

EWSHOT PARISH COUNCIL

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EWSHOT PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 7 PM
IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr D Rook (Vice-Chairman in the Chair), Cllr E Jennings, Cllr D Morgan-Jones and Cllr C Turner. One member of the public.

In Attendance: Alison Ball (Clerk). Cllr S Parker (Hampshire County Council).

24/202	Apologies for Absence
	Cllr G Bredin (Chairman). Cllr T Collins (Hart District Council).
24/203	Approval of the Minutes of the meeting of Ewshot Parish Council held on 8 July 2024
	RESOLVED: To approve the Minutes of the meeting of Ewshot Parish Council held on 8 July 2024.
24/204	Review of the Actions/ Issues Log
	The Actions/ Issues Log was reviewed and updated.
24/205	Announcements from Chairman, Clerk and Members' Questions
	None.
24/206	District and County Council Report
	Hampshire County Council (HCC):- It was noted that Cllr Parker had recently circulated a report containing updates. He advised that the budget discussion that was delayed by HCC due to the general election was due to be restarted shortly. He would bring updates on this as it progressed.
24/207	Declaration of Interests and Requests for Dispensations
	None.

24/208	Public Participation
	<p>A member of the public addressed the meeting raising concerns about the amount of litter on the verges alongside of Beacon Hill Road specifically around the entrance to Caesars Camp and the entrance to the Bridle Way.</p> <p>Cllr Morgan-Jones advised that he had been in discussion with the HDC Streetcare Manager about the installation of a new bin in this area and the regular emptying of this bin by HDC staff. He felt that this was a viable option and he understood that the MOD had no objection to the bin being installed on MOD land. He would continue to pursue this and it was agreed that a formal letter be sent from the Parish Council to HDC requesting this.</p> <p>It was noted that work was continuing to create berms along Beacon Hill Road to try to stop parking. The member of the public raised his concerns about the displacement of this parking into the Charles Church development. It was noted that there were also discussions taking place regarding the implementation of double yellow lines in the area.</p> <p>The member of the public asked if it would be possible to erect signage along Beacon Hill Road reminding visitors not to drop/leave litter. Cllr Morgan-Jones advised that he would contact the MOD to request permission for this. If permission was received options would be considered and presented at a future meeting.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked the member of the public for his attendance.</p>
24/209	Planning
	<p>(a) 24/01061/FUL Heath Lodge, Farnham Road Change of use from a dwelling (Use Class C3) to a mixed use including use comprising a dwelling (Use Class C 3) and swimming pool (Use Class F2(d)). A response was required by 25 July so the following was agreed by email and had been submitted before the deadline: No objection.</p> <p>The response was NOTED.</p> <p>(b) 24/01507/HOU 8 Badger Way Extension of driveway and erection of a detached triple garage. A response was required by 20 August so the following was agreed by email and had been submitted before the deadline: No objection.</p> <p>The response was NOTED.</p>

<p>(c) 24/01582/HOU Roughgrove Cottage, Church Lane New brickwork and window to front elevation to infill existing garage door and conversion of garage to habitable accommodation. A response was required by 27 August so the following was agreed by email and had been submitted before the deadline: No objection.</p> <p>The response was NOTED.</p> <p>(d) There were no additional planning applications received since the publication of the agenda.</p>

<p>24/210</p>	<p>Highways Issues at Doras Green</p>
	<p>Cllr Turner advised that he had made contact with the officer at HCC responsible for speed limit reductions and a response had now been received with the Team Leader for Safer Roads advising that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It was HCCs policy to endorse traffic management measures where there was clear evidence of direct benefits in reducing road casualties. Speed limits would not be used to address isolated hazards as other measures such as warning signs, vehicle activated signs, carriageway markings or junction improvements would be more effective. - In the case of the Doras Green Lane / Heath Lane crossroads such improvements had been made and the effect of these would be monitored over a five year period. - The installation of the vehicle activated sign had not been forgotten but there had been operational delays. <p>Cllr Turner had responded highlighting the number of incidents taking place at the crossroads that were not being reported and asking again for a speed limit reduction. A response to this had not been received. Cllr Turner agreed to forward this correspondence to Cllr Parker.</p> <p>It was noted that HCC used the website ‘crash map’ to assess the number of accidents at a location and this only covered injury accidents so any minor accidents would not form part of this data. Cllr Parker encouraged those living near the crossroads to report all incidents to the police so ensure that the scale of the problem was being recorded. He also reiterated his previous suggestion that the portion of Doras Green Lane between Heath Lane and the A287 be made one way, in the direction of the A287 which would significantly reduce the risks.</p> <p>Cllr Turner advised that the vegetation on the north west corner of the Doras Green Lane/ Heath Lane crossroads had grown significantly and was blocking sightlines again. The Clerk would report this to HCC but if the cutting back was not carried out, or not done far back enough from the road, the lengthsman would be instructed to carry out the work.</p>

	Cllr Turner confirmed that he had approached the Assistant Highways Manager at HCC about clearing the footpath along the A287 and it was on the list to do, budget permitting. Cllr Parker requested that this correspondence be forwarded to him.
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24/211	Reinstatement of Verges – Beacon Hill
	It was noted that discussions were ongoing with HCC regarding the creation of berms alongside Beacon Hill Road and the potential for double yellow lines.

24/212	Bridle Path
	<p>Cllr Jennings had been contacted by residents living along the bridle path to advise that there had been a number of accidents along the bridle path and requesting that signage be installed warning of the loose surface and the steepness of the path. It was noted that the bridle path was on private property.</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that she had been in touch with HCC about this and was waiting for a response. It was suggested that residents be encouraged to report any issues to HCC and the Clerk would send the link for doing this to Cllr Jennings for her to forward to residents.</p> <p>There was a discussion about whether there was anything for the Parish Council to be involved with and it was agreed to wait and see what HCC said.</p>

24/213	A287 - Flooding
	<p>Cllr Turner confirmed that he had followed up with Hampshire Highways regarding the flooding on the A287 and the response had been that there was more work to be done but a date for this had not been set. Cllr Parker requested that this correspondence be sent to him. Cllr Turner would continue to request updates on this.</p> <p>Cllr Morgan-Jones advised that he had distributed an updated version of the highways log and this would be forwarded to Cllr Parker.</p>

24/214	Rural Fibre Optic Rollout
	Cllr Morgan-Jones had been in touch with HCC about the Rural Fibre Optic rollout and the response passed responsibility to the Government Department for Science, Innovation and Technology. Cllr Morgan-Jones had contacted this Government Department but the response had not been very helpful and so he intended to continue with this correspondence.

	Cllr Morgan-Jones confirmed that he had been in touch with TOOB as suggested at the last meeting and this company would not be bringing faster broadband to the village.
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24/215	Enhancing Parish Communication and Engagement
	This issue had been resolved and it was agreed to remove it from future agendas.

24/216	Hart Climate Change Engagement Group
	Cllr Morgan-Jones advised that he was working closely with HDC on a campaign to achieve Net Zero which was in the very early stages. He had been involved in lots of work over the summer months including taking part in 'the Great Collaboration' which aimed to bring various groups together, including local councils, to work together to tackle climate change. He would continue to update members on this as things progressed.

24/217	Biodiversity
	<p>Since the last meeting Cllrs Bredin and Morgan-Jones along with the Clerk had attended a meeting with a representative from The Hampshire Wildlife Trust. At this meeting the officer from the Trust had committed to support the Parish Council in any way possible. Cllr Morgan-Jones had also attended a presentation by the Surrey Wildlife Trust and they had committed to support any projects if possible.</p> <p>Cllr Morgan-Jones felt the next steps would be for him to meet with Cllrs Bredin and Jennings to discuss the data that was available for the village, specifically for the SANG land and MOD land and set a programme for how to continue to gather this data across the parish. Once this had been done consideration could be given to setting up a group involving residents to look at the next steps.</p>

24/218	Farnborough Airport
	<p>Cllr Turner advised that there had not been any meetings of the Farnborough Airport Consultative Committee (FACC) over the summer and he was not aware of any progress with the planning application being considered by Rushmoor Borough Council.</p> <p>Members of the Noise Sub-Committee were campaigning for better, more relevant noise recording to take place.</p>

	Cllr Turner had noticed that aircraft seemed to be taking a more dispersed route over the summer than previously and he would try to find out why this was. He would also look for any updates on the planning application.
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24/219	Asset of Community Value
	<p>As agreed at the last meeting an application had been made to HDC to request that consideration be given to re-listing the Windmill pub as an Asset of Community Value as the current listing was due to expire on 19 November 2024. HDC had already considered the application and had confirmed that the application had been accepted and the asset would be retained on the list of Assets of Community Value. This meant that if it were to be sold the community would have the first right to buy. The listing was subject to appeal by the owners who had eight weeks to lodge any appeal. If no appeal was made the listing would last five years.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To note that the Council's application to HDC to relist the Windmill pub as an Asset of Community Value had been accepted and the Windmill pub would remain on the list until 29 August 2029.</p>

24/220	Replacement of Dog Waste Bin
	<p>Over the summer it had become clear that the dog waste bin on the Recreation Ground next to the Tadpole Lane entrance would need to be replaced as the unit was rusty and the door was getting stuck. It was suggested that the same contractor be instructed to replace the bin who had replaced the one next to the tennis court in June. He had agreed that he would do this on the same terms and for the same price. It was agreed that in this case alternative quotes were unnecessary as quotes had been received so recently for a job that was almost identical and therefore these could be relied on to ensure value for money.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To accept the quote from the contractor to replace the dog waste bin on the recreation ground (Tadpole Lane entrance).</p>

24/221	Moving to .gov.uk Domain Name
	<p>The Parish Council website providers had advised that it would be possible to move the council website to a .gov.uk domain name for £125 for the first two years then £65 a year. It would also be necessary to have at least one .gov.uk email address at a cost of £20 a year. It was recommended that parish councils do this as there was an increasing number of unofficial council websites being published and a .gov.uk ending to the website address would reassure the public that they were on the official parish council website.</p>

	<p>RESOLVED: To move to a .gov.uk domain name for the website and to approve the associated costs of £125 for the first two years then £65 a year plus £20 a year for a .gov.uk email address for the clerk.</p>
24/222	To consider Grant Applications
	<p>It was advised that a grant application had been received from Citizens Advice Hart for £200 to be used towards the training and supervision of volunteers.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To award a grant of £200 to Citizens Advice Hart.</p>
24/223	Changes to Terms and Conditions for Payroll Services
	<p>Notification had been received from the current payroll provider advising of some changes to the terms of the contract with them including a 13.6% increase to the fees. It was noted that the fees had not been increased since the provider was first instructed in 2020 and the service had always been good and efficient. The revised contract had been circulated before the meeting.</p> <p>It was agreed that alternative quotes were not needed as this was a small increase of £18 a year and still presented good value for money especially as the company had proven to be reliable.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To authorise the Chairman to sign the revised contract with D M Payroll Services to continue with the companies services.</p>
24/224	Internal Audit 2024/2025
	<p>The Internal Auditor had provided a letter of engagement for his internal audit services for 2024/2025.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To accept the Terms of Engagement for April Skies internal audit services 2024/2025.</p>
24/225	External Audit 2023/2024
	<p>The completed external auditor report and certificate (Section 3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return) for 2023/24 had been received. It did not raise any issues or require any action.</p> <p>The Clerk had already posted the notice of completion of accounts.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the completed annual return for 2023/24 including the certificate from BDO LLP be approved and accepted.</p>

24/226	Approval of Payments
The following payments were approved:	
September Payroll	£593.39
HMRC - tax	£16.80
A Ball – reimbursement for storage boxes	£20.00
Castle Water – water bill (July)	£6.26**
Castle Water – water bill (August)	£6.26**
Castle Water – water bill (September)	£6.26**
Scottish Power – electricity bill (August)	£25.58**
Scottish Power – electricity bill (September)	£25.58**
Larkstel – Bin emptying (September)	£188.70
NJL Box Green – Grass Cutting (July)	£1,013.40*
NJL Box Green – Grass Cutting (August)	£675.60
G Bredin – reimbursement for CCTV signs and new padlock	£99.96*
Land Registry – documents for Asset of Community Value Application	£6.00***
MGB Services – Hedge Cutting	£420.00*
Parish Online	£72.00*
Sleeptight Security – add CCTV to laptop	£72.00*
G Bredin – reimbursement for chain for lock	£26.99*
BDO – External Audit	£252.00
Citizens Advice Hart – Grant	£200.00
* Already paid – agreed by email and from within existing budgets ** Paid monthly by direct debit *** Paid with debit card	

24/227	Date of Next Meeting
It was noted that the next meeting would take place on 14 October 2024.	

24/228	Any Other Business
<p>It was noted that the Grounds Caretaker had reported an increase in dog waste being left on the recreation ground and Cllr Jennings was due to meet with an Environmental Health Officer from HDC to discuss possible action.</p> <p>It was noted that residents had requested information about the hard standing that had been created on the field next to 3 Cranstone Cottages and a request had been made to HDC Planning to look into this.</p>	

The meeting ended at 8.06pm

Signed.....

Dated.....