



+ **EWHURST PARISH COUNCIL**  
WITH **ELLENS GREEN**

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EWHURST PARISH COUNCIL WITH ELLENS GREEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.

Minutes of the **Meeting** of the Parish Council held at

8.00 pm on **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

At The EYSC

**Present:** Cllr N Clowes (in the Chair), Cllr J Bloomfield, V Henry, M White.  
County Cllr L Townsend )  
Borough Cllr K Deanus ) both arriving at agenda item 008  
4 members of the public  
In attendance: The Clerk, Mrs J Cadman

001 (2023) **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** were received from Cllr J Lilley and L Tingley.

002 (2023) **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllr White declared as non pecuniary interest in agenda item 009 (2023) as a member of the Bowls Club.

003 (2023) **MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 21<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2022:** were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

004 (2023) **MATTERS ARISING**

*134 (2022): 1: Covid Boosters:* a second clinic was held at the Glebe Centre on the 12<sup>th</sup> January.

*142 (2022): Boundary Review:* The Clerk responded to the consultation and has heard no further.

*145 (2022)d: Ewhurst Green ditch:* the Clerk is seeking quotations. It is anticipated that the work should be able to be done by mid February.

005 (2023) **ADJOURNMENT:**

- a) *Verge at Ewhurst Green:* Cllr Henry advised that she and the Clerk were in constant dialogue with WBC and SCC regarding the remediation work needed.
- b) *Plough Lane:* the repair to the side of the road has broken up.
- c) *Bulletin:* it seems that a number of residents are not receiving it. The Clerk will investigate.
- d) *Road Closures:* there is as plethora of signs in the area, indicating road closures and road works where there are none. For example, on Shere Road, Lower Breache Road, and recently on Plough Lane.
- e) *Treetops:* Cllr Henry confirmed that there had been no update on this proposed development.
- f) *Firethorn:* concern was expressed regarding drainage from the new development at Firethorn. It seemed likely that groundwater would be directed to Cobblers Brook, which was already at capacity.
- g) *Glebe curtains:* these will be discussed at the next Glebe committee meeting.
- h) *Neighbourhood Plan:* the minor factual amendments to the made Plan will be carried out in the next week.
- i) *Windacres:* a resident noted that discredited evidence from consultants Shrimplin Brown had been cited in the objection to this development. Cllr Clowes said that this had been referred to as it strengthened the argument against the development. It was however agreed that the Shrimplin Brown site assessment document should be removed from the Parish Council website.
- j) *Communications:* residents asked for more information on Parish Council noticeboards and the website. It was noted that the website is still work in progress but it was hoped that a substantial move forward would be made in the next month.
- k) *Warm Hubs:* The Clerk clarified that the Parish Council offer was to provide a warm place to go in the

event of prolonged power cuts . The Baptist Church is planning weekly events throughout the winter, to go to for a few hours for warmth, companionship and warm food/drinks.

006 (2023) **THE PLANNING COMMITTEE :**

- a) *Minutes of planning meetings held 21<sup>st</sup> November and 19<sup>th</sup> December:* were noted and approved as correct records of these meetings. Cllr Bloomfield repeated his concern, voiced at the Planning meeting, that Wildwood's application for an access road to the forestry building had been refused as a planning application but accepted as a Non Material Application.
- b) *Planning update on meeting held 16<sup>th</sup> January:* Cllr Henry updated the meeting on the planning meeting held before this meeting.
- c) *Windacres – update:* Cllr Clowes reported on the recent appeal meeting and advised that a decision should be received this month.

007 (2023) **FINANCIAL REPORT:**

- a) Expenditure for November and December 2022: was noted and agreed
- b) Cost centre report to end December 2022: noted and agreed.
- c) Bank reconciliation statement to end December 2022: noted and agreed
- d) Members approved the budget and precept request, noting the following:
  - i. The band D tax base for the next financial year has increased from 1242.8 to 1254.8.
  - ii. Substantially increased utility costs and the need to provide for an election have had to be taken into account in considering the budget for next year.
  - iii. In order to be able to allocate a small amount of money to projects and contingency, members agreed to increase the precept from £105,000 in 2022/23 to £110,385 for 2023/24, an increase of 4% for a Band D equivalent property.
  - iv. The subsequent impact on a Band D property would be an increase from £84.48 to £87.97 for the Parish Council share of their council tax.
  - v. Approval of the budget and precept request was Proposed by Cllr Clowes, Seconded by Cllr Henry, all in favour.
- e) *Internal Auditor:* Members approved the appointment of Mulberry and Co as the Internal Auditors for 2023/24.
- f) *Financial Risk Assessment:* Members approved the document as tabled at the meeting.

008 (2023) **CIL PROJECTS**

The Clerk advised as follows: a number of potential projects had been identified, and were scored by the Finance Committee prior to the December budget meeting, using recognised scoring criteria, with the maximum score 50, as follows:

- i. EYSC car park resurfacing: 40
- ii. Bowls Centre car park resurfacing: 40
- iii. Recreation ground facilities: 39
- iv. Traditional finger posts: 34 (but unsure of eligibility)
- v. Telephone boxes for defibrillators: 38 (but unsure of eligibility)
- vi. Bowls club extension: removed from the list as too expensive a project
- vii. Resurfacing Williams Place: failed the eligibility test
- viii. Burial ground enhancement: 43

Members agreed to proceed to the next stage with the top 3 scoring projects: burial ground enhancement, EYSC car park resurfacing and Bowls Centre car park resurfacing. Proposed by Cllr White, Seconded by Cllr Bloomfield, all in favour.

009 (2023) **GRANT APPLICATION FROM EWHURST BOWLS CLUB.** *Cllr White left the room for this agenda item and took no part in the discussion or the decision.*

Members noted that the Club received an annual grant from the Parish Council of £3,000 and had carried forward a grant of 3,701 to this financial year, adding a further £3,000 to that. The bowls club door would cost £3,892. Members noted that the Parish Council grant was intended for both inside and outside Bowls, but the work requested was for outside work and agreed not to give a grant at present, pending any other essential work, but to review this decision in 6 months.

010 (2023) **WINTER EMERGENCY**

- a) Members received a report from Clerk on plans for a Warm Hub in the Glebe: Our County Cllr had kindly committed £950 from her personal allowance to this project. The calor gas storage container is in place, the heaters and cylinders on order. The Clerk is also arranging the other items agreed in order to provide a warm hub and support to people in their own homes.
- b) members received a report from Ewhurst Baptist church on their warm space, offering a warm place to go on a weekly basis during the winter, and agreed a grant of £200 towards this valuable service to the community.

011 (2023) **WEBSITE AND EMAIL UPDATE**

Deferred to the February meeting.

012 (2023) **VILLAGE HALL USERS MEETING**

The Clerk reported a very useful meeting with the main users of the hall, notes from which would be circulated, but advised that all main users wished the bins to be relocated back to the village hall entrance, from the car park, as crossing the road with rubbish and recycling is potentially dangerous. Members agreed that this should be done, in view of the health and safety issues.

013 (2023) **PARISH UPDATE FROM CLERK**

Members agreed to include an update from the County Cllr and Borough Cllr at this point.

*County Cllr L Townsend:*

- a) pinch points on Ewhurst Green: Section 106 money would be used for this potential project. The next step is to receive drawings from SCC Highways and then to consult with close neighbours.
- b) Pavement to the school: this work is funded and should be started shortly. Members noted and thanked her for the renewed white lines.
- c) Plough Lane: the side of the road is breaking up again. Cllr Townsend confirmed that this was a temporary repair and would be re-done properly later.

*Borough Cllr K Deanus*

- a) Cllr Deanus advised that SCC Highways had received 5,500 reports of road issues since the beginning of December, and were having to undertake temporary repairs in order to deal with the volume.
- b) Cllr Lilley had been in touch with him about signs in Ellens Green, which had been renewed and then vandalised. This is on the work schedule.

Cllr Clowes expressed his appreciation that they came to these meetings and gave the Parish Council their support.

*The Clerk*

The Clerk reminded members that the Parish Council term of 4 years came to an end this May and all members would need to stand for their seats. The election would be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> May if there were more than 9 candidates. She would confirm the timetable at the February meeting.

The Annual Parish meeting will be held in April. She would circulate suggested dates after this meeting.

- 014 (2023) **PARISH BUSINESS:** other matters to be noted or included on a future agenda
- a) *Village hall car park:* there are a number of potholes in the surface.
  - b) *Coronation:* Ellens Green is planning a street party, similar to that held for the Coronation. The Clerk anticipates that Ewhurst will do a concert on the recreation ground.
  - c) *Noticeboard:* Cllr Bloomfield reminded the meeting that he had offered to update the noticeboard in the centre of the village, but had no printer. The Clerk will print the notices and deliver them to him.
  - d) *Noticeboard on the Green:* is in need of repair.

015 (2023) **NEXT FULL MEETING ON THE PARISH COUNCIL: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February: EYSC. 8pm**  
**To be preceded by a Planning Meeting at 7.15pm**

The meeting closed at 21.59