

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE **OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE** OF EVERSLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON **TUESDAY 21st JUNE 2016** IN EVERSLEY VILLAGE HALL AT 8.01PM FOLLOWING THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE EVERSLEY PARISH COUNCIL.

PRESENT: Cllr S Miller
Cllr K Neville
Cllr A McNeil
Cllr P Todd (Ex-Officio)

ALSO PRESENT: Cllr C Young and Mrs J Routley (Parish Clerk).

- 1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN,
(i) Cllr K Neville proposed Cllr S Miller as Chair and was seconded by Cllr A McNeil.

RESOLVED

Cllr S Miller was unanimously elected as Chair.

- 2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
None.

- 3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
(i) There were no declarations of interest
(ii) There were no written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests.
(iii) There was no need to grant any requests for dispensation.

- 4 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING
(i) The minutes of the meeting of the Open Spaces Committee held on **TUESDAY 19th APRIL 2016** had previously been circulated to all Councillors.

(ii) Errors

Min 90: line 1 delete 'tippig' and replace with 'tipping'.

It was **resolved** that with this amendment, the Minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman.

SM

(iii) Matters arising from previous Minutes

For ongoing actions (See Appendix A).

Min 78: CCTV The CCTV camera has been fitted at Chequers Green.

- 5 DIARY MATTERS
(i) Payback Team The visits are to be moved from the first 2 Sundays of the month to week days and to once a month from Sept/Oct. Councillors agreed to attend if the Chair was unavailable. It was noted that both the invoices from April were issued in error and the visit on 17th April should have been free of charge.

(ii) Fund Raising Event at The Kingsley

- Councillors noted the fund raising event for new playground equipment on the 17th July.
- The Chair is to talk to neighbours to ensure they are aware of, and happy with, this event taking place.

SM

- 6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
None.

- 7 TERMS OF REFERENCE,
(i) Councillors discussed amending the Open Spaces Committee's Terms of Reference to include consideration of Planning Applications and other planning matters of urgency. Cllr A McNeil would prepare a draft form of words.

RESOLVED

- To include Planning Applications and planning matters which are urgent and which cannot wait until the next Full Council meeting.

- 8 LITTERPICKER'S REPORT
 (i) The Clerk is to circulate the Litterpicker's report for **April and May 2016** to all Councillors.
 (ii) Councillors considered the need for the litter-picker to take on additional work to include maintenance of new barked areas and to water flower baskets.
RESOLVED
 To ask the litter picker to perform these additional tasks. **AM**
- 9 TREES, HEDGES, VERGES AND DITCHES
 (i) Verges It was noted that the verges around the village had been cut last week but that some junctions such as Hollybush Lane remained outstanding. David Simpson (HCCllr) asked that he be advised of any junctions that remained an issue and he would look into it.
Cricket Ground The new groundsman at ECC seemed confused about who was responsible for mowing the verges adjacent to the Reading Road. The Chairman confirmed that it was ECC and not EPC land and would therefore be their responsibility.
 (ii) Flooding. HCC Floodwater Management have written to residents at Lower Common asking them to clear their ditches and will follow up with a site visit in week commencing 27th June.
 Councillors suggested that EPC could consider setting up a Parish Flood Plan Working Group to map all the water courses. This may make landowners aware of how important their bit is to the overall network.
 EPC ditches around Lower Common. EPC owns the land from St Neots' back drive to the entrance to the play area at Lower Common and is responsible for the ditches around this land. The Clerk is obtaining quotes to clear these ditches which will be brought to Full Council. **5.7.16**
 (iii) Longwater Road A resident had reported that it was difficult to walk along the footway because of overhanging hedges. The Clerk has written to the properties concerned to alert them to the problem and ask that this could be rectified, taking into account nesting birds. Councillors are to verify whether this still poses an obstruction. **AM**
- 10 FLY-TIPPING
 (i) Lafarge Fly tipping at the Lafarge site on Welsh Drive is getting worse. HCC said they will inform Lafarge.
RESOLVED
 - EPC is to write to Lafarge to advise that the problem is getting worse and to ask them to clear the waste at their earliest convenience. EPC will also ask them to put in concrete blocks to prevent further tipping. The letter will be copied to Forest Enterprise. **Clerk**
 (ii) Thames Water there is more rubbish at the Thames Water site on Longwater Road.
RESOLVED
 - EPC is to write to Thames Water to report the fly tipping and asking them to clear it. **Clerk**
- 11 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY
 (i) ESA ESA has cleared the rights of way around their grounds. **PT**
- 12 CHEQUERS GREEN,
 (i) The Council discussed whether to allow a fitness group to use Chequers Green,
RESOLVED
 - EPC decided that it is happy to allow Chequers Green to be used by a fitness group. The Clerk is to inform them. **Clerk**
- 13 REPAIRS AND REFURBISHMENTS OF ALL PLAYAREAS,
 (i) In light of the Playground Inspectors assessment of the play area where he stated that some equipment was beyond repair, the quote for repairs and refurbishment had been reassessed. Instead of repairing much of the equipment it would instead have to be

removed. This would put the costs £500 over the amount originally approved, although there had been donations of £250 towards this. Fund raising had been taking place for new equipment for Centre Green.

RESOLVED

- OSC will need to inform Full Council of the variances.

5.7.16

14 PLANNING APPLICATIONS,

(i) The Council noted the following application:

(a) 16/01273/FUL Up Green
Erection of four detached dwellings (3x3 bed and 1x4 bed)

(ii) The Chairman gave a presentation of the details of the following applications to the Committee and after full discussion it was resolved to forward the comments, listed below to HDC,

(a) 16/01273/FUL Up Green
Erection of four detached dwellings (3x3 bed and 1x4 bed)

RESOLVED

- EPC Consultee Comment: Eversley Parish Council objects as the application is against policy as it is outside the settlement boundary. It will have an impact on the conservation area and traffic in Chequers Lane. EPC was also aware of ongoing drainage problems and any development would contribute rather than resolve them. EPC noted that these are the sort of sites which the Parish Council would be looking for when considering local plan allocations, so the objection is as much on grounds of prematurity as any other consideration.

(iii) Other Planning Matters

Marsh Lane Appeal A resident had asked whether EPC would be sending a representative to this appeal. Cllr P Todd confirmed that he would attend along with interested residents.

Urnfield Appeal It was noted that the Urnfield Appeal starts today and is likely to continue for at least a week. Cllr P Todd had reserved EPC's right to speak should it be required.

Chantryland The new owners of Chantryland have sent out formal letters to local residents notifying them that they are submitting a formal application to reduce the planning application from 6 to 4 dwellings.

15 ANY OTHER OPEN SPACES ITEMS OF INFORMATION

(i) The Clerk had nothing to report.

(ii) Councillors reported the following:

Damaged Picnic Benches Cllr S Miller reported that 2 of the recently acquired picnic benches at Cross Green had been driven into and damaged. EPC will put in an insurance claim for their replacement. It was suggested that a bund may be necessary to prevent this happening again.

Fishing There have been reports of fishing at Cross Green and of vans being parked overnight. It was noted that fishing is not permitted.

There being no further items for discussion the Chair closed the meeting at 9.45pm.

Chairman.....Date.....

The next Open Spaces meeting will be held on Tuesday 19th July 2016 at 7.30pm

APPENDIX A

Ongoing Actions List

<u>Public Rights of Way Evidence Forms regarding Bramshill Forest</u> Cllr P Todd is still to review the paperwork and write a cover letter for the form which clearly explains the claim.	PT
<u>War Memorial Cross in Churchyard</u> Cllr K Neville offered to voluntarily make the repairs if he could be compensated for materials. He is to look into what would be required.	
<u>Playgrounds</u> Cllr S Miller has taken pictures of all the play areas and the Clerk is to put these on the website.	Clerk
The Clerk is still to put the Rights of Way Map on the website and the notice board.	Clerk
<u>19 Kingsley Road</u> Cllr P Todd has spoken to the Ordinary Water Course Consenting Department (HCC) and this matter is now being looked into. Cllr P Todd is to chase Hampshire Estates on this matter.	PT
<u>Bluebell Wood</u> Cllr K Neville has taken photos in order to mark the routes on the map and will circulate to this committee.	KN
Cllr P Todd will talk to CEMEX regarding this at their next meeting.	PT
<u>Bus Stop by Kingsley Road</u> Councillors reported that the roof of the bus shelter has been damaged. Cllr K Neville offered to make the repairs required.	KN
<u>Flooding on Coopers Hill</u> The Chairman acknowledged that part of the ditch under the walk way at Up Green still needed to be cleared.	SD
Cllr C Young reported that Highways had stated that they would look at the culvert in the road and sweep Coopers Hill but have not yet done so. Cllr C Young had contacted HCC and pointed out that the culvert remained a problem.	CY
<u>Footpath 24</u> The Chairman had met the new owner. The Chairman felt it would be sensible to work with the landowner and the agricultural department at CEMEX to see if the levels could be restored before putting in a floating footpath. The Chairman is trying to arrange a meeting with the landowner and HCC Rights of Way. The Chairman and not received a response from CEMEX. It was felt that if the new owners cleared the ditches this would help towards to footpath.	SD
<u>Garden Plots.</u> To install the padlock on the gate.	SD/SM
<u>Up Green Restoration Project</u> The clearance work had highlighted where the footpath was and it was suggested that a gravel path could be laid all the way through. The SGS grant scheme is again open for applications.	SD
<u>Up Green Village Green</u> Since this matter now seems to be progressing through solicitors it was felt that it was not necessary to pursue protection options at this time. It was also noted that tenants are now respecting the Green and parking on the road.	
At the recent Full Council meeting it had decided there would need to be a long term management plan for this area. The Open Spaces Committee agreed to take on this task in collaboration with local residents.	OSC
<u>Hollybush Lane</u> It was noted that there are overhanging brambles along this lane. The Clerk is to write to the landowners and tenants.	Clerk
<u>Grants</u> The Chairman is to provide new councillor, Cllr M Hitchman with maps of all EPC owned land.	SD
<u>Replacement Bench</u> Full Council had approved the remainder of the cost for the replacement bench. The Clerk is to order this and it is to be sited by the pond at Cross Green.	Clerk
<u>Adverse weather</u>	
Cllr C Young will republish the Emergency Procedures.	CY
<u>Bluebell Wood</u> It was noted that the 'name tree' in the woods may now be a safety hazard.	
<u>Hollybush Lane</u> There is a tree down on the north side.	SD
<u>Grounds Maintenance Contract</u> This contract is to be reviewed again in May 2015.	
<u>Scrutiny flooding meeting</u> EPC has been informed that this meeting due to take place on 19 th January 2015 has been cancelled. The Clerk has asked to be informed of the rescheduled date.	
<u>Marsh Lane</u> Councillors need to assess the ditches by the pylons and the drains are now buried.	

Sherlock Lea The rubbish has still not been cleared. Thames Valley Housing Association has been out to assess but were unable to locate the rubbish. Cllr S Miller has provided photographs which the Clerk has sent. Thames Valley Housing Association is to be chased as to when they will take action.

Clerk

Village of the Year competition Cllr S Miller agreed to look into this competition.

Community Litterpick Councillors discussed the possibility of holding this in the summer. Cllr S Miller is to investigate this further.

SM

Chequers Green There had been a complaint from a resident about the pile of green waste at Chequers Green. This was as a result of the Payback Team's clearance and would be burned or cleared as a matter of urgency.

SD

Play Area Inspection Report It was suggested that goal posts may be donated by ESA and that a basket ball hoop may be sponsored by The Chequers Public House. Cllr S Miller is to investigate this further.

SM

Trees, Hedges, Verges and ditches It was noted that the New Council may wish to consider a tree survey on EPC owned land and will investigate costs.

SD

Longwater Lane The Clerk has to written to the land owner with the standard HCC hedge clearing letter.

Clerk

Firgrove Road There is an Alder tree on Firgrove Road that is rotten and could fall across the road. The Chairman is to log a ticket with HCC about this dangerous tree.

SD

Open Space Areas Consultation Cllr D Bradley had responded to this consultation. The Consultants had sent back a map to verify the different areas. It was noted that there were quite a few errors on their map which Cllr P Todd offered to address and respond back.

PT

Chequers Green Play Area It was reported that someone had been exercising their horse in the Chequers Green Play area and using some of the trim trail as jumps. This had caused much disruption with children and dogs that were also using the park. It was noted that horses should not be in there at all and that signage might be required. Councillors are to speak to the rider concerned.

SD

Hollybush Lane It was noted that the bushes are very overgrown. The Chairman is to speak with the tenant's agents to see what can be done.

SD

Footpath 15 It was noted that there should be a stile on this footpath but instead walkers have to climb over a fence. Cllr K Neville offered to investigate.

KN

Footpath 17 It was noticed that the hedges from 2 properties are overhanging this footpath by Charles Kingsley's School. Cllr S Miller is to investigate.

SM