

Evenwood & Barony Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held Tuesday, 11th April 2023 at 7.00 pm,
Randolph Community Centre, Stones End, Evenwood, Bishop Auckland DL14 9RE

Present: Cllr B Nicholson, Chairwoman
Cllr J Cosslett
Cllr A Deakin
Cllr A Lyons
Cllr B Maude
Cllr B Medhurst
Cllr E Pettit
Cllr R Spraggon
Cllr R Webb

23.32 To INVITE COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present.

23.33 To ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies from Cllr R Bolden and Cllr M Prince.

23.34 DECLARATION OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no declarations of interest.

23.35 To CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed accordingly.

23.36 To CONSIDER COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

- It was confirmed the Welfare ground drains have been repaired at a cost of £4,380.
- Allotment rents were received on 1st April 2023 and it was proposed that a donation is contributed towards Christmas lights; this item will be included on the June agenda.
- It was suggested that road plainings be obtained for the Centre. It was suggested that DCC be asked to supply some and Cllr Cosslett agreed to investigate that option. It was also suggested that Rainton MGL Construction be contacted to obtain a quote for provision and laying; Clerk to enquire.
- It was reported that a swing at the Welfare Ground is broken and needs to be removed. Clerk to make enquiries about suitable companies to supply a replacement.

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- Cllr Cosslett agreed to raise issues highlighted regarding local garages, bollards on DCC grass area at end of Swan Street and obtain details of a private landlord for COOP building as there is a gas meter and coping stones reported as loose.
- It was advised that the rubbish left on a vacant allotment has not yet been cleared by the previous tenant and it was resolved that for this year the new tenant will have free rent. It was also resolved that the previous tenant should be held to account and another written request for him to clear all rubbish he left at the earliest convenience. Clerk to write.
- Due to the resignation of Cllr Sewell, the Parish Council were asked for a replacement to represent the Parish Council Lands Village Hall Association. There were no volunteers and it was suggested that a poster be produced to advertise the two Lands vacancies.
- It was advised that there is a meeting next week for the Emergency Plan groups and a funding request will be submitted to support the plan.

23.37 CLERK'S TABLING OF CORRESPONDENCE/ENDORISING OF INVOICE CHEQUES

Correspondence received was tabled and payments endorsed for invoices as follows:

	Received	Paid
Anglian Water		£239.23
HMRC Reimbursed VAT	£2,242.00	
Welfare Ground Drains		£4,380.00
Allotment rents	£2,410.00	
Clerk's salary		£1,036.80
Cricketers' Pavilion Hire Fees	£500.00	
Precept & Grant	£59,320.38	
CDALC Subscription		£326.22
Annual broadband		£120.00

- The year end accounts were approved by those present in preparation for internal and external audit.
- A resident's request to remove shrubs and plant flowers around the memorial area at the top of Devonshire Place was considered. It was advised that the resident is willing to maintain a planted area but, as shrubs cannot be pruned until August after the nesting season, it was resolved that the shrubs will be pruned in the Autumn to make the area more presentable. It was highlighted that the removal of all shrubs could encourage unwanted vehicular access.
- A report from a recent Jacob Wright's Cottages Trustees' Meeting was submitted by Cllr Bolden and acknowledged as read by those present.
- Further to recent slanderous comments on Face Book and criticism of the Parish Council's management of the Welfare Ground's pavilion by a footballer's user-

Chairwoman's Signature..... Date.....

group representative, it was resolved that Smith-Roddam solicitor be approached for advice on an appropriate response and possible disposal of the Welfare Ground.

23.38 To CONSIDER LOCAL ISSUES TO REPORT TO DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

- It was reported that there are potholes at High Lands between properties 9-22 and 44-48. Clerk to action.
- Concerns were raised about the amount of dog faeces on the path between Evenwood and Cockfield, especially around the area adjacent to the Esperley road crossing. Clerk to request a new dog waste bin and report faeces to Community Warden. Clerk also requested that Cllr Cosslett ask the warden to monitor the area.
- It was advised that there is a large pot hole near the Esperley bus stand. Clerk to report.

23.39 To CONSIDER KING'S CORONATION MONUMENT

It was advised that a general meeting has been arranged for a monument to be designed to commemorate King Charles' coronation; an update will be provided on design and timescales following the meeting.

23.40 To CONSIDER LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES

There were no local plans to consider.

23.41 THE NEXT MEETING

AGM/Public Meeting to be held Tuesday, 9th May 2023, 7.00 pm at Randolph Community Centre. – No other agenda items.

Items for the June agenda:

- To consider options following solicitor appointment.
- To consider contribution towards Christmas lights.

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