

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE **OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE** OF EVERSLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 12th FEBRUARY 2019 IN EVERSLEY VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM

PRESENT: Cllr C Edge Chair (CE)
Cllr E Beckett (EB)
Cllr E Dixon (ED)
Cllr P Todd (PT)

ALSO PRESENT: Mrs J Routley (Clerk).

ACTION

- 71 Apologies for Absence
Apologies were accepted for Cllr S. Miller due to illness and Cllr K Neville due to work commitments.
- 72 Declarations of Interests
There were no declarations of interest.
- 73 Minutes of the Last Meeting
The minutes of the meeting of the Open Spaces Committee held on **MONDAY 15th January 2019** had previously been circulated to all Councillors.
Error: Min 59 delete 'and'
RESOLVED
That with this amendment, the Minutes be approved and signed by the Chair. **CE**
- 74 Public Questions and Comments
Hedges A resident had commented about how the flayed hedges on the A3272 looked thrashed and had not been cut back neatly. It was noted that HCC had cut them back but were not obliged to do so. If land owners took a more active interest in keeping them under control then the hedges would have a better appearance.
- 75 Trees, hedges, verges and ditches
Star Hill It was noticed that there was a tree overhanging the road. The Clerk with report this to Highways and notify the Hartley Wintney Clerk as it is within their area. **Clerk**
Surface Water The surface water near Yew Tree Cottage had been raised at the Flooding Meeting and HCC is looking into it.
Longwater Road It was noted that Longwater Road had flooded today there was an issue with flooding caused by the blockage of the overflow pipe from the pond. The pipe has collapsed and needs to be urgently repaired and is currently flooding Longwater Road and in front of Dial House. Given the risk of rain causing further flooding an urgent repair is needed to resolve the problem. Therefore under the Clerk's delegated power to spend up to £500 in an emergency, we have advised Aquaculture Ltd that an emergency payment of £400 is made to them to do the necessary work. (If the repair is not done in the next 48 hours then the pipe will collapse further and the cost to repair it significantly higher).
- 76 Fly-Tipping
Village Hall The Clerk is checking with the grounds maintenance contractor whether the overweight bin charges are from usual bin waste or from further fly tipping.
- 77 Public Rights of Way
Broken Gate on footpath 16 It was noticed that a gate was down on this footpath. The Clerk will contact the landowners and ask them to repair the gate. **Clerk**
- 78 Eversley Village Sign It had been noticed that the post for the sign was leaning.
RESOLVED
To approve up to £50 to either repair or replace the post.

- 79 Play Area Inspections
To review the visual inspections from Councillors and to decide any further actions.
RESOLVED
Councillors will complete the playground inspections and provide to the Clerk by the next meeting. **AM/CE/SM**
- 80 Annual Play Area Inspection
a) The committee reviewed the Annual Inspections.
RESOLVED
b) The priorities for repair work was agreed.
c) To approve costs of up to £2,100 for the repair work priorities.
- 81 Volunteer Group
RESOLVED
a) To approve the cost of up to £50 for grass seed and top soil for the bund at Cross Green if not fully replaced following the pond project.
b) To continue with the projects as agreed at the previous meeting.
- 82 Payback Team – There had been delays with the snow but it is hoped that the payback team will continue with their visits shortly.
- 83 Planning - To decide a response to the following:
COMMONS ACT 2006 – Schedule 2(6)
APPLICATION TO DEREGISTER COMMON LAND
YATELEY COMMON, BLACKBUSHE AIRPORT, HAMPSHIRE
APPLICATION REFERENCE NUMBER COM/3206697
EPC Comment: Eversley Parish Council objects to the application on the grounds that, whether or not the footprint of the building might qualify for deregistration, none of the other land covered by the application can be described in law as the ‘curtilage’ of that building. The land was properly registered as Common Land, having been Common Land since “time immemorial”, which is defined in law as being since before 6th July 1189. The registration has been ratified by the High Court.
RESOLVED
EPC is to write to the Inspector saying that EPC will not take up the opportunity for speaking or sending in a statement of case but will note the comments raised above (see Appendix B). **PT/Clerk**

There being no further items for discussion the Chair closed the meeting at 8.35pm.

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

**The next Meeting will be held on Tuesday 12th March 2019
at 7.30pm at Eversley Village Hall**

Appendix A

Ongoing Actions

63 **Trees, hedges, verges and ditches**

Up Green It was noticed that cars were parked outside the cottages at Up Green which is Village Green. It was also noted that a tree is leaning near to the road. The Chairman will meet with the Grounds maintenance contractor and assess. **CE**

The grounds maintenance contractor is to assess the tree and advise a cost to rectify.

The Fielders Councillors will check the state of the hedge at The Fielders and report back. **ALL**
It was felt that this hedge was not posing a problem at present.

64 **Fly-Tipping**

Kingsley Road To contact the housing association about the rubbish at the end of Kingsley Road. **AM**

65 **Public Rights of Way**

CK200 EPC will contact the CK 200 committee and ask if they will have any special needs on footpaths which EPC could address. **EB**

Appendix B

Clerk: Mrs Julie Routley Eversley Parish Council PO Box 1246 Yateley Hants. GU47 7FR	Chairman: Cllr Adrian McNeil
Tel: 01252 876924	0118 973 7953
Email: eversley.clerk@virginmedia.com	adrian@adrianmcneil.co.uk

15th February 2019

Common Land Casework Team,
Planning Inspectorate,
Zone 3E, Eagle Wing,
Temple Quay House,
2, The Square,
Temple Quay,
Bristol. BS1 6PN

Dear Madam / Sir,

re. **Application to Deregister Common Land at Yateley Common, Blackbushe Airport, Hampshire – Application Reference: COM/3206697**

Eversley Parish Council has resolved that it will not be represented at the Inquiry, due to start on 2nd April 2019 at The Elvetham, Fleet Road, Hartley Wintney, Hants. RG27 8AS Therefore, it will not be submitting a Statement of Case and Proof of Evidence. It will rely on its previous written submission.

EPC submitted the comments attached, as Appendix A, to the Commons Registration Team Office at Hampshire County Council. It has, now, resolved that:

- In respect of its first objection, EPC notes that the maps no longer show any of the Parish of Eversley included within the application site. Whether this is an amendment or the correction of a previous mistake, the change to the boundary means that none of the parish is now involved.
- In respect of its second objection, EPC notes that other objectors with far greater legal expertise and authority will be addressing the issue of “curtilage”. The Inquiry will be concentrating on whether the land was properly registered by the Commons Commissioners and whether that registration should have been ratified by the High Court. EPC will leave it to others to pursue the objection.

EPC, still, supports the objections raised by its parishioners; by the Yateley Town Council; and, by the Yateley Society.

Please find attached, as Appendix B, an interesting article written by one of the Eversley Parish Councillors, dated 2004, which mentions Blackbushe Airport. This is included as background detail and is intended to be for information only.

Yours sincerely,

p.p. Julie Routley, Clerk, on behalf of Eversley Parish Council

Copied to:

- Blackbushe Airport Ltd., c/o Laura Fuller, Burges Salmon, One Glass Wharf, Bristol. BS2 0ZX [including Robert Belcher and Peter Brown] (3 copies)
- Ms. Sylvia Seeliger, Countryside Access Team, Hampshire County Council, Castle Avenue, Winchester, Hants. SO23 8UL (2 copies)
- Ms. Kate Ashbrook, General Secretary, The Open Spaces Society, 25a, Bell Street, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 2BA
- Mr. Peter J. Tipton, Monteagle House, Monteagle Lane, Yateley, Hants. GU46 6LU
- Mr David Ashworth, Thriftswood, Stevens Hill, Yateley, Hants. GU46 6AY
- Cllr Adrian Collett, 47, Globe Farm Lane, Darby Green, Blackwater, Hants. GU17 0DY
- Mr John Burton, 38, Bloomsury Way, Blackwater, Camberley, Surrey. GU17 9LY
- Cllr David Simpson, 10, Bramley Lane, Darby Green, Blackwater, Hants. GU17 0BY
- Mr Peter Hall, 9, Kipling Close, Yateley, Hants GU46 6YA

THE WELSH DRIVE, EVERSLEY

The Welsh Drive is the local name for a long distance path that passes through the Parish of Eversley. It is a part of an ancient drove road stretching from areas in Wales, as far afield as Haverfordwest in Pembrokeshire, all the way to Ashford in Kent, south east of London. It is the southernmost spur of three main winter drove roads from Wales towards London, to deliver fresh meat for sale in the capital and Home Counties. Some parts of the route have been incorporated into the highway network, but, due to the drovers' need to keep away from enclosed farmlands and costly turnpike roads, many remnants of the historic course are found as simple Public Rights of Way. The route from the west passes through Riseley and Bramshill, entering Eversley as Bramshill Bridleway 7. In Eversley the route is registered as Eversley Bridleway 11. It continues out of the parish as Yateley Bridleway 16, which still runs diagonally across the runway at Blackbushe Airport.

The origins of some drove roads from Wales can be traced back to Roman times. There is 'place-name' evidence that suggests that Welsh drovers have transported cattle on particular routes across England since Norman times. Early references to Welshman's Roads and Lanes; Welsh Ponds and Pools ("pwls" in Welsh); and the names of some public houses, etc. hint at the existence of old drove roads. However, the first official, written evidence dates from the 14th Century, when the Cattle Fairs along the routes were given specific licences for particular dates.

West of Eversley, there was a Cattle Fair at Stratfield Mortimer on 6th November, each year. In 1804, when the commons and wastes of Mortimer were enclosed by Act of Parliament, the 'Fair-ground' was designated as "... *an area at or near a certain place called the Horse and Groom, not exceeding 20 acres, for the purpose of holding and keeping an annual fair called Mortimer Fair.*" A cattle fair was still being held there as recently as 1923. East of Eversley, there was a Cattle Fair at Blackwater on 8th November, each year. It was renowned as the largest cattle fair in the south of England. Cattle that were not sold continued to Farnham Cattle Fair on 10th November and onwards through Surrey and West Sussex to Cross in Hand, East Sussex, and eventually into Kent. The dates, above, demonstrate the pattern of days spent at a cattle fair separated by a day's driving of the cattle across open countryside between settlements. Along the route there were a number of guide marks, including clumps of pines to indicate the direction and distance to watering points and overnight pasturage. In Eversley there is still an ancient Scots pine, north of Bridleway 11, indicating that Church Farm fields, less than a mile away, might be used overnight, at a cost. Therefore, on 7th November, many hundred Welsh black cattle might be corralled there, before an early start to Blackwater Fair.

The droves were noisy affairs with many drovers whooping and hollering to keep the cattle moving and to forewarn locals to pen their grazing animals to prevent them being swept up in the moving herd. Droving culture began to fade out with the onset of the railways and of refrigeration, which meant that cattle no longer needed to be walked to market to ensure the freshness of the meat.

Some drovers continued using the historic routes into the early years of the 20th Century.

The Welsh Drive is a local reminder of an event that was part of an agricultural lifestyle perpetuated for hundreds, if not thousands, of years and it is a continuing reminder that we inhabit a truly 'Ancient Landscape'.

Philip Todd, for Eversley Parish Council
29th September 2004

The Commons Registration Team Office,
Hampshire County Council,
Room 0.01,
Castle Avenue,
High Street,
Winchester,
Hants. SO23 8UL

Dear Sir/Madam,

re. **Appl No 03/18 – Application to deregister part of Common Land CL24 at Yateley Common**

Representation made on behalf of Eversley Parish Council by Julie Routley, Clerk to the Council

The area of land which is the subject of this application is shown outlined in red on the accompanying map. Since this includes land within the Parish of Eversley, the Parish Council considers that it ought to have been formally notified, by Hampshire County Council, of the application on 24th August. This would have allowed Eversley Parish Council to respond within 42 days. Unfortunately, the Parish Council was only informed about the application at a late date and by a third party. The Council requested an extension of time to allow it to submit a formal response, but was only granted a three day extension.

Eversley Parish Council objects to the application on the grounds that, whether or not the footprint of the building might qualify for deregistration, none of the other land covered by the application can be described in law as the ‘curtilage’ of that building. The land was properly registered as Common Land, having been Common Land since “time immemorial”, which is defined in law as being since before 6th July 1189. The registration has been ratified by the High Court.

Eversley Parish Council supports the objections raised by its own residents; by the Yateley Town Council; and, by the Yateley Society.

Yours sincerely

(signature)

Julie Routley, Clerk to EPC.

Sent by e.mail to countryside@hants.gov.uk