

EWSHOT PARISH COUNCIL

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EWSHOT PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON FRIDAY 11 JULY 2025 AT 10.30AM
IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

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

In Attendance: Alison Ball (Clerk).

25/086	Apologies for Absence
	Cllr S Parker (Hampshire County Council – HCC). Cllr T Collins (Hart District Council - HDC).
25/087	Approval of the Minutes of the meeting of Ewshot Parish Council held on 5 May 2025
	RESOLVED: To approve the Minutes of the meeting of Ewshot Parish Council held on 5 May 2025. It was noted that a member of the public had come forward to volunteer to look after the flowers around the village and thanks were expressed to this volunteer. He was doing this as part of his Duke of Edinburgh's award, supported by family members. It was noted that Cllr Rook had recently resigned from the Parish Council for personal reasons. Cllr Rook was thanked for her service and wished well for the future. It was noted that the 14 day period to call an election was in process and once this had ended it would be clear whether an election would be needed or if the Council could go ahead with a co-option to fill the councillor vacancy.
25/088	Review of the Actions/ Issues Log
	The Actions/ Issues Log was reviewed and updated.
25/089	Announcements from Chairman, Clerk and Members' Questions
	None.
25/090	District and County Council Report
	None.

25/091	Declaration of Interests and Requests for Dispensations
	None.

25/092	Public Participation
	None.

25/093	Planning
	<p>(a) 25/00691/AMCON Homecroft Farm, Church Lane Variation of Condition 10 (solar panels and EVC details) attached to planning permission 21/01268/FUL dated 01/04/2022 Construction of 6 dwellings with associated amenity space, access, parking, landscaping and associated works (following demolition of buildings).</p> <p>As this application required a response by 20 June the following had been agreed by email and submitted before the deadline:</p> <p>“No comment.”</p> <p>This response was noted.</p> <p>(b) 25/00498/FUL Unit 3 Beacon Trade Park, Beacon Hill Road, Church Crookham Use of existing unit as an indoor padel court (Class E(d) indoor sport and recreation).</p> <p>As this application required a response by 11 July the following had been agreed by email and submitted before the deadline:</p> <p>“No objection.”</p> <p>This response was noted.</p> <p>(c) 25/01044/ADV Redfields Garden Centre Ltd, Ewshot Lane Display of Advertisement.</p> <p>It was AGREED to submit no comment on this application.</p> <p>(d) Additional planning applications received after publication of the Agenda</p> <p>None.</p>

25/094	Highways Issues
	<p>(a) Doras Green During the discussion on updates to the action list it had been noted that there had been no progress with the Vehicle Activated Sign and that a large pothole had now appeared on Doras Green Lane. All were encouraged to report any road issues to Hampshire Highways via the HCC website to make sure the correct body was aware of the issues.</p> <p>(b) A287 – Flooding During the discussion on updates to the action list it had been noted that the root ball had still not be removed and flooding was likely to occur again in this location during any significant rainfall.</p> <p>(c) Review of the Highways Log It was agreed to have an informal meeting to go through the issues on the highways log to see what could be addressed by the Parish Council, rather than HCC as the Highway Authority.</p>
25/095	New Village Entry Sign
	<p>It was noted that the “Welcome to Ewshot” sign on Church Lane had broken and was beyond repair. Enquires had been made with Hampshire Highways and HDC regarding a replacement but both had passed responsibility to the Parish Council. HDC had confirmed that it could provide a new sign if the Parish Council was prepared to pay for the sign at a cost of £215.98 including installation onto the existing posts and removal of the old sign. The new sign would have the Ewshot Parish Council logo on it. The Clerk suggested that consideration be given to also replacing the signs on Tadpole Lane and Ewshot Lane so that the signs all matched and contained the Parish Council logo rather than the old HDC logo.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To purchase three new village entry signs from HDC at a cost of £215.98 each and that they be installed replacing the existing signs on Church Lane, Tadpole Lane and Ewshot Lane.</p>
25/096	Litter Bin on Beacon Hill Road
	<p>It was agreed that as littering had reduced in this area that this item be removed from future agendas.</p>

25/097	Hart Climate Change Engagement Group/ Net Zero Engagement Group
	Cllr Morgan-Jones advised that he had nothing to report. He was in regular contact with the solar panel installer and the interested party from Parish Online but there was no update at the current time.

25/098	Biodiversity
	<p>Surrey Wildlife Trust (SWT) had provided more habitat connectivity maps. Included as part of these maps was some opportunity mapping which highlighted areas that could be targeted to support connectivity between existing wildlife habitat. There was also information about the key habitats within the parish and advice on how to manage and improve them.</p> <p>SWT had offered to facilitate a meeting between the woodland owners and the Woodland Trust. Some meeting dates had been suggested and Cllr Jennings was working to organise this. It was suggested that representatives from the MOD and the SANG land be invited to attend this meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Morgan-Jones suggested that there should be a very simple strategy in place to move this forward covering three key areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hedgerows – setting out how to make links with existing hedgerows to form corridors for wildlife to move through; 2. Ancient Woodland – a plan to work with landowners to improve the existing woodlands; 3. Support for a specific species of wildlife – for example the butterfly. Working with residents on how to encourage and help the wildlife flourish by making small changes within gardens.

25/099	Fibre Optic Rollout
	Cllr Morgan-Jones advised that there was nothing to report at the current time.

25/100	Farnborough Airport
	Cllr Turner advised that the noise sub-committee had met and were continuing to make sure that noise levels were being monitored. It was disappointing to note that there had been an issue with the noise monitoring that had been carried out in Ewshot and this would need to be re-done. It was noted that there were reports stating that there were links between exposure to noise and issues with mental health.

	There was no update on the planning application for increased flight numbers at the Airport.
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25/101	Hedge Cutting
	<p>It was noted that the hedges around the recreation ground, play area, car park entrance and in front of the SID all needed to be cut back. The lengthsman had been asked to do some of this work but he had not been able to commit to a date in the near future. It was agreed to wave standing orders and to accept a quote from MB Services without getting other quotes as this company had previously done lots of work for the Parish Council which had always been done well and at a reasonable price.</p> <p>Cllr Morgan-Jones advised that the Oak Processionary Moth had been found in Farnborough and it was important to stay vigilant especially with the new oak trees. It could be identified easily as the caterpillars moved in nose-to-tail processions. The caterpillars fed on oak trees and could pose health risks to humans. If spotted in the area it should be reported to the proper authorities.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That MB Services be instructed to carry out hedge cutting across the parish.</p>

25/102	Play Area Remedial Works
	<p>The annual inspection by ROSPA Play Safety had been undertaken in May 2025 and the report had been circulated by email. This report made recommendations regarding some repairs that were needed. The vast majority were minor and low risk with the exception of dismantling and inspecting the zipwire and the swings. This was usually carried out every other year and was next due in 2026.</p> <p>Kompan were due to carry out several repairs in the play area that had been picked up during an interim inspection in September 2024. A visit had been scheduled for 27 June but there had been a delay due to the spare parts not being available. A revised date had not yet been received.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To note the report following the annual inspection of the play area and to revisit any outstanding issues once the repairs had been carried out by Kompan.</p>

25/103	Tree Condition Report
	<p>It was noted that a tree condition report needed to be carried out every three years and as the last one was carried out in 2022 this needed to be done during 2025. A quote had been received from a qualified arboriculturalist. He had previously been a tree officer at several councils including HDC. He had also previously carried out</p>

	<p>surveys in Ewshot. It was agreed to waive standing orders to accept the quote from RMT Tree Consultancy without getting quotes from other companies as this was a company that was known and trusted and, in addition, would be charging the same as they did in 2022.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To accept the quote from RMT Tree Consultancy to carry out a tree condition assessment of council owned trees on the recreation ground and the area on the corner of Broomhill and Church Lane.</p> <p>The Clerk had recently attended tree risk course provided by the Council's insurance company and it had been suggested that the Council should have a tree risk management policy in place. A quote had been received from RMT Tree Consultancy to do this which would mean that it would be done by a suitably qualified person. It was agreed to waive standing orders to accept the quote from RMT Tree Consultancy and to not get quotes from other companies.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To accept the quote from RMT Tree Consultancy to produce a tree policy relating to the Council's management of trees.</p>
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25/104	IT Support
	<p>The Clerk reported that it would be necessary to set up a .gov.uk email address for the Parish Council and that she was having some issues with the set up of the email system on the laptop. It was requested that a small budget be set aside to get some help with this from an IT professional.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Clerk be authorised to spend up to £150 on IT Support.</p>

25/105	Review of Banking Arrangements
	<p>At the meeting on 5 May 2025 it had been agreed to re-invest money with Cambridge and Counties bank in a one year bond and to add £60k to the funds already invested. After meeting the bank had confirmed that the money could not be withdrawn during the 12 month term under any circumstances and that the interest rate had gone down to 4.50% (from 4.65%). As the terms had changed it had been agreed by email to reduce amount added to bond to £50k. This new account had been opened on 19/05/2025.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That it be retrospectively agreed that £50k be added to the investment at Cambridge and Counties Bank and that the full amount be put into a one year bond.</p>

25/106	Direct Debit: HMRC
	RESOLVED: To set up a direct debit to HMRC to allow the PAYE and NICs to be taken automatically.
25/107	Review of Standing Orders
	The Standing Orders had been revised based on the latest model produced by the National Association of Local Councils and had been circulated prior to the meeting. RESOLVED: To approve the revised Standing Orders.
25/108	S106 Funding
	The Village Hall Committee had advised that they intended to make an application to HDC for s106 funding for the following projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New front doors: to replace the old wooden doors with ones that would be more thermally efficient and secure; - New Flooring for the smaller room: replacement of the carpet with a more practical option that would be suitable for a wider range of users; - Improvements to the steps between the car park and the front door: the steps from the car park were each very high and not easy to use. RESOLVED: To support the Village Hall Committees application for s106 fund for the above projects.
25/109	Bank Reconciliation to 30 June 2025
	The RFO had produced a bank reconciliation to 30 June 2025 which had been circulated prior to the meeting. RESOLVED: To accept the bank reconciliation to 30 June 2025.
25/110	Summary of Payments and Receipts for Q1 to 30 June 2025
	A summary of the figures for quarter one had been circulated prior to the meeting. RESOLVED: To approve the summary of receipts and payments for quarter one.

25/111	Approval of Payments
The following payments were approved:	
	POWER TO SPEND
June Payroll	£613.92* LGA 1972 s111
July Payroll	£613.72 LGA 1972 s111
August Payroll	£613.72 LGA 1972 s111
HMRC - Q1 Tax and NICs	£87.85 LGA 1972 s111
Lloyds – account charge – taken on or before 18 th of each month	£4.25 LGA 1972 s111
Castle Water – water bill - taken by Direct Debit on around 21 st of each month	£6.58 LGA 1972 s111
Scottish Power – electricity bill - taken by direct debit on or around 23 rd of each month	£25.58 LGA 1972 s111
Larkstel – Bin emptying (June)	£226.09 Litter Act 1983 s5-6
Larkstel – Bin emptying (July)	£226.09 Litter Act 1983 s5-6
NJL Box Green – Grass Cutting (May)	£756.00* Open Space Act 1906 s10
NJL Box Green – Grass Cutting (June)	£703.20 Open Space Act 1906 s10
NJL Box Green – Grass Cutting (July)	£703.20 Open Space Act 1906 s10
Vision ICT – email/website hosting	£393.76* LGA 1972 s111
ROSPA Play Safety – Annual Inspection of Play Area	£134.40* LG (Misc Provisions) Act 1976 s19
Gary Bredin – reimbursement for Watering Bags for Trees	£27.99* Open Space Act 1906 s10
Gary Bredin – reimbursement for plants	£60.95 Open Space Act 1906 s10
Gary Bredin – reimbursement for keys for overhead barrier lock	£90.00 Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 s57
Alison Ball – reimbursement for signage and bin bags	£22.72 Open Space Act 1906 s10
Microsoft – Office Annual Subscription	£19.99** LGA 1972 s111
D M Payroll Services – April to September 2025 payroll	£75.00 LGA 1972 s111
JRB Enterprises – Dog Waste Bags	£76.68 Open Space Act 1906 s10
* Already paid – agreed by email and from within existing budgets ** paid by debit card	

25/112	Date of Next Meeting
	It was noted that the next meeting would take place on 8 September 2025.

25/113	Any Other Business
	<p>New information boards: The Clerk had been trying to get some quotes for an information board for the recreation ground. She was currently speaking to a local firm about the graphic design and would report back once this had been received.</p> <p>New Bin: A request had been received from a member of the public that consideration be given to installing a new bin mid-way between the recreation ground and the bin at the bus shelter on Church Lane. She had suggested around the phone box outside the pub might be a good location. Councillors felt that currently there was not a litter problem in this area and that an additional bin was not needed.</p>

The meeting ended at 11.30am

Signed.....

Dated.....