

MINUTES OF THE **ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY** OF THE ELECTORS OF EVERSLEY
HELD ON **THURSDAY 25th April 2024** AT EVERSLEY VILLAGE HALL AT 7.43 PM

PRESENT: Cllr Shawn Dickens (EPC Chairman) Liz Batup
Cllr Edward Dixon (EPC) Susan Kendrick
Cllr Susan Hughes (EPC) Ann Pepper
Cllr Sandra Miller (EPC) Mike Hayward
Cllr Philip Todd (EPC) Mike Baldwin
Cllr J Barnett (EPC) Patricia Lambert
Chris Young Malcolm Benjamin
Sheila Young Margaret Benjamin
Ian Sutherland Steve Kersley
John Spencer

ALSO PRESENT: Jo Street (Parish Clerk), PC Kirstie Bough and PC Adam Foxwell

1. Apologies for absence

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

Nick Hughes (Development Manager, English Rural) and HART officers Nicola Harpham and Gemma Watts also sent apologies.

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;

SPECIAL THANK YOU – Mike Hayward

A special thank you to Mike for doing an amazing job clearing the litter from around the village. A testament to how little litter was found during the previous weekends Spring Litter Pick.

SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY – Liz Perry

Her brilliant organisation skills and commitment to running and organising the Eversley and Bramshill Annual Show are outstanding. Last year's show was an outstanding success. Although Liz has a committee which meets during the year, Liz is the engine of the show, which enables it to run very smoothly. She is also the President of the Eversley WI, which again benefits from her brilliant organization.

SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY – Mike Baldwin

For his hard work and dedication to the Eversley and Bramshill Parish Magazine, and all his help with the Rights of Way booklet.

LONG SERVICE AWARD – Nick Robins

For his long service with such dedication to Eversley Parish council and to the community of Eversley.

SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY – Sandra Miller

There were several nominations from residents, centring around Sandra's community work outside of the Council. She worked hard to get every grant and secure the funds required to secure the future of the Village Hall. Without her dedicated hard work over several years, we wouldn't have the Hall that we are now all so proud of. Sandra also came second in the NALC's Councillor of the Year Awards, which is an amazing achievement. Well done Sandra.

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. The Chairman introduced the Eversley Parish Councillors and the two Police Constables.

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 it has been another busy year for the Council. With so many wonderful community groups in Eversley, it has been a privilege to spend time with some. The highlight was the Coronation Picnic, celebrated outside here at the Village Hall with a fantastic community vibe. Many thanks to all the community groups who helped in the organisation and assisted in making it the success it was.

The Chairman gave an update on the Burial Grounds Extension commenting that it is a slow process, heavy in paperwork, and stated we are currently waiting on the Environment Agencies comments. He also gave an update on the Affordable Housing Scheme, which is made up of nine homes comprising of two one-bedroom maisonettes, four two-bedroom houses and three three-bedroom houses. This scheme is exclusively for Eversley residents so we would urge anyone interested and eligible to register with the Hart District Council Housing Team.

Eversley still doesn't have a full complement of Parish Councillors. He was grateful to all the Councillors who continued to stand for the Parish Council and commented that we currently have two vacancies. He thanked Kevan Neville for all his hard work and wished him all the best for the future.

He also thanked the Parish Clerk, Jo Street, for her hard work. He noted that Jo kept the Council correct in procedure and for getting the Council through the previous clear audit.

And finally, thanks to the people who support the Parish Council, particularly Nick Robins, who does so much to keep our green spaces tidy; Mike Hayward who keeps litter at bay; all groups of volunteers who help with our events; the Gardening Club; our working groups, Speed Watch and Affordable Housing; and Lindum Nurseries for all the plants that they have donated to the village.

b) Report from PC Kirstie Bough – Hampshire Police

PC Bough explained that she is part of the Neighbourhood Team and is the Neighbourhood Bobby for all of Hart Rural, which is a huge area. They are based out of Yateley Police Station, and will do their best to assist wherever possible.

With assistance from colleagues, such as PC Foxwell, any major issues that occur in this area will be up to PC Bough to act upon. She advised that her email can be found by searching for your designated neighbourhood bobby.

PC Bough commented that they rely on people reporting issues and intelligence on what's going on and so requested any concerned resident to report by calling 101 or 101 online. She asked for residents not to email any specific concerns directly to her but to use 101 as they are then triaged to the best person and could be acted upon more promptly if PC Kirstie is away from her desk.

Reporting allows the Police to build up a bigger picture of what's occurring, allowing them to target times when they could catch offenders. The more reports they receive the better, so please don't give up on reporting.

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 have focused on over the past year, including weed maintenance and clearance at the pond. The aim was to increase the health of the pond and were able to investigate and successfully eliminate a blockage to the flow of the water. Thank you to the pond volunteer group for their hard work and the community payback team. If you would like to join the pond volunteer group, please do let the Clerk know.

Other successfully completed projects include new benches installed at Cross Green and Chequers Green; planting of Cherry trees at Cross Green; and the wildflower area at Cross Green.

Projects that are currently ongoing include the new safety surface and fencing at Cross Green play area; a new Fitness Trail to be installed at Chequers Green play area; and working in conjunction with Hampshire County Council to alleviate flooding in several areas around the parish.

b) Opportunity to raise any issue for discussion

Chequers Green It was queried at the Council's decision to install a Fitness Trail at Chequers Green. The Council did canvass opinion in the area and a need for equipment for older children. A Fitness Trail existed in this area previously so a decision to reinstate one for this age group and adults was agreed upon.

Community Bus With many older residents able to drive but eventually may not be able to, and little in the way of amenities, can we invest in a community bus scheme? There

are several other schemes set up in the area. The Council will investigate whether they could be extended to include Eversley.

Burial Ground Extension How is the project going to work, has the Council purchased the land? Is there enough space for enough burials to occur until the project is complete? The land is due to be gifted to the Council for the purpose of this project. We are trying to ensure that there is space for any burials as well as trying to progress this project as promptly as possible to ensure all can be buried there who are eligible.

Affordable Housing Who owns the capital to build this scheme? What are the eligibility parameters? Who sets them? Central Government holds the capital. EPC has identified the need for this scheme, which is run by the not-for-profit company English Rural. They will do the planning and HDC will then provide EPC with a list of eligible people to approve. English Rural will then manage the new homes and residents.

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.....