

Everdon Parish Council

Minutes of the Full Meeting of the Parish Council

Held on 13th May 2024 at 6:30pm in the Village Hall, High Street Everdon.

Present:

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

Absent: Councillors Wilkins and Willits.

In attendance: Ruth Scott (Clerk/RFO)

Minutes

1.	The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.
2.	Cllr Nichols was re-elected as Chairman and completed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
3.	Cllr Flounders was re-elected as Vice-chairman and completed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
4.	Public Open Forum. A member of the public attended and inquired if 1 The Green had planning permission for the rear extension. The Clerk explained that Planning Enforcement had attended and determined that planning permission was required and had asked the owner/occupier to apply for retrospective planning permission. Unitary Councillor Frost attended and advised that Highways do seem to be responding to requests more now and is hopeful that things will improve. Due to a recent reorganisation at West Northants Council, Unitary Councillor David Smith's portfolio now includes Planning.
5.	Councillors confirmed there were no changes to their Register of Interest forms.
6.	Apologies – It was RESOLVED to approved apologies for absence received from Councillors Wilkins and Willits (Personal).
7.	Declarations of Interest – None.
8.	It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 8 th April 2024.
9.	Finance: It was RESOLVED to approve the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. April 2024 Bank reconciliation.2. April 2024 Receipts & Payments3. Payments listed in Addendum A and agenda items 17 and 19 to be discussed.4. The 2023/24 Annual Accounts Summary5. The Parish Council confirmed it retained General Power of Competency.6. Councillor Wilkins was approved as the continuing Internal Financial Controller7. The 2023-24 Continuing and Statutory Payments were approved.

10.	<p>Planning – No new applications.</p> <p>Application 2023/7521/FULL, Threeways has been approved.</p> <p>Retrospective planning permission must be submitted for 1 The Green’s rear extension.</p> <p>Works to a tree at 2 The Green 2024/1926TCA are still under consideration by WNC.</p>
11.	<p>The pathway sidings on the south side of the High Street have been cleared by West Northants Council and we await work to the north side to be undertaken.</p> <p>The Parish Council RESOLVED not to undertake any weed killing spraying this year, although it appears West Northants Council have already done some.</p>
12.	<p>The following Audit 2023/24 documents were reviewed and approved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Certificate of Exemption (by virtue of the council’s income being below £25,000), Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) 2015; 2. Section 1, Annual Governance Statement; 3. Section 2, Accounting Statement; 4. The Internal Auditor’s Report. 5. Explanation of variances. 6. The dates for the exercise of the Public Rights for 2023/24 accounts as 10th July 2024-19th July 2025. <p>The Council registered a vote of thanks for all the Clerk’s hard work resulting in an efficient and timely audit.</p>
13.	<p>It was RESOLVED to approve the following documents:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Asset Register 2. Standing Orders. 3. Authority delegated to the Clerk in terms of LGA 1972 S101. 4. Financial Regulations. 5. Finance Committee’s Terms of Reference.
14.	<p>The following Policies were reviewed and approved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. FOI Publication Scheme 2. FOI Complaints Procedure 3. Recording of Council Meetings 4. Press & Media Policy
15.	<p>The Police Representative supplied a report detailing a new Ticket Fraud Awareness campaign. The police are appealing for horse riders to become ‘Volunteers on Horseback’, for more information please visit citizensinpolicing@northants.police.uk.</p> <p>Car crime has increased locally and police urge owners protect their vehicles.</p>

16.	<p>The Clerk recently attended a webinar on switching to a .gov.uk domain and, although the government are not currently making this mandatory, it is advised to do so. The Cabinet Office is contributing £100 towards this. There are 10 approved suppliers and, Netwise, Everdon's website contractor is one of them. The net cost for the website domain change is therefore £10 and thereafter £60 per annum. Netwise also offer 10 Fleximail email accounts for £110 per annum. The Clerk compared the costs of 3 other approved suppliers, each offering a slightly different package, but given the excellent service received on the website for years, recommended Netwise as the preferred supplier for Everdon Parish Council.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to switch to Netwise for the provision of a .gov.uk domain and email accounts during the summer.</p>
17.	<p>Zurich Insurance has agreed to the replacement charges for the lamp post and Speed Indicator Device. Zurich has paid £3001 already and has committed to a further payment of £4,377 (not yet received in the bank account).</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to pay in the May payments, the Balfour Beatty invoice for £453.73(plus VAT) and National Grid invoice for £386 (plus VAT) for the emergency works required following the accident.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to engage Forde and McHugh to install the replacement lamp post at a cost of £2,865.</p> <p>Councillor Cooper will research the logistics of installing a solar Speed Indicator Device and will report back to Council.</p>
18.	<p>The Council RESOLVED not to undertake any refurbishment of the noticeboards as they were refurbished in 2020 and are in good condition.</p>
19.	<p>It was RESOLVED to approve the continuing contract with Zurich Insurance for 2024-25 at £485.49.</p>
20.	<p>Correspondence – None.</p>
21.	<p>The meeting closed at 7.30pm. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 6:30pm on Monday 10th June 2024.</p>

Addendum A: April Payments (Item 7.5)

Payee	Amount	Reason for Payment	Method	Powers
April Payroll and Expenses	£550.60	Clerk Salary and expenses	BACS	LGA1972 s112
NCALC	£575.91	Subscription, audit fee and ICO Officer fee	BACS	LGA 1972 s143
ACRE	£42.00	Subscription	BACS	LGA1972 s143
HGM (Luke Costello)	£264.00	Mowing Inv.524	BACS	HA1980 s96 (4)
Yu Energy	£46.90	Streetlighting	DD	Parish Council Act 1957 s3.

Payments for approval to be paid in May

Payee	Amount	Reason for Payment	Method	Powers
HGM (Luke Costello)	£264.00	Mowing Inv.548	BACS	HA1980 s96 (4)
ICO	£35.00	Data Protection Office Fee	DD	Data Protection Reg. 2018 s31
Leatherlands	£816.00	Plough Bench Refurbishment	BACS	LGA 1972 s111
Outdoor Learning Centre	£400.00	50 th Anniversary Celebrations Invoice 424002132785	BACS	LGA1972 s144
Zurich Insurance	£485.49	Annual Insurance Premium (Item 19)	BACS	LGA1972 s111
Yu Energy	£42.89	Streetlighting	DD	Parish Council Act 1957 s3
Balfour Beatty	£544.48	Repair to Streetlighting (Insurance Claim) (Item 17)	BACS	Parish Council Act 1957 s3
National Grid	£464.24	Repair to Streetlighting (Insurance Claim) (Item 17)	BACS	Parish Council Act 1957 s3
Everdon Village Hall	£400.00	50 th Anniversary Celebrations	BACS	LGA1972 s144