

EWSHOT PARISH COUNCIL

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EWSHOT PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 22 APRIL 2024 AT 7 PM
IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr G Bredin (Chairman), Cllr E Jennings, Cllr D Morgan-Jones and Cllr D Rook.

In Attendance: Alison Ball (Clerk). Cllr T Collins (Hart District Council) (until 7.45pm). Cllr S Parker (Hampshire County Council) (until 7.45pm).

24/088	Apologies for Absence
	Cllr C Turner.

24/089	Approval of the Minutes of the meeting of Ewshot Parish Council held on 11 March 2024
	RESOLVED: To approve the Minutes of the meeting of Ewshot Parish Council held on 11 March 2024.

24/090	Matters arising from the Minutes
	None.

24/091	Announcements from Chairman, Clerk and Members' Questions
	None.

24/092	District and County Council Report
	<p>Hampshire County Council (HCC):- Cllr Parker advised that his monthly report had been circulated by email. He confirmed that he had raised the issue of the flooding at the top of the A287 with a highways officer at HCC and the response had been provided. The highways officer had advised that HCC did not currently accept the private funding of highway maintenance works and he did not believe that the installation of a kerb line at the top of Jackals Hill would resolve the flooding problem. He confirmed that an order had been placed with the HCC maintenance provider to high pressure water jet and CCTV the drainage system between the County boundary and Peacocks Nursery to thoroughly cleanse and assess the condition of the highways assets which existed between the two points. The findings of this survey would determine what, if any, further maintenance work would be required.</p>

	<p>Cllr Morgan-Jones felt that the highways officer had misunderstood the question as he had not suggested privately funding the works but that the Parish Council fund the works. He also suggested that the Parish Council should question HCC when they say “you can’t do this” especially in hard times.</p> <p>Cllr Parker responded by stating that he had a lot of faith in the officer concerned but that he would go back to him.</p> <p>Hart District Council (HDC):- Cllr Collins advised that the officer at HDC dealing with the fly tipping on the A287 had been in touch with the Clerk and Cllr Parker and he was organising a meeting, due to take place in mid to late May, involving the key stakeholders. It was noted that some of the fly tipping was likely on private land and HCC and HDC could not enter private land to remove fly tipping.</p> <p>The Chairman wished Cllr Collins well with the upcoming elections.</p>
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24/093	Declaration of Interests and Requests for Dispensations
	None.

24/094	Public Participation
	None.

24/095	Planning
	<p>(a) 24/00580/HOU Hawkshill Cottage, Warren Corner Demolition of playroom and erection of a single storey rear extension, first floor infill extension and the raising of existing ridge line, new front porch, changes to the fenestration and external facades.</p> <p>A response was required by 15 April so it had been agreed by email to submit ‘no objection’, this response was noted.</p> <p>(b) 24/00605/HOU 7 Kestrel Close Demolition of the conservatory and erection of a single storey rear extension, alterations to the front porch and replacement windows and doors.</p> <p>It was AGREED to submit no objection.</p> <p>(c) There were no additional planning applications received since the publication of the agenda.</p>

24/096	Highways Issues at Doras Green
	<p>There was no update on the highways issues.</p> <p>It was noted that some of the hedging at the Doras Green Lane/ Heath Lane crossroads had become overgrown and it was requested that the Clerk contact the land owners and request that they do some cutting back.</p>
24/097	Reinstatement of Verges – Beacon Hill
	It was agreed to postpone a discussion on this.
24/098	A287 - Flooding
	<p>This item had already been discussed under item 24/092 above.</p> <p>Cllr Morgan-Jones confirmed that he had received the high-viz jackets, gloves and bin bags which were being used by volunteers to conduct litter picks. He had completed a risk assessment for the activity and was making sure volunteers were aware of the requirements of the risk assessment and the safety measures they should be taking.</p> <p>Cllr Morgan-Jones advised that he felt the main issue causing the flooding on the A287 was the silt and general detritus coming from the verge into the drains. This was being made worse by vehicles driving onto the verge, destroying it and silt washing down towards the road. He wanted kerb stones installed to help prevent this and to stop people parking/ driving on the verge. He advised that he would re-do his concept drawing.</p> <p>Cllr Parker confirmed that HCC officers were aware of the extent of the flooding in this area and he would see if he could organise another site meeting.</p>
24/099	Fly Tipping on A287
	The officer at HDC dealing with this issue had been in touch and was hoping to arrange a meeting in the week beginning 20 May involving the Parish Council and HCC to discuss a way forward. The Clerk and Cllr Parker had provided details of availability during that week.
24/100	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 had been chased up as it had not been completed. Cllr Parker confirmed that

	safety issues would take priority so if this repair had not been deemed a safety issue it would be lower down on the list of priorities.
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24/101	Update Litter Clearing & Other Issues on A287 and Beacon Hill Road
	<p>Cllr Morgan-Jones circulated a map of the parish, reminding councillors of the main routes within the parish. He also circulated a 'Highways/Road Issues Log' that he had put together setting out various road issues in the parish and what actions were needed to address them and by whom. He advised that this was a working document and would be added to over time.</p> <p>Cllr Rook asked whether a regular litter pick could be organised as she had seen in other local villages. The Clerk advised that where there were large scale, occasional litter picks HDC would collect the waste and arrange for its disposal. Cllr Morgan-Jones agreed to consider this.</p>

24/102	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.

24/103	Hart Climate Change Engagement Group
	Cllr Morgan-Jones advised that he had nothing to report on this at the current time.

24/104	Biodiversity
	The Chairman and the Clerk were working on a policy and would bring this to a future meeting.

24/105	Planting in the Village
	<p>Prior to the meeting the Chairman had circulated the details of quotes received for planting the flower boxes in the village. This had previously been done by volunteers who were no longer able to continue. It was suggested that the cheapest quote be accepted as this was from a local company, run by a person living locally who was known to be reliable. The quote did not include watering the plants and residents living closest to the planters would be asked to do this when needed.</p> <p>It was AGREED to accept the quote from Thyme to Blossom for planting the flower boxes in the village twice a year.</p>

24/106	Farnborough Airport
	<p>There was no update on this item.</p> <p>(NOTE: Cllrs Collins and Parker left the meeting on the conclusion of this item.)</p>
24/107	Grant Applications
	<p>An application had been received from the Crondall and Ewshot Village Pump Group requesting a grant towards a day out for older residents in June. It was hoped that 40 people would attend the event with approximately 25% coming from Ewshot. It was estimated that a grant of £350 would cover the costs for 10 Ewshot residents to attend the day.</p> <p>It was AGREED to award a grant of £350 to the Crondall and Ewshot Village Pump Group to be used towards a day out.</p>
24/108	Options for Investment
	<p>Prior to the meeting the Clerk had advised that the one year bond with Cambridge and Counties had matured on 11 April and arrangements needed to be made with regard to the future of these funds as they were now in a low interest account. Cambridge and Counties had suggested that the funds could be reinvested or transferred to a different account or withdrawn.</p> <p>The Clerk had looked into the options available and the interest being paid on different accounts. A new one year bond with Cambridge and Counties would earn 5% interest and the Clerk confirmed that this seemed to be a very good option. Details of other options had been circulated by email before the meeting.</p> <p>It was AGREED to reinvest all the funds, including any interest accrued with Cambridge and Counties in a new one year bond.</p>
24/109	Summary of Payments and Receipts for Q4 to 31 March 2024
	<p>A summary of the figures for quarter four had been circulated prior to the meeting. This also showed the total spend to 31 March across the budget headings against the budget for the year.</p> <p>Also circulated prior to the meeting was a schedule of allocated reserves at the end of the 2023/2024 financial year. The Clerk suggested that moving into 2024/2025 that this document be updated to remove the line for the 'electricity supply on the recreation ground' as this project had been completed and no further costs were anticipated. The remaining funds would be transferred to the general reserve.</p>

	<p>Due to an underspend on revenue items in 2023/2024, the general reserve was just over £31k. The Clerk suggested that some of this be moved to the other headings. It was noted that £1k had been spent on the tennis court in 2023/2024 and a further £2,700 had been committed for 2024 for the colour spray of the court. The Clerk recommended transferring some of the general reserve to the tennis court fund to keep this at a reasonable amount.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To approve the summary of receipts and payments for quarter four.</p>
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24/110	Bank Reconciliation to 31 March 2024
	<p>The RFO had produced a bank reconciliation to 31 March 2024 which had been circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To accept the bank reconciliation to 31 March 2024.</p>

24/111	Approval of Payments																										
	<p>The following payments were approved:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">April Payroll</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£593.59</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC - tax</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£16.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A Ball – reimbursement for postage</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£8.10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A Ball – reimbursement for litter pick equipment</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£42.30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Castle Water – water bill (paid by direct debit)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£5.99</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Scottish Power – Electricity Bill</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£54.39</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Larkstel – Bin emptying (April)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£188.70</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vision ICT – email hosting June 2024 to May 2025</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£48.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HALC – Affiliation Fees and NALC Levy</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£442.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ewshot Village Show – Grant – New microphone</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£50.00*</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ewshot & Crondall Village Pump Group – Grant – Day out</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£350.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Community Heartbeat Trust- defib annual support</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£151.20*</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">*Payment already made. Funding previously agreed and from within existing budgets.</td> </tr> </table>	April Payroll	£593.59	HMRC - tax	£16.60	A Ball – reimbursement for postage	£8.10	A Ball – reimbursement for litter pick equipment	£42.30	Castle Water – water bill (paid by direct debit)	£5.99	Scottish Power – Electricity Bill	£54.39	Larkstel – Bin emptying (April)	£188.70	Vision ICT – email hosting June 2024 to May 2025	£48.00	HALC – Affiliation Fees and NALC Levy	£442.00	Ewshot Village Show – Grant – New microphone	£50.00*	Ewshot & Crondall Village Pump Group – Grant – Day out	£350.00	Community Heartbeat Trust- defib annual support	£151.20*	*Payment already made. Funding previously agreed and from within existing budgets.	
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24/112	Date of Next Meeting
	<p>It was noted that the next meeting would take place on 13 May 2024.</p>

24/113	Any Other Business
	<p>It was noted that the outreach session by Citizens Advice Hart in the Village Hall had gone well in April with some clients attending. It was hoped that there would be another session in May.</p>

The meeting ended at 7.50pm

Signed.....

Dated.....