



EWHURST PARISH COUNCIL

WITH ELLENS GREEN

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EWHURST WITH ELLENS GREEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.
Minutes of the **Meeting** of the Parish Council held at
8.00 pm on **Monday 16th June 2025 at the GLEBE CENTRE**

Present: Cllr V Henry (in the chair), Cllrs J Bloomfield, T Bloomfield, M Higgins, J Lilley
L Tingley
County Cllr L Townsend
1 member of the public

In attendance: The Clerk, Mrs J Cadman
The Assistant Clerk, Mrs J Luker-Brown

PUBLIC SESSION:

- i. *Newsletter:* In response to a query about plans for the newsletter, the Clerk explained that the Parish Council would edit and produce two editions of a newsletter in much the same format as the Village Society newsletter edited by Sue Handley, who had sadly died. In the newsletter would be a request for a new editor. As Mrs Handley had held all the information about the newsletter and the distributors herself, and it had not yet been possible to access this information, a new format had been devised which was very similar to the present one, but it would be a challenge to find all the distributors.
- ii. *Report from County Cllr:*
- a) *Community Asset Transfer:* to be pursued in relation to the Glebe and other Borough Council assets.
 - b) *Lights in the Glebe:* there had been a further visit by WBC regarding the solar lights, but no feedback to date.
 - c) *Local Government re-organisation:* the public consultation starts on the 17th June.

083 (2025) **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Were received from Cllr Clowes and Cllr White

084 (2025) **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None were made

085 (2025) **MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD MONDAY 19TH MAY 2025** were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

086 (2025) **ACTION LIST:** reports from Members and the Clerk

Date of meeting	Minute no	Action	responsibility
Jan 25	014iii	House on the Green	Clerk The Clerk has raised the issues with the Countryside Ranger
Feb 25	025iii	Ewhurst Charities	Clerk Copy awaited from Charities to go into the newsletter
Feb 25	027 iv	Tennis courts	TB Agenda item
Mar 25	Ps	Lights opposite hall	Clerk A letter has been written to the new owners
Mar 25	043	Thames Water work on the Green	MH Agenda item
Mar 25	044	Sewage Leak on recreation ground	Clerk Thames Water had a site meeting with the contractor on the 11 th

			June and details of the next step will be provided shortly
Apr 25	Public	WiFi to church and Glebe	JM Report attached to the minutes. Members agreed in principle to assist with funding the rollout, subject to receiving final costings and understanding the potential community benefit.
Apr 25	058vi	Ewfest	All councillors To agree on involvement. The Clerk will action

087 (2025) **MATTERS ARISING not covered by the Action List:**

055 (2025) Thames Water reinstatement of Green footpath: Cllr Higgins reported that Thames Water were hoping to start work the following week, he would try to obtain further information.

Glebe refurbishment: deferred to July meeting

088 (2025) **THE PLANNING COMMITTEE:** *Minutes of planning meeting held 19th May 2025* were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

089 (2024) **CIL COMMITTEE**

- a) Work on resurfacing the Recreation Ground car park and installing low level lighting had started the morning of the meeting. The Clerk had ensured that the car park was cleared and the company erected fencing to ensure that it remained clear for the duration of the work, for both vehicles and pedestrians.

090(2025) **FINANCIAL REPORT:**

- a) Expenditure for May 2025 of £56,380.75 was noted and approved. This included the electrical work in the Bowls Centre and the movement of £28,228.44, CIL monies received, from current to deposit account.
- b) Cost centre report to end May 2025 was noted and approved.
- c) Bank reconciliation statement to end May 2025 was noted and this and the bank statement were verified and signed by Cllr Henry.

Annual internal and external audit

- d) *Internal auditors report:* members noted the internal auditors report
- e) *Annual Governance Statement:* members considered and responded to the statements as set out, in conjunction with the Internal Auditors Report
- f) *Accounting statements 2024/25:* Members approved the statements in conjunction with the Internal auditors report.

91 (2025) **NEWSLETTER:** The Assistant Clerk had drawn up an example front page for a proposed newsletter. As advised in the public forum, the Clerk proposed that the Parish Council produce two newsletters, the first to be published in August and use the newsletter to seek a new editorial team.

She had received a quotation from the current printers of 20p per copy for black and white and 25p per copy for outside colour. Members agreed to the following:

- a) That the Parish Council will fund two newsletters initially, with outside colour, at an approximate cost of £300 for 1200 copies.
- b) That the Clerk will seek a second quotation and a decision will be made on which printer to use by email circulation
- c) That the Clerk and Assistant Clerk will edit and produce the newsletter, which will include a tribute to Susan Handley and copy from local societies and organisations.
- d) That the current printer will be asked if he holds a digital format that the Clerk could use.

092(2025) **Appendix 11: BUILD OUT ON THE GREEN:** results of survey. The average speed is 37mph, so too high to reduce speed to 30mph Members agreed to refer this to the CIL Committee to consider whether to recommend that the

Parish Council fund a second build out in order to reduce the speed limit, using CIL monies. A second build out to be subject to consultation.

093 (2025) **ENTRANCE TO BOWLS CLUB:** a quotation for repairing the surface of the access road had been received and a second will be sought.

094 (2025) **TENNIS COURTS:**

- a) The tennis professional had offered either a monthly tennis clinic or a more advanced doubles based clinic, both for a maximum of 8 players. He suggested that a monetary contribution was not a good option as the courts are free to all and there is no booking system in place.
Cllr T Bloomfield was of the view that the professional should nevertheless pay for his use of the courts, and proposed a fee of £10 per hour, to be paid retrospectively. This was agreed.
Cllr T Bloomfield will now contact the professional with this proposal, and will also seek confirmation of insurance and DBS status.
- b) The Clerk and Cllr T Bloomfield would devise and commission a durable notice, on posts, advising the use of the tennis courts.

095 (2025) **PARISH UPDATE FROM CLERK**

- i. *EYSC access:* following the incident last month, when the door had been accidentally locked whilst the Parish Council meeting was in progress, and it was not possible to get out, the Clerk had been in touch with the fire brigade, who had agreed to visit and give advice on safe access.
- ii. *Goodnight Mr Tom:* The Parish Council had received acknowledgement and thanks in the programme for this production.

096 (2025) **PARISH BUSINESS:** other matters to be noted or included on a future agenda

- a) *Picnic at Ellens Green:* to take place on the 21st June.
- b) *New Village Hall:* Cllr Mitchell has investigated the covenant on the allotments and suggested approaching the Diocese to see if they would agree to varying the covenant.
- c) *Bowls Club disagreement:* the Parish Council had been approached to mediate between the Bowls Club and Short Mat Bowls club, with a view to varying the lease.

097 (2025) **NEXT FULL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL:** , Monday 21st July 8pm at Ellens Green Memorial Hall

The meeting closed at 21.05

WiFi to Glebe and Church

Summary of Developments to Date

- In early 2025, Community Fibre confirmed the Glebe Centre is technically connectable, subject to civils and costings.
- The project was temporarily paused due to the withdrawal of BDUK funding, which had previously subsidised infrastructure in similar schemes.
- Paul Branson has now designated this as a special project within Community Fibre's internal planning process.
- Estimated requirements are approx. 30m of civil works to reach St Peter and St Paul's, and a further 10–20m to connect the Glebe and nearby sites.
- Survey packs have already been completed. Paul expects to provide full costings and options by the end of this week.

Resident Concerns: BT Copper Withdrawal

Parishioners, particularly at the Glebe, expressed understandable concern about the risk of losing BT landline services. They need not panic. Reassurances include:

- BT is under a Universal Service Obligation (USO) as set out in the Communications Act 2003 (s.65–72) to provide access to a functional telephone service across the UK.

- Ofcom guidance requires that *no premises* are left without voice service during digital switchover. Vulnerable users must be supported and provided with backup (e.g. for telecare).
- BT's own policy is that copper switch-off will only occur where a suitable alternative is in place. They have committed to maintaining services for vulnerable or isolated individuals, including at community facilities such as the Glebe Centre.

Parish Council Decision – 17 June 2025

The Council agreed in principle to assist with funding the rollout, subject to receiving final costings and understanding the potential community benefit.

Cllr Mitchell would now contact Paul Branson to discuss expected level of financial contribution.

Cllr Higgins would contact the school to see if they would welcome a fibre connection which with possible additional connections (e.g. other community buildings) might strengthen the case or reduce cost per site.

Use of CIL – Legal Basis and Justification

It was noted at our meeting that CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) funds may be an appropriate source for all or part of the required contribution. Cllr Townsend questioned this. Cllr Mitchell researched the point and believed that the Parish Council can allocate such funds.

Legal justification:

- Under Regulation 59C of the CIL Regulations 2010, parish councils may use CIL to fund:
“infrastructure or anything else concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area.”
- Fibre broadband infrastructure falls clearly within this definition, especially where:
 - Connectivity is poor or non-existent;
 - Demand is heightened by recent housing development;
 - The infrastructure serves key community assets (e.g. Church, Glebe, Wilson Room).

There is no requirement that the infrastructure be public sector-delivered. Funding works by a private provider like Community Fibre is permissible where the outcome supports local community benefit.