clerk to advise all at the next meeting.

07/154 Urgent Business Raised with Prior Consent of Chairman – none

07/155 Finance

Payment of accounts – circulated

Proposed by Mrs Gerrans and seconded by Dr Wright that accounts in the sum of £7890.90 be accepted as attached – unanimously agreed and cheques signed by Mrs Gerrans and Dr Wright. Salary run cheques included in total signed by Mr Beach and Mr Rossiter on 23 November 2007.

Income – income of £23775.35 was reported for the month - breakdown attached.

Standing Orders suspended

07/156 Items Raised by Members of the Public –

- County Cllr C Mathew advised -

- of the threat to Cogges Farm Museum and promised to fight for its survival – the meeting was unanimous in its support.
- the gate at the Primary School has been installed and the installation of the barrier on Hawthorn Road is progressing slowly. **Action: Traffic Advisory.**
- Mr Jackson and Ms Marsh of Harrisons coffee shop presented their request to look into the possibility of using the Market Square for outside tables for coffee etc in the summer months. Clerk to agenda for next meeting.
- Mr Brown advised that the wall at the end of Heycroft needs some attention – Mr Andrews will inspect this to see what is required.
- Ms Hastings advised that the bridge over the Chilbrook in Chilbridge Road has been damaged – County Councillor Mathew is dealing with this issue and will keep the Parish Council advised of progress re ownership of the bridge and repair.
- Mrs Wright advised that a bench had disappeared on Newland Street – police have been advised.

Standing Orders resumed.

07/157 Correspondence

- Letter from David Waters, Cottsway re Chilbridge proposed development – details have been publicised in The Echo in order to keep the local community up to date.
- Mr Weedon was concerned that the new street on Acre End St was to be called Newlands Place – Clerk has advised this is a marketing name and the road will be called Acre End Close.
- Mr Andrews re toilets – Witney Road toilet is in working order at present and WODC will remove the signs to the Back Lane toilets as they are no longer in use.
- Mr Jackson and Ms Marsh re using Market Square – see public participation.
- Gerald Van Dam re Eynsham apples – Clerk has advised re local nursery that supplies the trees.
- Ken Johnston, Eynsham Scout Group – copy letter re shared access at Village Hall – see agenda item below.
- WODC – electoral register requests – 6 Parish Councillors requested copies of the new electoral register and updates - Clerk to forward requests to WODC.
- Eliot Taylor – due to work and family commitments Mr Taylor has offered his resignation from the Parish Council – this was accepted and the Chairman will write to thank him for his time on the Council. Clerk to advise WODC and will advertise for a new councillor in the New Year.
- Nick Hines – issues re pavement parking – Chairman is writing an article for The Echo on behalf of the NAG and will add further information re pavement parking. Clerk to ask if PCSO's can visit Bartholomew School entrance at 3pm to discourage parents from parking on the pavements.
- Nick Hines also had issues re bus safety that will be taken to next Traffic Advisory meeting **Action: Traffic Advisory Group**
- TVP – update on crime in the village. Mr Green complimented the PCSO's on all their work in the village.
- Ms Luna – re the proposed Chilbridge development – Clerk to advise that any plans that are submitted will be subject to consultation with the Environment Agency with regard to possible flooding.
- Siemens – invitation to the Parish Council to a meeting for a tour of the building and discussion re how Siemens and the Parish Council can work together in the future – 20 December 5pm. 9 councillors wished to attend – Clerk to advise Siemens.

07/158 Gravel extraction – Hansons application

Draft letter to OCC re the gravel extraction had been circulated. Dr Wright was not happy that bullet points were being used and stressed that he felt more information should be given.

County Cllr Mathew had been advised that the application would probably not be looked at until April as there was more work to be done on several aspects.

Unanimously agreed that the Clerk would forward the amended letter to OCC from the Parish Council stating the following objections to the application

- The plans are contrary to the present Minerals and Waste Local Plan, which will be in force until 2010. Cassington//Yarnton is included in this plan for mineral development but Eynsham is omitted.
- This plan proposes opening up the whole area north of Eynsham Mill to south of the Thames and the Eynsham by pass to the Evenlode for extraction.
- The area is Green Belt and the Town and Country Plan Act (Green Belt direction) 2005 Annex advises that if a local planning authority has any inappropriate development of green belt land that they don't intend to refuse they must first consult with the Secretary of State. In particular the Parish Council is concerned that plans do not exist to ensure that the site is well restored as required in 3.11 nor do they maintain its openness 3.12.
- It feels that there are two possible potential conflicts of interest for OCC as this application will help their 7-year land bank presently only half full and they also own the adjacent land and if planning permission is granted this land's value will increase.
- The area is classified as having a High Landscape Value, which applies under the current local plan and which should preclude this application.
- This plan is not an extension of the current quarry as it is too far away – over 2km.
- The hydrology of the area could be affected. The figures being used for the hydrology of the area seem to be dated and do not take into account the effect of the by-pass and the fact that Eynsham Mead ditch is now unable to carry the increased levels of floodwater.
- The land is agricultural and does not have the correct classification for this type of development
- The cumulative effect is given as a valid reason for refusal if there are lots of diggings in one area - more than 45% of the lower Windrush/Evenlode valley is being dug or is owned by gravel companies – if this new development proceeds there will be even more demands on the area.
- Proper buffer zones are not planned as agreed. These were buffer zones 350m from the village – however, Mead View by Cassington Road roundabout is part of Eynsham village and the buffer zone is not 350m from this.
- Local sustainability – as the gravel will be used in the South of the County a large amount of travel will be involved rather than the materials being use locally. In addition this transportation will take place on roads unsuitable to the volume of weight of traffic and already under pressure from excess traffic flow - Swinford Bridge.
- The use of these resources is not finite; they will be used until they run out – alternative materials should be being looked into to meet requirements rather than using up natural resources.
- The plans are incomplete without details of comprehensive end use. The term restoration used in the plans is misleading – the area is of high landscape value and the proposal seems to be to replace this with a different landscape. The application seems to suggest that this will be beneficial to the area and a positive enhancement; however the Parish Council feel that it is important to safeguard the character of our existing landscape rather than altering it to create a reed land habitat not in keeping with the locality.
- The plans are only detrimental to the village of Eynsham. There is nothing to show any benefit to the village by way of improvement in infrastructure or financial benefit for community projects. The introduction of a royalty scheme with money paid to the community in relation to the materials removed would be suggested.
- Other concerns include –
- The possible detrimental effect on Siemens due to noise, dust and vibrations.

- The detrimental effect of the ecology of the area – damage to old trees due to dewatering
- The threat of bird strikes to MoD planes in the area – reed banks encourage an increase in the bird population.
- Concern re service pipes in field that are not shown on the plans – water, sewerage etc.

With regard to the documents prepared by Dr Wright for the Eynsham Society it was unanimously agreed to add to the letter that the Parish Council were aware of the document being produced by the Eynsham Society and that the Parish Council generally supported this as it expands on many of the points raised. **Action: Clerk**

07/159 Flooding – update

Still awaiting reports from Environment Agency before any further action and meeting with WODC can take place. In addition awaiting WODC report that will be produced in New Year - Chairman will discuss this and Eynsham's flooding issues with Mr Page at WODC.

07/160 Planning

The Planning Committee had not met due to low number of applications so the meeting was advised of the following –

Decisions

The under mentioned applications have been granted planning permission, subject to conditions:
 07/1652/P/FP and 07/1653/P/LB Ms Stiles – 14 Newland Street – Erection of single storey rear extension
 07/1726/P/FP - Mr Hauer - 9 Queens Lane Alterations and erection of single and 2 storey side extension.
 07/1843/P/FP - Ms Fleming - 46 Mill Street Erection of single storey rear extension
 07/1892/P/FP - Mr and Mrs Collett 43 Millmoor Crescent Replace existing flat roof with pitch roof
 07/1898/P/FP - Mr and Mrs Webb 7 Queens Close – Erection of single and two storey extensions, rear conservatory and loft conversion.
 07/1791/P/FP - Mr and Mrs Davies 47 Mill Street Erection of conservatory and insertion of second floor dormer window to rear.

Applications

07/2022/P/FP - Mrs Ryan 105 Spareacre Lane – Erection single storey front extension –
No objections

Withdrawn – 07/1254/P/FP – Erection 2 storey rear extension and first floor front extensions – 16a Hanborough Close.

Certificate of lawfulness – 07/2027/P/CLE - Mr Thomas – Eynsham Nursery and Plant Centre. Clerk to contact WODC for confirmation that the enforcement order had been withdrawn and ascertain why the Parish Council was not advised. In addition to check out if the 10 years applies from the date that the business started trading or if it is from the removal of the enforcement order. Once these issues have been clarified to advise WODC of no objection but concerns re the number of buildings on site without proper planning consent and concerns that the original enforcement notice was withdrawn.

The date for the appeal for Eynsham Nursery and Plant Centre – 07/1117/P/FP Appeal reference 07/2054276/NWF is 29 January at 10am Committee Room 2 Woodgreen.

07/161 Churchyard burial ground – land purchase

The Church have advised that there are only sufficient burial plots for a further 2 years – the Parish Council were made aware of land for sale on Chilbridge Road that may have been suitable

for a new burial ground. However, after inspection it was decided that it was not suitable as it was too far away from the village.

07/162 Bartholomew Sports Centre

Mr Rossiter met with Ms Shelton from WODC and 3 potential users of the Sports Centre who had not been able to book space for their clubs etc on 26 November. The following issues were raised:

- WODC policy is to allow free access to all its sites regardless of where people live and it is not possible to give priority to the local community. However, Ms Shelton will discuss with the Cabinet member for Tourism to see if there is any scope for altering this policy as with the Parish Council contribution to the building it should have some influence over the letting policy.
- Clarification was requested on how long a booking can be made for and what their rebooking procedure was.
- Ms Shelton will request that the sports centre investigate offering a casual badminton club

It would appear to the parish council that there is an improved physical facility for the village but with reduced access to local clubs that on the old site.

07/163 Planting of Apple Trees

Eynsham apple trees have been discussed with the Eynsham Society, Allotments and Garden Club and many people are interested in learning more and how to obtain the trees. Clerk to discuss with Bernwode Nursery the possibility of obtaining some trees to sell in the village.

Clerk to visit Wasties Garage and enquire if there are still any of the old apple trees there.

07/164 Graffiti and Fly Posting

Mr Andrews has obtained WODC policy on graffiti removal – they operate as a commercial service and would charge the Parish Council or householder for the removal of any graffiti on their property. The setting up of a graffiti fund was discussed - the meeting was advised that the finance committee had discussed and decided against this - it would be hard to decide who would and who wouldn't benefit. Further comments can be made with regard to this at the finance meeting on 11 December.

Fly posting – WODC policy is to allow fly posting which is pertinent to village life 21 days before the event. However other fly posting is illegal and if persistent can be prosecuted. All requested to inform Clerk of any persistent offenders so she can contact WODC who will visit site, photograph and contact the offenders.

It was questioned whether the Town Councils have to pay to make use of the WODC equipment for graffiti etc and Mr Andrews agreed to find out.

07/165 Village Hall

TVP have requested permission to place a secure bike shed alongside the village hall - proposed Mr Green and seconded Ms Tinson and unanimously agreed that this was acceptable to the Parish Council.

Quinquennial – the interior is being painted starting on 7 January – Clerk, Chairman and Dr Wright to review the outstanding items on the Quinquennial in the New Year.

Dr Wright advised the meeting of the continuing discussions with the Scouts with regard to the proposed revisions to the access. He advised that the Village Hall Management committee had decided to get legal advice with regard to their rights in this matter before progressing any further. The Chairman reminded Dr Wright that the Village Hall Management Committee is a body in its own right and the Parish Council would not be involved in this or intercede and would request that the final result of these discussions are advised to the Parish Council.

07/166 Acre End Street

Mr Green expressed his view that several properties in Acre End Street needed attention. It was agreed that –

- 70 Acre End Street – Clerk to advise OCC re concerns that the pavement is now dangerous following building works at this property.
- Lloyds Pharmacy – Clerk to write to manager with regard to the poor state of the outside of the building.
- Acre End Close – concern was expressed at the trip hazard of metal sheet used to cover the new entrance – Clerk to contact the developers – Linden Homes.

07/167 Any other business (for information) - District Cllr F Pike had advised that she has contacted residents regarding the hedge at Marlborough Place - one resident is very ill and is unable to cope with any work being carried out on the hedge at present – she felt unable to take this matter any further.

07/168 Dates of Next Meetings

- Full meeting - Finance – Tuesday 11 December 7.30pm
- Main Meeting – Tuesday 8 January 7.30pm
- Traffic Advisory Committee – Tuesday 15 January 8pm
- Finance Committee –Tuesday 29 January 7.30pm
- Planning Committee meeting - TBA dependent on planning applications

The meeting closed at 10.00pm

Signed..... Date...**08 January 2008**