

EVENLODE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 21-11-2022 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Tim & Judy Proger; Meg Adamson; Brad & Jamie Hooker; Shrimp Mackie; Charles Watson; Cllr David Cunningham CDC, & Cllor Mark Mackenzie-Charrington GCC

Cllrs: Chris Johnson; Jamie Mackie; Wendy Dancer; John Holmes, Jan Lesser
Clerk: Jan Lesser

The meeting commenced with a presentation from Ben Peters of Evenlode Investment Management, a fund management company which has purchased Home Farm Barns with 24 acres. He outlined the background to the business and its intention to create an office space on the land utilising the current agricultural barns (except perhaps the dutch barn which is less stable than the other two barns). He indicated that the pasture and arable land would be used in a bio-diverse way. He was asked about: volume of traffic, events to be held there, and possible use of any building space if not used for office-type activity. He said that the 10000 sq foot space would accommodate 32 current staff who work in the office/remotely/visiting on an ad hoc basis; that events would be in-house and not parties – more like Client Days, and traffic would reflect the working practices of staff most of whom are all present only on Mondays. Since, there needs to be a change of use application, then a design and then a planning application it would be unlikely that any work could start at the earliest before 2024. As to the Public Footpath running alongside the barns, he would apply for it to be re-located possibly to the other side of the adjacent hedge and Cllr M-C informed him that the process for diverting a footpath can take many many years . . .

There followed an Open Meeting:

Jamie Hooker queried what was going on at the public bridleway on the Moreton Road leading to the railway as a gate had been locked and the space ostensibly for horses to access the bridleway had been moved from the right hand side to the left hand side where there was hedgerow overgrowth making it difficult and dangerous. ACTION JM will photograph the gate and access, and the CLERK will write to the planning officer in charge of the planning application for the 4 acre field beyond about it.

Meg Adamson told the meeting that visitors and walkers had taken to parking along the verges of the Restricted ByWay to Poplars Farm and The Stubbles. It is a vehicular access only for those two properties. So these cars shouldn't drive onto the Byeway. It is tricky to prohibit vehicles when walkers can walk on it and cars can park on verges - even though they shouldn't drive on the Byeway to get to the verge!

The formal PC commenced:

1. Apologies from Rosie Northampton
2. The Minutes were signed as a correct record of the previous PC meeting
- 3 The balance at the bank at 15-11-22 was £9348-30. No payments in or out were currently due, though there might be one last payment due to Lawns 2 Mow.
4. Following on from an informal meeting of the PC members recently, there was an update on some recent issues: **(a)** the signpost at the t-junction of Horn Lane and the Broadwell Road has been reported and will be mended when regular maintenance takes place there. **(b)** Yet again, the Clerk had written about the cleaning of the drains/grips/gulleys to prevent water and debris build up at the bottom end of the VG as well as advice on the attenuation of the flow from higher up the ditch which flows past Martlett House and Poplars Barn. No replies had been received and nothing done. The

Clerk reported that the PC seemed to be passed from Laurence King to Rhodri Grey to Bob Skillern and asked for the assistance of Cllr M-C with GCC Highways. **(c)** the Clerk had done initial research on how and whether Evenlode could be absorbed into the AONB but it was an expensive and very long process and unlikely to be something which a small village like ours would undertake. Cllr Cunningham assured the PC that as Evenlode is within the Moreton in Marsh Special Landscape Area the planners took visual impact on the village of planning applications into account – though it was pointed out that a report to enforcement at CDC of domestic windows being put in an AGFO barn next to Barn Cottage met with no useful response. **(d)** the Clerk would send to the PC and around the village a recent communication about the village’s views on Dark Skies policies and invited comments to a consultation which the PC could collate into its own response. **(e)** The Clerk mentioned the drone incident on Horn Lane where a drone at roof height followed a resident around as she walked outside her house on the drive. Villagers should be alert.

5. The PC considered the recent budget document which the Clerk had circulated to it regarding the amount of the Precept Bid for 2023 – 2024 and there was some discussion about council tax increasing next year (which itself always impacts on villagers’ payments). The unanimous decision was that as the PC finances were in very good shape and the fact that a contested election for the PC next year was extremely unlikely but that there was funds to cover the new costs of that, so – as usual – the Precept Bid should be 2% increase on this year’s.

6. Reports from the CDC and GCC Councillors are attached .

7. There being no other business, the meeting concluded at 7-30p.m.