



# EYNSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting held in the Bartholomew Room  
on Tuesday 7 October 2014 at 7.30 pm

## MINUTES

**Present: Councillors** - Mr G Beach (Chair), Mr R Andrews, Ms S Brown, Mr P Emery, Mr A Mosson, Mrs S Osborne, Mr N Relph, Mr D Rossiter, Mr D Stukenbroeker.

**Also In Attendance:** Oxfordshire County Councillor C Mathew, District Councillor Edward James and 6 Members of the Public.

**14/54 Apologies for absence** – Mr A Bickley, Mrs V Hughes, Mr P Wilding

**14/55 Declarations of Interest** – None

**14/56 The Minutes of the meetings held on 5 August 2014** – It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes be signed as a true record.

### **14/57 Public Participation**

- Professor Dowling spoke to the item regarding a possible Neighbourhood Plan for Eynsham. He was relieved that there had been some delay in adopting the proposal for additional housing. He also spoke about the importance of good quality employment opportunities in the village.
- Mr Harry Brown said that he was delighted to have heard from a District Councillor that the village would be getting a grit bin. The Chairman responded that the Parish Council was unaware of any plans for the District Council to provide grit bins.
- Mrs Posy Parrinder spoke in favour of developing a Neighbourhood Plan as the most effective way for local people to shape the future of village.
- District Councillor P Emery informed the council that a public consultation is taking place regarding the Recycling 'Bring Sites'. He said that some of the sites were under threat due to the large amount of fly tipping taking place. He asked that anyone who sees fly tipping taking place please inform the District Council via their Town Centre shop.
- County Councillor Mathew informed the council that he had responded to the consultation regarding housing development. He also said that he was not convinced the impact of preparing and producing a Neighbourhood Plan was worth the cost involved. He felt that there might be some value in a plan produced for a wider area incorporating a few of the villages in the vicinity.
- Councillor Mathew also mentioned signage on B4449 crossing and asked where the funds might come from for signs warning motorists that pedestrians may be crossing.
- Councillor Mathew informed the council that work had started to clear the roundabouts around the ring road.
- Councillor Mathew spoke regarding the travellers staying at Chilbridge. He informed the council that Oxfordshire County Council owns the land but the tenant is responsible for evicting the travellers. There are a number of factors that make it difficult to move them on. They have children at the school, an un-roadworthy vehicle and a person who is unwell.

**14/58 Correspondence – the following correspondence was acknowledged by the council.**

- Email thanking the Council for clearing weeds on Wastie Lane
- Email regarding the recycling depository at the Back Lane car park

**14/59 The Clerk's Report was received and discussed.**

**14/60** The Council confirmed receipt of the application to discontinue burials in St Leonards Churchyard. The PCC intends to close a part of the churchyard. Councillor Rossiter expressed concerns regarding the logic of this proposal. He said that once a part of a churchyard is closed there is no mechanism for reopening it. There is a common law right to be buried in the churchyard of the place where a person lives and/or dies. The council has S106 money put aside for a new cemetery although this could be used to help find a way to make further space available in the existing churchyard. Councillor Stukenbroeker asked if any research had been done regarding the reuse of old burial plots. Councillor Rossiter said that he would prefer to have a meeting of all interested parties to find a more suitable solution. Councillor Beach explained that if the council chooses not to sign the document they need to explain why.

The Council **RESOLVED** to send the application back to the PCC commenting that the Parish Council is not satisfied that the reasons for closure are appropriate.

**14/61 The Council RESOLVED to buy additional Christmas Lights following a recommendation.**

**14/62 The Council RESOLVED to provide a financial contribution to the Rotary Club for works to be carried out at the Fishponds.**

**14/63 The Council RESOLVED to renew membership of OPFA and ORCC.**

**14/64 The Chairman updated members of the Council regarding the Oxfordshire County Council Parish Walk.** A number of repairs will be undertaken as a result of the walk. The Chairman and Councillor Stukenbroeker emphasised the importance of reporting all faults to Oxfordshire County Council through the Fix My Street facility. They asked that this be given some publicity on the village website.

**14/65 The Council discussed winter preparedness.** The Council **RESOLVED** to ask Cottsway if the grant that had been given to provide a notice board could be diverted to be spent on providing a grit bin for the top of Merton Close and a salt spreader.

**14/66 The Council discussed Neighbourhood Plan**

Councillor Beach and Councillor Stukenbroeker met with Astrid Harvey from West Oxfordshire District Council to discuss a Neighbourhood Plan (NP). It was estimated that the cost would be in the region of £25k to produce a full plan. There are alternatives such as limiting the area or the scope of the plan. A Scoping document could be produced initially to find out what people are most concerned about. Concerns were likely to be around housing and the impact on infrastructure. A NP cannot propose less housing than the District Council's Local Plan. There will be further consultation by the District Council next year. They are hoping to reduce the number of houses proposed in the SHMA but other councils have not been successful in doing so.

A preliminary step would be to designate a Neighbourhood Area. The next step would be to help to create a forum which should be community led.

Councillor Andrews suggested that the process can be started without spending any significant money and it would be useful to ascertain how residents felt about future development. There would be no value in spending time producing a NP if the population is resistant to any additional housing. Councillor Emery said how important it would be for residents to engage in Part 2 of the Local Plan. Councillor Rossiter said that he had investigated another community where they had been successful in producing a simple plan with a few basic recommendations. He supported the idea of putting together a simple NP and consulting with the residents as widely as possible.

Councillor Beach explained that in a nearby town they had come up with a set of 6 protocols which the District Council can use when considering developments. Councillor Beach said that the first steps required would be to designate an area and put together a group of local people to form a Steering Group.

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Stukenbroeker work towards designating a Neighbourhood Area and makes contact with those who responded showing interest in creating a plan.

**14/67 Finance** - It was **RESOLVED** to pay the accounts as presented. The income & expenditure reports were noted.

**14/68** To fill two Parish Council vacancies by co-option of Members. It was **RESOLVED** that Jane Baldwin and Patricia Crowley be co-opted onto the Parish Council.

**14/69 Committee meetings** – the following minutes were adopted and the recommendations approved.

- Planning – 5 August 2014
- Play Areas – 12 August 2014
- Fishponds – 11 August 2014 – recommendation to be brought forward to Finance Committee
- Footpaths – 16 September 2014

**14/70 To note dates of the next Eynsham Parish Council meetings:**

- Communications – 14 October 2014 at 7.30pm
- Planning (if required) – 4 November 2014 at 6.30pm
- Council – 4 November at 7.30pm

**The Meeting closed at 9.37pm**