

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF EVERSLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT CHARLES  
KINGSLEY SCHOOL AT 7.33pm ON TUESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2025

PRESENT: Cllr S Dickens (SD) (Chairman)  
Cllr S Hughes (SH)  
Cllr S Kendrick (SK)  
Cllr S Stephens (SS)  
Cllr S Miller (SM)  
Cllr E Dixon (ED)  
Cllr P Todd (PT)  
Cllr E Batup (EB)

ALSO PRESENT: Dr A Crampton (HDCllr), Tim Davies (HCCllr), 50 Members of the Public, and J. Street (Clerk)

*Abbreviations:*

HDC – Hart District Council

HCC – Hampshire County Council

EPC – Eversley Parish Council

**ACTIONS**

27 Apologies for absence

None were received.

28 Declarations of Interest

None were received.

29 Approval of the Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting of Eversley Parish Council held on **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025** had been previously circulated to all Councillors.

**RESOLVED**

That the Minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman.

**SD**

30 Public Questions and Comments

Neighbourhood Group – There is some confusion as to why a Neighbourhood Group is needed if it is going to take a minimum of 18 months. It may not help us to prevent the currently proposed developments, but it may assist in preventing any future applications developers may make.

Marsh Lane – What was learnt from previous projects such as that at Marsh Lane that failed. The developer knew at the time that they weren't going to obtain permission for their proposal as HDC's Local Plan was secure at the time.

Pre-application comments – Why does EPC not comment on pre-applications. The proposal put forward by developers in a pre-application firstly isn't a full proposal and is therefore difficult to comment on. It also runs the risk of enabling developers to understand your concerns allowing them the opportunity to mitigate them in their full application.

HDC – Is HDC in favour of these plans. Not necessarily, but HDC needs to find space for more housing. They are having to re-write their Local Plan as Central Government have increased housing numbers from roughly 250 new homes per year to over 700 new homes per year. Over HDC's 5-year build plan this therefore leaves them approximately 1,500 homes short.

Amenities – There are concerns over loss of privacy, increased flooding and lack of amenities within the village to support new families. If the loss of privacy relates to the Hollybush Farm scheme then EPC is aware that the proposed houses behind those already located along the Reading Road, have been moved on the submitted designs. EPC and the developer have been working on a Rural Exception Scheme of 9 homes there, but the submitted proposals are different to those agreed. EPC is working with the developers to correct this which should help with the loss of privacy.

Berkley Homes – How cynical is it from Berkley Homes that they're calling it the Yateley Gap and the Yateley Consultation and not Eversley. Very! We have requested both directly to the developers and through HDC that they remedy this, but no apology has been made or changes made. Please attend the Public Consultation being held at The Tythings in Yateley on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

Other possible development sites – Concerns there may be other possible sites within Eversley that may also be vulnerable to development. A Neighbourhood Plan would assist in preventing additional and future unwanted developments.

Amenities – With the sheer number of housings proposed, how will they be supported with limited resources. This needs to be discussed, ideally by being raised at planning meetings with the developers. Schools and traffic issues may be out of our control, but EPC may be able to put other requests into the developers. Please forward any suggestions to [clerk@eversley-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@eversley-pc.gov.uk)

Responses – As no response is to be made to the pre-applications, would you suggest leaving feedback to the developers' public consultations. It is each resident's choice at whether they decide to leave feedback or not.

Neighbourhood Plan – How fast can a Plan be produced, one year? Possibly but the faster it takes the greater the risk that something important could be missed.

Housing – There is a difference in scale between Eversley and Yateley. Incrementally another 600 homes wouldn't be much to Yateley but is a massive increase to Eversley. Yes, absolutely and if HDC currently have a Local Plan it would have assisted us but unfortunately that isn't the case.

Government – If from Central Government down to local level's housing numbers are being increased couldn't the Neighbourhood Plan be used to make sites look as poor as possible to prevent development. It's not really the idea of a Neighbourhood Plan. However, ideas such as this may be best discussed at the volunteers meeting on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at the Village Hall at 7pm.

Neighbourhood Plan – Can the Neighbourhood Plan be used to fight off development within our village. No that's not what the plan is for.

Warbrook Lane – Is there any update on the ditch re-instatement in Warbrook Lane. No we haven't heard anything more. The Clerk will chase HCC.

Firgrove Lane / Marsh Lane junction – This junction is getting worse and becoming dangerous. There is concern that a major accident will happen there, can a roundabout not be installed there instead. This would need discussions with HCC. EPC has had previous discussions with HCC and HDC over a change of the road layout there as part of a cycleway programme from Yateley to Eversley Centre but this project seems to have stalled.

31 Hart District Council / Hampshire County Council

HDC – HDC's new Local Plan has not been started yet. They are waiting for some new legislation to be published that will affect the Local Plan process. The new Local Plan is expected to be finalised by 2028. The Local Government Reorganisation process is still ongoing and is also expected to be concluded by 2028, possibly with a shadow unitary council in place by 2027. There may be several proposals submitted to Government for them to consider. HDC prefers that of four Unitary Councils across Hampshire, with HDC merging with Rushmoor and Basingstoke and Deane. HCC's preference is for three Unitary Councils across Hampshire. This would mean another Council, such as Test Valley could be included. HDC is also investigating whether they may have any funding available for legacy projects across the District before HDC ceases to exist.

HCC – HCC are planning to open a consultation on lane leasing (where utility companies are charged to dig up the roads. Hopefully this will encourage them to work together and decrease the number of individual street-works that we currently see) this autumn. HCC encourage all residents to comment on this consultation when it happens. Hampshire Highways have also been requested to check the pathway across Chequers Green, who have confirmed that they will investigate.

32 Financial report

The Responsible Financial Officer's reconciliation for May 2025, the schedule of payments for June 2025, and the supporting bank statements had been previously circulated.

**RESOLVED**

- The reconciliation for May 2025 was accepted.

- The schedule of payments for June 2025 was accepted.
- The supporting bank statements were accepted.

33 Policies

The proposed policy was previously circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting.

**RESOLVED**

The IT policy was reviewed and approved.

34 Internal Audit

The Internal Audit Report for 2024/25 had been previously circulated. The Council reviewed the report and noted that an error had occurred on a DPI which is in the process of being corrected. The Council thanked the Clerk for her work on completing a successful Audit.

**RESOLVED**

To accept the Internal Audit report for 2024/25.

35 Annual Governance & Accountability Return 2024/25 – Part 1

Copies of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return 2024/25 had been circulated to all Councillors.

**RESOLVED**

- The Council confirmed that it had reviewed the effectiveness of internal controls at the Full Council meeting on Tuesday 4th March 2024 (min: 138). It confirmed this assertion again in light of the Internal Audit.
- To approve the Annual Governance Statement 2024/25 and sign the form.

The Statement was duly signed by the Chairman & the Clerk.

**SD/Clerk**

36 Annual Governance & Accountability Return 2024/25 – Part 2

The Accounting Statements 2024/25, statutory year-end accounts, plus supporting documents were reviewed by the Council.

**RESOLVED**

- To approve the Accounting Statements 2024/25 and sign the form.

The Statement was duly signed by the Chairman.

**SD**

37 Exercise of Public Rights

The Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer had circulated details of the Exercise of Public Rights and a copy of the notice to be displayed on the day before the exercise period commences.

**RESOLVED**

To confirm the period for the exercise of public rights as Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2025 to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2025. The notice was published on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

38 Conflict of Interest

The Clerk had circulated details of the Conflict of Interest with BDP LLP form. All Councillors and Clerk confirmed that there was no conflict of interest with BDP LLP.

39 Road Safety and Traffic Working Group

**DEFERRED**

It was suggested Cllr S Kendrick coordinates the activities of the Group with the Clerk to take on the admin for this Group. The Clerk will work with Cllr S Miller to investigate the plausibility of this idea.

40 Neighbourhood Plan

EPC would like to thank all residents who took the time to come to the meeting.

**RESOLVED**

Significant interest in this plan was shown by residents and therefore EPC will add this to the next Full Council Agenda. Residents are reminded of the meeting being held for interested volunteers at the Village Hall at 7pm on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

41 Burial Grounds Extension

The proposed project schedule was previously circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting.

**RESOLVED**

It was decided to continue working towards being able to submit a pre-application for this extension project. As the next step is to complete a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA), the cost of £3,250 + VAT for it was approved.

42 Planning Applications

To decide a consultee written response on the Planning applications as follows:

1) REF: HCC/2024/0088 Busta Triangle (Eversley Quarry), Coopers Hill

The importation of inert materials to deliver a long-term sustainable restoration landform to enable the establishment of high-quality nature conservation habitat and commercial forestry, including for the maintenance and use of existing points of access to and from Eversley Quarry and the establishment and use of ancillary facilities.

EPC Consultee Comment: EPC welcomes the restoration of the site but would prefer to see a greater proportion of native broad-leaf trees rather than just the conifer trees currently proposed. EPC also feels that the filling of both the north and south sides of the Welsh Drive could leave it liable to flooding therefore causing it to become impassible after significant rainfall. EPC would request this issue is investigated and mitigating factors put in place to prevent the flooding of this historic right of way. EPC would also request that the operator assists with other village projects in mitigation for the increase in lorries that would occur during the infill process.

2) REF: 25/01054/HOU Near Water, Lower Common

Erection of a single storey front extension to create larger garage and roof extension to create more useable space to roof

EPC Consultee Comment: No comment

3) REF: 25/01014/HOU General, Paul's Field, Eversley Centre

Conversion of a ground floor room (communal room) to a self- contained one-bedroom ground floor flat

EPC Consultee Comment: EPC is in support of converting unused space that can provide a home for someone in need.

There being no further items for discussion the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:34pm.

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

The next Full Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2025.

**Forward Plan**

Date	Meeting
1 <sup>st</sup> July 2025	Full Council Meeting
8 <sup>th</sup> July 2025	Open Spaces Committee Meeting
2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2025	Full Council Meeting
9 <sup>th</sup> September 2025	Open Spaces Committee Meeting