

EWSHOT PARISH COUNCIL

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EWSHOT PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 10 MARCH 2025 AT 7 PM
IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

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

In Attendance: Five members of the public. Alison Ball (Clerk). Cllr S Parker (Hampshire County Council).

25/025	Apologies for Absence
	Cllr D Rook and Cllr C Turner. Cllr T Collins (Hart District Council - HDC).
25/026	Approval of the Minutes of the meeting of Ewshot Parish Council held on 13 January 2025
	RESOLVED: To approve the Minutes of the meeting of Ewshot Parish Council held on 13 January 2025.
25/027	Review of the Actions/ Issues Log
	<p>The Actions/ Issues Log was reviewed and updated.</p> <p>Following a request at the last meeting Cllr Parker had made enquires with regard to the process of how to get a 20mph speed limit in the village centre. He had provided a link to the guidance on the HCC website. Part of the evidence needed was proof that there was an issue that needed to be solved. It was possible to use data from the SID for this but HCC had only approved locations on Church Lane for use of the SID. An approach would need to be made to HCC about whether more locations could be approved or what the alternative forms of evidence were.</p>
25/028	Announcements from Chairman, Clerk and Members' Questions
	The Chairman reported the very sad news that a young man from the village had recently died in a car accident. Condolences were expressed to the family and friends.

25/029	District and County Council Report
	<p data-bbox="337 310 787 342">Hampshire County Council (HCC):-</p> <p data-bbox="337 352 964 384">Cllr Parker gave updates on the following items:</p> <p data-bbox="337 426 1417 657">A287 Flooding – An officer at Hampshire Highways had advised that whilst 14 days of high pressure water jetting and CCTV had been completed, there remained a section to be completed that was approximately 100 metres on each approach to the Beacon Hill Road roundabout. This work would be ordered at the start of the new financial year due to a backlog of jetting orders with the HCC contractor which would be completed before the end of the current financial year.</p> <p data-bbox="337 699 1417 814">Overgrown footway on the A287 – An officer at Hampshire Highways had advised that this was a task that would be carried out and he would speak to the contractors works programming team to get it moved up the list of priorities.</p> <p data-bbox="337 856 1417 1129">Cllr Morgan-Jones advised that he thought the cutting back along the footway on the A287 had been carried out and that a litter pick had been done at the same time. He also felt that the water jetting would be a temporary fix as the issue was with the silt blocking the top end of the drain. Parking on the verge was making it worse as these vehicles churned up the verge and then any rain washed the surface onto the road and into the drain. He had suggested to HCC that consideration be given to installing kerbing at this location but his suggestion had been dismissed.</p> <p data-bbox="337 1171 1417 1360">A member of the public spoke advising that an officer from Hampshire Highways had previously advised that the main issue was the leaves washing into the drain and blocking it. The member of the public agreed that this was an issue in the autumn but this was a year round problem. He had also noticed that the vehicles parking on this verge were works vehicles and they were making the situation worse.</p> <p data-bbox="337 1402 1417 1675">The Chairman confirmed that there was regular contact with Hampshire Highways on this and the Parish Council would continue to push for them to take action to permanently resolve the issue. Everyone was encouraged to report the flooding every time it occurred via the online reporting system on the HCC website (link available on the homepage of the Parish Council website). Cllr Parker asked that he be advised of all reference numbers received when reporting this issue to HCC so he could keep track of any developments.</p> <p data-bbox="337 1717 1417 1894">Bridle Path - contact had been made with an officer at HCC who had stated that his view was that the condition of the road/path was not dangerous and that simple signage should be sufficient to warn cyclists of the steep nature of the path. He had also stated that the issue of the water on the path needed to be resolved by the land owner where the water originated. Cllr Parker had arranged for this officer to speak</p>

	to Cllr Bredin on the telephone. Cllr Bredin advised that he had not managed to speak to the officer but he would endeavour to do so and arrange an onsite meeting. He had installed some simple signs. Cllr Parker offered to attend the onsite meeting.
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25/030	Declaration of Interests and Requests for Dispensations
	None.

25/031	Public Participation
	None.

25/032	Planning
	<p>(a) 25/00151/PREAPP Dachs Lodge, Redfields Lane Construction of 60 extra care retirement apartments (use class C2) together with associated access, parking, amenity space and other associated infrastructure (following demolition of existing dwelling).</p> <p>As a pre-application no response was required from the Parish Council. The Clerk suggested that thought be given to any infrastructure to ask for should a full application be submitted to HDC.</p> <p>It was noted that Crookham Village Parish Council had submitted a response to the application asking for further research into alternative sites available for this type of housing.</p> <p>(b) Additional planning applications received after publication of the Agenda</p> <p>None.</p>

25/033	Highways Issues
	<p>(a) Doras Green</p> <p>Cllr Turner had sent a message earlier in the day to say that there had been another accident at the Doras Green Lane/ Heath Lane crossroads. Police and an ambulance had been in attendance (police reference: 202503100687). Cllr Morgan-Jones advised that lots of work had been done by the Parish Council to improve sightlines at this junction but the continuance of accidents demonstrated the need for a reduced speed limit and/or further traffic calming measures. Cllr Turner was intending to meet with the Police and Crime Commissioner to raise the issue of speed reductions not being supported by the Police and therefore not considered by HCC.</p>

	<p>(b) A287 – Flooding This had been dealt with under Minute 25/029 above.</p> <p>(c) Review of the Highways Log Cllr Morgan-Jones advised that not much had changed on the log and an update would be given at the next meeting.</p>
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25/034	Hart Climate Change Engagement Group/ Net Zero Engagement Group
	<p>Cllr Morgan-Jones advised that he had attended the HDC Net Zero Catchup meeting on 25 February which had been interesting but nothing specifically relevant to the parish. The Net Zero Plan was being offered to all the parish and town councils in Hart. Work was continuing with the c-ESCO green Energy plan with the final details of funding to be arranged. There needed to be a community Net Zero Team developed and Cllr Morgan-Jones circulated a draft email to be sent out asking for anyone in the parish who was interested in being involved to get in touch. The email was approved for circulation.</p>

25/035	Biodiversity
	<p>Councillor Morgan-Jones advised that on 18 February there had been a meeting with Surrey Wildlife Trust (SWT) which had been very positive. SWT had committed to providing the Parish Council with a draft strategic plan and support for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hedging and wildlife meadows for woodlands; - The management of ancient woodlands (with the support of the Woodland Trust); starting with the Old Coach House. <p>Cllr Morgan-Jones advised that he had also attended a Great Collaboration Meeting where South Gloucestershire Council presented their approach, which had been inspiring.</p> <p>Cllr Morgan-Jones circulated a draft email that he proposed to circulate asking for support from the community for the various biodiversity projects. Approval was given to circulate this email.</p> <p>The Chairman advised that he had found a report from 1965 setting out the species of butterfly, trees and animals in the parish at that time. He would circulate this report.</p>

25/036	Fibre Optic Rollout
	<p>Councillor Morgan-Jones confirmed that with help from a resident in the village, he had managed to make contact with CityFibre and it had been advised that the</p>

	<p>parish would be in 'drawdown 4' of the Hampshire Roll out plan. From the conversation it was felt that work could start in early 2026.</p> <p>Councillor Morgan-Jones was looking at other solutions that could come to fruition sooner and this might include setting up a 5G Network. There was a possibility of providing both high speed broadband and improved mobile phone signal in part of the parish using a 5G network. This had been discussed with a firm who would be willing to implement this but they needed a guarantee of at least 50 customers per 5G mast. Councillor Morgan-Jones had drafted an email to be circulated to residents to gauge interest in this. The email was approved for circulation.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Cllr Morgan-Jones for all the work he was doing on various projects for the Parish Council.</p> <p>It was agreed that the three emails proposed by Cllr Morgan-Jones be distributed one a week for three weeks. It was suggested that an article be drafted for the parish magazine summarising the content of the emails.</p>
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25/037	Farnborough Airport
	In the absence of Cllr Turner there was no update.

25/038	Play Area Remedial Works
	<p>There had been an interim play area inspection in September 2024 by Kompan the manufacturer of most of the equipment in the play area. The report that followed this inspection recommended a number of minor works in the play area, most of which were low risk with two items that were medium risk. The Parish Council had been waiting for a quote from Kompan to carry out these works which had finally been received in February.</p> <p>These works included jet washing some of the equipment and a nearby parish council had recommended an alternative company to carry this out. A quote had been sought from this company and they had responded with a quote for the jet washing and some of the repairs. This quote had only been received on the morning of the meeting and more time was needed to clarify what was included and whether the company was suitable to carry out repair works.</p> <p>It was agreed to delay a decision on this to allow for further enquiries to be made.</p>

25/039	Bin Emptying Contract 2025/2026
	The bin emptying contractor had advised that prices would be going up by 20% from 1 April 2025 due to employment costs and waste disposal cost increases. This was

	<p>known during the budget setting process and an increase was included in the 2025/2026 budget figures. The Clerk had been in touch with other local clerks to check that this was still value for money and the consensus was that this was a good reliable company and demonstrated value for money. In addition a review of the market had been conducted in 2023 and there were no suitable alternatives at that time.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To appoint Larkstel to empty the bins for 2025/2026 and the Chairman be authorised to sign the contract.</p>
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25/040	Interim Audit Report
	<p>It was noted that an interim internal audit had recently been completed and the report of the auditor had been circulated. The only recommendation in the report was that the Council may wish to look at accounts paying better rates of interest for cash that would not be needed in the near future. It was noted that the one year bond with Cambridge and Counties was due to mature on 23 April and consideration would be given to how to reinvest these funds and whether any funds should be added to this amount.</p> <p>It was AGREED to note the interim report of the internal auditor.</p>

25/041	Review of Standing Orders
	<p>The Standing Orders had been reviewed and no changes were recommended at this time.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the current Standing Orders were fit for purpose.</p>

25/042	Review of Financial Regulations
	<p>New model Financial Regulations had been produced by the National Association of Local Councils in 2024. This model had been reviewed and adapted for Ewshot Parish Council taking into account the provisions in the current Financial Regulations and what was suitable for a small parish council. This revised document had been circulated prior to the meeting and was recommended by the Clerk for approval.</p> <p>It was agreed to delay a decision on this to allow additional amendments suggested by a councillor to be considered.</p>

25/043	Banking Arrangements
	<p>Consideration was given to the current banking arrangements.</p>

	RESOLVED: That the current banking arrangements were sufficient.
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25/044	Review of Risk Assessment
	Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated the Risk Assessment which had been updated slightly to add in two new sections covering trees and the website.
	RESOLVED: To adopt the Risk Assessment as amended.

25/045	Review of the Asset Register
	Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated the Asset Register which had been updated to include the new dog waste bin.
	RESOLVED: To adopt the Asset Register as amended.

25/046	Approval of Payments																																										
	The following payments were approved:																																										
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25/047	Date of Next Meeting
	It was noted that the next meeting would take place on 12 May 2025. If any urgent business arose before that date a meeting could be called for 28 April 2025.

25/048	Any Other Business
	<p>It was noted that in March 2023 it had been agreed to sign up to a three year long term undertaking with BHIB (now called Clear Councils) for insurance and the policy would be renewed before the expiry on 12 April.</p> <p>It was noted that in March 2023 a three year agreement had been made with NJL Boxgreen for grass cutting and they would soon begin cutting the grass for the season.</p> <p>It was noted that a resident had raised a concern on social media regarding damage to verges specifically the verge along Church Lane, outside the Homecroft development site as the daffodils in this location had been driven over. It was suggested that contact be made with the developer to check that they would be putting right any damage. The Chairman advised that there were several areas of verge where the daffodils had failed and a map needed to be made of these areas so they could be filled in.</p> <p>It was noted that a resident had made a complaint about the use of a private swimming pool at Broomhill for commercial swimming lessons. There was a particular concern with regard to parking arrangements. The member of the public had been referred to the Planning Enforcement Team at HDC as it was understood that a planning application may need to be submitted. Enforcement at HDC had confirmed that they would look into the matter and would update the Parish Council with any progress.</p> <p>It was noted that there was a large pothole on Tadpole Lane outside Larkspur and a report would be made to HCC.</p>

The meeting ended at 7.45pm

Signed.....

Dated.....