

MINUTES OF THE **ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY** OF THE ELECTORS OF EVERSLEY
HELD ON **THURSDAY 18th MAY 2023** AT EVERSLEY VILLAGE HALL AT 7.53 PM

PRESENT: Cllr Shawn Dickens (EPC Chairman)
Cllr Edward Dixon (EPC)
Cllr Susan Hughes (EPC)
Cllr Sandra Miller (EPC)
Cllr Philip Todd (EPC)
12 residents

ALSO PRESENT: Jo Street (Parish Clerk),

1. Apologies for absence

HDCCllr's Anne Crampton for personal reasons, Cllr Tim Southern and Cllr Spencer Farmer conflict with Hart Full Council.

2. Approval of the minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly of Thursday 24th March 2022

The Chairman explained that the minutes were available on the website.

No errors were reported, and it was **resolved** that the Minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman.

SD

3. Community Awards

The following awards were presented to;

BUSINESS AWARD – Lindum Nurseries

For their continued support to the parish of Eversley and the surrounding areas.

SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY – Morag Lamb

For her long service with such dedication to the residents of Eversley

LONG SERVICE AWARD – Philip Todd

For his long service with such dedication to Eversley Parish Council

EVERSLEY GARDENING CLUB

For their dedication to making the parish a brighter place to live

MATTHEW ROUTLEY

For his successful completion of his Duke of Edinburgh Award

4. A) Report from Cllr S Dickens – Eversley Parish Council

Cllr Shawn Dickens introduced himself as the Chairman of Eversley Parish Council and welcomed all present to the meeting (please see Appendix A for full speech). The Chairman introduced the Eversley Parish Councillors who were all successful at the previous months uncontested election.

This was an opportunity to hear what the Parish Council has been doing over the past year, and to let the Parish Council know what residents' concerns and priorities were for the coming year.

The Chairman commented that Eversley currently doesn't have a full complement of Parish Councillors, where it previously had. He was grateful to all the Councillors who continued to stand for the Parish Council. He also thanked Des Deane, Colin Edge and Kevan Neville for all their hard work, and wished them all the best for the future.

He also thanked the previous Clerk, Julie Routley, and the current Parish Clerk, Jo Street, for their hard work. He noted that Julie had managed the business of the council with thoroughness and attention to detail for a period of 11.5 years.

And finally, thanks to the people who support the parish council, particularly Sandra Miller for leading the Speed watch team; Nick Robins, who does so much to keep our green spaces tidy; Mike Hayward who keeps litter at bay; and Keith Morrison, who does little things in and around the burial ground to keep it tidy.

b) Report from Cllr Tim Davies – Hampshire County Council

Unfortunately, Cllr T Davies was held up in other meetings and was unable to attend.

5. Other Parish Matters for discussion

a) EPC Open Spaces Report

Cllr Sandra Miller introduced herself as the Chair of the Open Spaces Committee, and commented on the lovely open spaces that Eversley is fortunate to have. The aim of the committee is to ensure these spaces flourish over the foreseeable future.

There are several areas that Open Spaces are looking to either expand or improve over the following year. The initial project that they are looking at is to improve the pond area at Cross Green and called for any volunteers to assist with clearing the pond of weeds.

Other areas that are being looked at are the four play areas to ensure that they still meet the requirements of residents. She invited any resident who had any suggestions to contact her or any other member of the committee.

b) Opportunity to raise any issue for discussion

Chequers Green It was noted that there is a need for further play equipment and benches at this play area. This will be looked at during Open Spaces Committee meetings.

HGV's The state of the roads is of great concern, especially during winter when the mud on the roads can be significant. It was noted that many of the 1960's quarries are in the process of being filled in but Covid had slowed the process down. The RSPB will have a number of sites for bird sanctuaries once the backfilling has been completed.

Brickhouse Hill It was noted that the verges are very high along this road. It was suggested that gully's be dug to allow the water and mud to flow off the road and assist with flood prevention.

Sherlock Lea The hedges require cutting back along the path here. Many are out of the Parish Councils direct control. It was suggested that an article was placed in the Parish Magazine to remind residents of their obligations.

Kingsley Road It was noted that the bottom of the road always floods. The ditches aren't regularly cleaned out which would help alleviate the issue.

Anti-social behaviour It was mentioned that there is some anti-social behaviour in certain areas in the village. The Council would like to take the opportunity to remind everyone that anti-social behaviour isn't tolerated and will be actioned upon if it is persistent.

As there were no other matters, the Chairman thanked everyone for their contributions and for giving up their time to attend.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

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

Appendix A - Chairmen's Full Speech:

Hi good Evening I am Cllr Shawn Dickens the Chair of Eversley Parish Council, please be seated.

1) Dear friends, I hope you are all well and enjoying the refreshments and introducing yourselves. You are welcome, to continue discussions after the meeting.

2) Let's all be seated and we will start with the agenda.

Eversley Parish Council

Chair's Report for 2022 – 2023; Cllr. Shawn Dickens – 18th May 2023

Well, we have had a busy year, we returned on May 22, and our Chair resigned after long service. Little did I know I would take the hot seat, nor did I know in this same year I would need to find more willing councillors. I got my black book out and I emailed people and past councillors, I had rejections, and I bumped into one in a curry house, they cannot hide.

Eventually, we were again 8 councillors' a miracle! If it did not rain but poured, our long-serving clerk of 11.5 years called me to say she had accepted a full-time role. I congratulated her, not thinking of the consequences. Panic came over me, I thought let's get recruiting because I cannot clerk, what do I know about the official process? Did I know I would also see issues arise about this village hall, then gosh 4th May included this council being up for election.

After the election, once again, without our full compliment of eight councillors. We were sad to find Cllr Deane, Cllr Edge and Cllr Neville decided not to stand at the recent election. This has now resulted in five Cllrs being returned unopposed for the coming four years.

We really need more responsible people to come forward as Councillors, although we do have a quorum to continue functioning.

So much has been achieved by volunteers, I apologise if I miss anything or anyone.

2. Reflecting on the past year:

- What were the key accomplishments of the parish council in the past year?
 - Ran a successful recruitment process and recruited a new clerk Jo Street
 - The Village Gateway Project was implemented.
 - Eversley is about open space, The OSC committee under Sandra as chair soon picked up the pace again.
 - In the Dynamo team, I had Sandra and Susan wanting to get on with things!
 - Susan led getting up a Gardening club doing wonderful things.
 - Sandra made us all turn up at a pond working group. Little did we know we would wear waders and well it was all fun.
 - We had litter picks creating a cleaner, tidier village.
 - The council was a sponsor. Of a wonderful Coronation celebration community event, with councillors involved, organising, and attending.
 - The village hall became in jeopardy, forced to close. Supported by councillors I as chair worked with leaders in the community to resolve the matter.
 - The council on average assesses 80 planning applications per year. Whilst many are extensions and changes to properties. We look at neighbours' comments, focus on objections and in light review what's best to comment.

3. Recognising members of this council, past and others

- I thank returning councillors Ed Dixon, Susan Hughes, Sandra Miller and Philip Todd
- I thank Des Deane who moved recently out of Eversley. Colin Edge who had been OSC chair and helped with personnel matters. Kevan Neville helps get things jobs done.
- My thanks also go to Jo, the new Parish Clerk, who has got up to speed quickly.

- And finally, a big thank you to the people who support the parish council, particularly Gareth Rees for helping the Speedwatch team; Nick Robins, who does so much to keep our green spaces tidy and free of litter; Mike Hayward who keeps litter at bay; Mike Baldwin, the editor of the Parish Magazine who is working with the Council to provide information about what the council is doing or plans to do; and Keith Morrison, who does little things in and around the burial ground to keep it presentable.

4. Goals for the upcoming year:

- What are the council's main objectives for the coming year?
 - Progress affordable housing project, with a pre-application for affordable housing imminent
 - We will be more community engagement, which was lost through covid.
 - Newsletter
 - Survey of needs
 - Projects for the village
 - Costed burial ground extension.
 - New SANG at Marsh Lane should be opened by land trust

5. Community involvement:

- Can we encourage greater community involvement in council activities?
 - The truth is yes, come join us.
- We will promote upcoming events or initiatives where community participation is crucial.
- Hopefully, get one village event per year

6. Conclusion:

- We will be more community-resident-focused.
- We hope you can help us with new ideas.
- To achieve a sense of unity, pride, and optimism among the community members?

Thank you all for listening. Recently this week re-elected as Chair I hope, I will hear from you and get your support over the next year.