

# Everdon Parish Council

## Minutes of the Full Meeting of the Parish Council

Held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 6:30pm in the Village Hall, High Street Everdon.

### Present:

Councillors Kevin Nichols (Chairman), Ron Flounders, Shaen Linfoot, David Osborne, Keith Wilkins, Peter Bowman and Peter Cooper.

In attendance: Ruth Scott (Clerk/RFO)

### Minutes

1.	The Chairman welcomed attendees to the meeting and thanked them for attending.
2.	<b>Requests for dispensation</b> – none.
3.	<b>Public Open Forum</b> – A representative from the Outdoor Learning Centre (OLC) spoke in support of their Grant Application stating that to celebrate 50 years of the OLC they will be holding some key events and supporting this with publication of a book reviewing the last 50 years. They are linking up with the Village Hall and Fete Committees which are both also celebrating 50-year anniversaries in 2024. The books will be on sale during the Bluebell Teas. weekend. The total cost of producing 200 books is £2,800 and they will be sold at £15 each. The OLC is seeking sponsorship of £500 from the Parish Council and are also approaching local businesses for further sponsorship. Any profits will be credited to the 'Friends of the OLC' fund, which support disadvantaged children to enable them to enjoy a visit to the OLC.  A representative of the Village Hall Committee spoke in support of their Grant Application to create a multi-media commemorative wall hanging which will be produced by members of the community and which will hang in the Village Hall. It is hoped the wall hanging will represent all three key organisations in the village, to celebrate this milestone anniversary.
4.	It was RESOLVED to approve the absence of Councillor Willits (Personal) and Unitary Councillor Frost, who sent his apologies.
5.	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> – Councillors Nichols (Chairman) and Osborne declared an interest in Item 12 – the Outdoor Learning Centre Grant Application. Councillors Linfoot and Wilkins declared an interest in Items 11 and 12 relating to the Village Hall.
6.	It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2024.
7.	<b>Finance:</b> It was RESOLVED to approve the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. February 2024 Bank Reconciliation.</li><li>2. February 2024 Receipts &amp; Payments.</li><li>3. Subscriptions 2024-25</li><li>4. Payments, listed in Addendum A.</li></ol>
8.	It was RESOLVED to amend the Meeting Schedule for 2024-25, so the PC meetings on the 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2024 and 14 <sup>th</sup> April 2025 will start at 18.30.

9.	The Police Liaison Representative, Councillor Willits, provided a report which confirmed that Stephen Mold would be seeking re-election as Northamptonshire's Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner. The report highlighted the investments of £83 million and £10 million in the Police and Fire services, respectively. Crime and Fire related statistics were generally positive, with overall crime reducing and call outs being delivered in a timely manner. Overall front-line staffing would be increased within the 2024-25 budget.
10.	<b>Rural Settlement Hierarchy:</b> This item was combined and discussed under Item 15 on the agenda.
11.	Following the description by the Village Hall representative during the Public Open Forum it was agreed that the joint-venture Commemorative Wall Hanging sounded an exciting project which the Council should support.
12.	<p><b>Grant Applications:</b> The Clerk explained that as the two Grant Applications had not been received in time to be considered within the 2024-25 budget, as the PC's policy states these should be received in October of the preceding year, the Council could only consider the projects as part of the 2025-26 Budget or as special payments to be made under General Powers of Competency from Reserves.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to award £400 to the Village Hall for the Commemorative Wall hanging to be paid at the end of April from Reserves.</p> <p>The Clerk explained that the OLC bid did not meet the Terms and Conditions of the Grant Awarding Policy, however Councillors all expressed their support for the project, on the proviso that any surplus funds raised would be received by the 'Friends of the OLC'. It was RESOLVED to pay £400 from Reserves in May.</p>
13.	<p><b>Parking Issues:</b> There have been some complaints about inconsiderate parking outside The Plough particularly cars parking with two and sometimes all four wheels on the pavement.</p> <p>This has been raised with the PCSO who recommended actions which should be taken in respect of the above:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is not an offence to park on the pavement, but it is an offence to block a pavement, which is deemed to be blocked when access is obstructed for any person attempting to use it.</li> <li>• The definition of a person is not defined and could be a regular pedestrian, or someone pushing a wheelbarrow or riding in a wheelchair, for example.</li> <li>• If it is an emergency and access is blocked residents should call 999, otherwise for non-urgent situations, phone 101, alternatively get the vehicle details and ideally take photos to be emailed to PCSO Tara Cooksammy at <a href="mailto:tara.cooksammy@northants.police.uk">tara.cooksammy@northants.police.uk</a> and she will address it with the vehicle owners.</li> </ul> <p>There has been a complaint that the Green is being damaged by delivery drivers. Additionally, a small number of work vehicles where ongoing renovations are in progress has also impacted the appearance. It has been suggested a small fence be established on the perimeter, however, Highways have said that if the Parish Council does this and a vehicle suffers damage as a result, then the PC would be liable for the damage. The Parish Council do not want to proceed with a fence, but will monitor the situation. Complainants were asked to take vehicle registration details and report these incidents as above.</p>
14.	<b>Planning:</b> No update on any planning applications and no new applications.

15.	<p><b>West Northants Local Plan and the Rural Settlement Hierarchy:</b> The Chairman and Clerk attended a briefing for the New Local Plan. Previously there had been three plans, covering the three different Councils, and there is now a Consultation Paper on the new unitary West Northants' Plan, covering the period up to 2041. The plan is for thirty thousand new homes to be built in West Northants, the majority of the sites are already earmarked. The Clerk sent the link for the plan to Councillors last week and it is on West Northants website. The consultation will last for 8 weeks, the intention is for the plan to go to Committee by December 2024. West Northants have asked Parish Councils to complete forms updating the Rural Settlement Plan from the original information gathered in 2016.</p> <p>Councillor Linfoot will complete this form for Snorscomb, Councillor Osborne will do the same for Little Everdon and Councillors Bowman and Flounders will complete Everdon. The drafts will be sent to the Clerk for circulation to all Councillors by <b>20<sup>th</sup> March</b> with return comments by <b>26<sup>th</sup> March</b>. The Clerk will then collate comments and send to WNC by 2<sup>nd</sup> April.</p>
16.	<b>Correspondence</b> - None.
17.	The meeting closed at 7.30pm. The next full Parish Council meeting is <b>on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 6.30pm followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.15pm</b> in the Village Hall..

#### Addendum A:

#### Payments paid in February (Item 7.2)

Payee	Amount	Reason for Payment	Method	Powers
February Payroll and Expenses	£483.00	R. Scott's Salary and expenses.	BACS	LGA1972 s112
Yu Energy	£50.94	Streetlighting	DD	Parish Council Act 1957 s3.

#### Payments for approval to be paid in March (Item 7.4)

Payee	Amount	Reason for Payment	Method	Powers
CPRE	£36.00	Annual Membership	BACS	LGA 1972 s143
Yu Energy	£45.02	Streetlighting	DD	Parish Council Act 1957 s3.