

EWSHOT PARISH COUNCIL

**THE MINUTES OF A MEETING OF EWSHOT PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 13 JULY 2015 AT 7 PM IN EWSHOT VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr B. Richey (Chairman), Cllr B. Cranstone, Cllr S Cranstone, Cllr T. Wells

In Attendance: Cllr J Bennison (Hampshire County Council), Cllr T Clarke (Hart District Council), Garry Shelford (Clerk), Sue Freeman (Assistant Clerk), 5 members of the public

15/114 Apologies for Absence – Cllr G Bredin, Cllr J Radley (Hart District Council)

15/115 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of Ewshot Parish Council of 8 June 2015 - approved

15/116 Matters arising from the Minutes

- (a) Lengthsman Scheme – monies still awaited
- (b) Dip in road surface outside St Mary’s Church – remedial works to be completed

15/117 Announcements from Chairman, Clerk and Members’ Questions

- (a) External Auditor has signed off Return with no qualifications.
- (b) Land at Broomhill/Church Lane – the Clerk reported that a questionnaire has been distributed to the residents of Broomhill and residents of immediately adjoining properties regarding the proposed use of the land.

15/118 District and County Council Report

District Council Report:-

- (a) Stiller’s Farm Appeal has been dropped Taylor Wimpey

County Council Report:-

- (a) Hampshire County Council are seeking to combine with the Isle of Wight and others with a view to operating with more autonomy from Central Government similar to the “Northern Powerhouse” principle.
- (b) Boundary Review – the final meeting relating to the review is to be held later this week and the proposals will then be submitted to the Boundary Commission for approval.
- (c) Dora’s Green Lane/Heath Lane junction – traffic calming works complete subject to white line painting.
- (d) Tweesledown Road – works now completed
- (e) Crookham Crossroads – scheduled to be closed for two nights during August for highway works
- (f) Sandy Lane – ongoing works scheduled to be completed by 22 July
- (g) Superfast Broadband – the “cabinet” with fibre optic cable to be known as “Crandall 1” will be operational by 22 July – internet users are required to contact their internet providers to take advantage of the enhanced internet connection opportunities.

15/119 Declaration of Interests and Requests for Dispensation – none

15/120 Public Participation – Ian Miles of Hapennys, Church Lane, drew the Council’s attention to his recent communications with Hart District Council regarding his/his immediate neighbours’ refuse collection arrangements. The six properties are located on a private accessway and the Council are requiring the residents to sign an indemnity indemnifying the refuse collection company (Veolia) against damage to road surfaces/walls etc. In the absence of signed indemnities Veolia have warned that refuse

collections may be suspended and waste requiring collection will be required to be left on the public highway, ie Church Lane. Mindful that refuse collection is subject to a contract between Hart District Council and Veolia it was agreed that the discussion should continue at the end of the meeting between Mr Miles, Cllr Clarke of Hart District Council in the presence of Cllr Richey.

15/121 Planning

(a) 4 Beacon Hill Road, Ewshot GU10 5BY (Ref: 15/01525/HOU)

Single storey rear extension (Conservatory)

Resolved: No objection – Proposed by Cllr S Cranstone, Seconded by Cllr T Wells and agreed unanimously

(b) Keepers Cottage, Farnham Road, Ewshot GU10 5AU (REF 15/01595/LDC)

Creation of 3 separate flats within building known as Keepers Cottage Stables and their occupation for at least four years

Resolved: No comment – Proposed by Cllr S Cranstone, Seconded by Cllr B Cranstone and agreed unanimously

15/122 Agree action to recruit clerk to replace Garry Shelford on his retirement – the Clerk is scheduled to retire this Autumn and the Council authorised the HR Committee comprising Cllr Richey, Cllr Wells and the Clerk to convene to formulate a job description, advertise the vacancy and undertake interviews.

15/123 RoSPA Play Area Safety Inspection Report – Cllr B Cranstone explained that the Report had highlighted some areas of minor concern but mindful that the Council propose to replace much of the playground in the near future Cllr Cranstone will identify the necessary action points and seek to mitigate the cost of repairs

15/124 Tennis Court – appointment of Contractor to undertake renovation – in anticipation of the imminent receipt of the S106 monies the Council considered two quotes (Peter A Housden & Sons and Academy Sports Limited) – comparison at Appendix 1 – the Council have a budget contingency for maintenance costs (£500.00 approximately) and are keen for the works to be undertaken as soon as possible but not beyond the next three months.

Resolved: To appoint Peter A Housden & Sons to undertake the renovation of the Tennis Court subject to work commencement date such date to be circulated via email to the Council and ratified at the next meeting:- Proposed by Cllr B Richey, Seconded by Cllr B Cranstone and agreed unanimously

15/125 Report on Car Park and confirmation of discharge of conditions imposed in Planning Consent – the re-scheduled start date for the works is now 20 July following the discharge of several conditions attached to the Planning Consent 13/00710/FUL by Hart District Council. The access to the Car Park is to be controlled by removable metal bollards, fencing specifications have been agreed at a height of 750 mm and agreement reached regarding closure of existing access, reinstatement of footway and verge crossing together with the replanting of the existing hedge. A copy of the Contractor's Insurance Policy is now to hand.

15/126 Temporary overflow car park arrangements & provision of signage – recently the field gate to the Rec has been opened when anticipated usage is in excess of the available car parking. The Clerk has obtained a quote for signage to direct drivers to the overflow car parking arrangements at a cost of £90.00 from Farnham Signs – ~~details of proposed signage attached at Appendix 2~~ – the Council noted that the times that the gate would be

locked should be publicised by way of signage. Caryll Martin requested that a method of securing the field gate whilst open should be procured and Cllr B Cranstone agreed to undertake this.

Resolved: To spend up to £90.00 on signage – Proposed by Cllr T. Wells, Seconded by Cllr B Cranstone and agreed unanimously

15/127 Report on Play Area – in Cllr G Bredin’s absence this matter was deferred until the next meeting.

15/128 Report on Traffic Calming – Clerk to report at next meeting.

15/129 Compliance with Transparency Code – the Council noted that it is compliant with the Transparency Code as at its first meeting post 1 July 2015 (the effective date).

15/130 Report on Website – to be deferred to next meeting.

15/131 Payments

The following payments were approved:-

Lotus Landscaping Limited (June grass cutting)	572.54
Firm Value Payroll	547.00
Ewshot Village Hall – Q1 Office Rental	100.00
RoSPA – Play Safety Report	92.40
Hart District Council	
Fee for reversal of conditions relating to Car Park (Card Payment)	97.00
Hedley’s (Solicitors)	
Work on Broomhill acquisition – net amount due to date	1,238.80
Firmvalue Payrolls Ltd – Quarterly Charge	144.00

Members expressed concern at the protracted time taken and consequent increasing cost of legal work in connection with the Broomhill acquisition. The Clerk was asked to contact the solicitors and obtain definitive information as to progress and a forecast of a completion date.

15/132 Correspondence – the Clerk circulated the Correspondence File.

15/133 Any Other Business.

- (a) TAG have now finalised their re-routing discussions and it seems that air traffic will increase over Ewshot/Crondall but over a clearly defined route.
- (b) The footpath works on the A287 are yet to be completed - enquiries are to be made of Hampshire on this point.
- (c) The Clerk said that although the Finance Report for Q1 was timetabled for presentation to the Council at this Meeting due to the late arrival of the bank statement the Report would be emailed out to the Council for approval shortly with ratification to take place at the next meeting.
- (d) Cllr Richey mentioned that some Parish Councils have a break in August but it was agreed that there is too much ongoing business for the Council to take advantage of this tradition.
- (e) Cllr Wells asked for information concerning the work on trees on the Broomhill site, completion of which forms a condition of our agreement to transfer the land. A report is attached to the minutes as Appendix 2.

The meeting closed at 8.16 pm

Signed (Chairman).....B. Richey.....

Dated10 August 2015.....

APPENDIX 1

to Minutes (15/124) of meeting 13 May 2015

Tennis Court Refurbishment

There are two contenders for this work:

Peter A Housden & Sons (a Hampshire based private company)

Academy Sports Ltd, Guildford (a local branch of a fairly large national company)

Offers of refurbishment are broadly similar, as follows	Housden	Academy
Chain Link netting + replace damaged intermediate posts.	£2,435	
Replace chain link netting only		£2,980
Wire brush & paint	£1,350	
New Brick Edge	£1,100	£980
New tennis posts, sockets & net	£600	£480
Resurface	£7,815	
Colour spray	£1,550	
Resurface AND colour spray		£8,920
TOTALS	£14,850	£13,360

All above subject to VAT

Clerk's Comment:

When tenders were invited, potential specialist contractors were asked to put forward proposals to fully refurbish the tennis court. Due to insufficient expertise within the Council a detailed specification was not prepared.

Peter A Housden & Sons (PH) included replacement of netting, wire brushing all netting uprights and painting with primer/undercoat and gloss coats with a cost of £1,350. Academy Sports (AS) only proposed to replace netting and damaged posts.

PH appeared to be most interested in our project and came across as more helpful. PH's tender represents better value for the Parish.

Clerk - 13.5.2015

APPENDIX 2

Report on tree surgery on land at Broomhill/Church Lane

When councillors first inspected the above site it was noted that three large oak trees appeared to be rather overgrown and had several dead branches. They felt that professional attention should be given by Hart District Council (HDC) to satisfy any safety concerns before a transfer of ownership took place. In negotiating Heads of Agreement (HOA) Ewshot PC (EPC) requested that HDC tree officers should inspect and report on the condition of the trees and if any action was required, put it in hand at HDC expense prior to transfer.

This action was taken and HDC produced the attached plan and proposals which were included in the HOA. In due course the HOA were accepted by EPC.

On or about 10th June it was noted that tree surgeons (Cedardale) were working on the site with substantial equipment.

On the following Monday (15th) Cllr Brian Cranstone and the Clerk inspected the site and reached the conclusion that although work had been done, it did not appear to have included everything that we understood to have been proposed. This opinion was discussed with the Chairman and the Clerk was asked to approach the HDC tree officer for a view before any report was made to solicitors.

On 19th June the Clerk contacted Adam Maskill (AM) the HDC tree officer who undertook to inspect the site and revert to EPC with his findings. Later the same day AM phoned the clerk and then confirmed his remarks in an e-mail. He was of the view that the contractors had carried out HDC instructions, that the remaining deadwood '...does not pose a significant risk to the public at the moment. This will need to be reviewed periodically.'

At this point it was felt that to challenge the HDC position would involve consulting a third party tree surgeon, further involvement of our legal representatives and additional delay in achieving the transfer of the site. If, following completion, the council felt it was necessary to revisit the condition of the trees, it would be a more practical and economical proposition to engage tree surgeons direct and keep direct control of any project that arose. In the meantime, the written opinion of the tree officer would mitigate against the risk of liability in the unfortunate event of an accident involving the trees.

Garry Shelford
Clerk
13 July 2015