

EVERLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at Collingbourne Ducis Village Hall on Tuesday 16th May 2023

Chairman: Cllr D Bottomley (Chair).

Present: Cllr K Wheeler-Mallows, Cllr T Martin, Cllr H Waight, Cllr A Earle and Cllr L Wheeler-Mallows

Apologies: Cllr P Evans

In Attendance: Mr P Gill (Clerk), Wilts Cllr C Williams (Wiltshire County Councillor), Insp R Lee (Wilts Police) and no members of the public

1. **Chairman's Report.** We have continued to make excellent progress on the Everleigh Enhancement plan. Over the past 12 months the focus has been on flower planters throughout the village, adopted by adjacent residents who volunteered to maintain a planter. Flower planters have been established at the playground, in The Street, in West View, on Marlborough Road and in Lower Everleigh. I congratulate Cllr Andy Earle for conducting this flower planter project so efficiently and promptly. The village now looks so much more attractive. Several other enhancement initiatives have also been successful: Cllr Peter Evans, with help from two supporters, has developed a flower bed in front of the park bench in Everleigh Centre; Cllr Terry Martin has developed a superb village map to support delivery drivers; and Cllrs Henry Waight and Andy Earle put up an excellent Christmas tree in December in Everleigh Centre. This year our priorities will be a new all weather bench in Everleigh Centre overlooking the floral garden, 2 additional planters to build on the success of that project and we're going to provide a Christmas Tree in December in Everleigh Centre. Our village celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee took place on Thursday 2nd June at the playground/Jubilee field, starting at 5pm. Turnout was high with about 80 villagers enjoying a glorious sunny evening overlooking Salisbury Plain. The event included a BBQ and games/activities such as egg + spoon, sack and 3 legged races, rounders, volleyball and golf pitch + putt. Festivities culminated with the lighting of a superb bonfire beacon at 9.45pm to synchronise with beacons across the nation. Congratulations and thanks go to the many volunteers who worked hard to organise such a memorable occasion. Team Everleigh enjoyed taking part in the village games at the St Andrew's Church Fete on Saturday 3rd September. The event was well organised and was a great way to develop community spirit with our neighbours from Kingston and Ducis. Congratulations to Ducis for their victory. A Harvest Festival service took place in St Peter's Church on Saturday 8th October. The Church was decorated beautifully by the Ladies of Everleigh, who arranged a stunning floral display. Rev Jo Reid conducted an excellent service. Readings were delivered with aplomb and hymns were heartily sung. Harvest gifts were gratefully received and donated to the Trussel Trust food bank in Andover. After an absence of several years and a Parish Council review, our village bonfire night was reinstated and took place on Saturday 5th November at the Jubilee Field. The event had all the ingredients for a great evening: spectacular fireworks; delicious BBQ; and a roaring bonfire, with an excellent turnout of about 200, including some friends from neighbouring villages. Many villagers pulled together to produce an excellent community event. Particular thanks go to Cllrs Henry Waight and Kim Wheeler-Mallows for organising the bonfire and the fireworks, and to Cllr Lucinda Wheeler-Mallows for co-ordinating the refreshments so efficiently. Our Christmas Carol Service took place at St Peter's Church on Saturday 10th December. This was a great opportunity for the village to get together, to hear the Christmas story and to sing traditional carols. The church was again superbly decorated by the Ladies of Everleigh, with candles and flowers beautifully arranged. Kim Wheeler-Mallows produced excellent light effects both inside and outside the church. Finally, our special thanks go to Gail Barks for organising absolutely delicious mulled wine, hot chocolate and mince pies after the service. We have also organised two village litter picks over the past year. An Autumn gathering took place on Saturday 22nd October, with 9 volunteers collecting 11 bags of rubbish, and we conducted a Spring litter pick on Saturday 11th March; 7 volunteers collected 12 bags of rubbish. Everleigh certainly looked a lot cleaner as a result. A village work party took place on Saturday 15th April to conduct general maintenance and tidying up at the playground. Many thanks go to the seven volunteers who cleaned and painted all the equipment and trimmed the perimeter fence. This play area is now looking very smart!

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The Parish is fortunate to receive excellent support from other directions. Our Wiltshire Councillor, Chris Williams, has provided close support for the Parish Council over the past year. On the policing front, Wilts Police Community Policing Team continue to provide security for the village within limited resources. For the future, the Parish Council has 3 main objectives:

- Maintain the village's infrastructure, particularly the playground;
- Develop Everleigh Enhancement projects in accordance with a four year plan;
- Conduct several events per year to enhance village community spirit.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow parish councillors and the parish clerk, Mr Phil Gill, for all their support, enthusiasm and hard work during the past 12 months; Team Everleigh continues to thrive!

No questions were asked of the Chairman.

2. **Finance Report.** The Clerk reported that finances remain in a healthy condition with the cash balance in all accounts being £2771.48 at year end which is £451.79 less than FY 21/22 and reflects the funds earmarked for future projects and events and includes the Council's reserves policy of £2100 minimum. As a result, the Council raised the Precept for FY 23/24 by £87.05 to £3,972.90. which equates to a 2.16% (£0.90) for Band D property. The accounts have been prepared by the Clerk, audited by the Internal Auditor and on the recommendation of the Internal Auditor the Council intends to exempt itself from a Limited Assurance Review which negates the need to send the accounts to the External Auditor. Income for 22/23 was approximately £5589, namely £3886 Precept, £400.00 grant income. £1130 Bonfire Income and £173 VAT refund. Outgoings were approximately £6041, namely, £610 Everleigh Central Project (Planters & Plants, Xmas Tree, Village map), £600 Fireworks, £136 New Computer, £200 Wilts Air Ambulance donation, £400 Village events, £292 insurance, £650 grass cutting, and the balance of the spend was on the Clerk's salary, general maintenance, and other such routine costs needed to run the Parish Council.

No questions were asked of the Clerk.

3. **Wiltshire County Council Report.** Wilts Cllr Williams reported the following: Over the next two months, Annual meetings will take place for Town and Parish Councils and Wiltshire Council – they are great opportunities for coming together as a community to reflect on the previous year and discuss the opportunities, ahead. Some of the highlights from Wiltshire Council are as follows: Wiltshire Council's budget for 2023/24, which is underpinned by the council's 10-year Business Plan, is £466m – this includes an additional £69m to cover inflation and increased demand for services and is broken down as follows:

- Whole life pathway (mental health, autism spectrum conditions and learning disabilities support services) - £96m, an increase of £11m
- Living and aging well (adult care) - £83m, an increase of £15m
- Families and children - £63m, an increase of £2m
- Environment (which includes waste and recycling services)- £48m, an increase of £4m
- Highways and transport - £41m, an increase of £3m
- Education and skills - £29m, an increase of £6m

Last November, Wiltshire Council invited the Local Government Association to carry out a Corporate Peer Challenge – the review found that the council's Business Plan provides a clear set of objectives and that focus on improving outcomes for some of the most vulnerable in the community is none more evident than in children's services. It was also noted that the council is excelling in work to address climate change. In addition to funding of £22.9m from the Government's Highways Maintenance Fund, £3.6m was received from the Department for Transport's Pothole Fund which will be used to target pothole hotspots around the county. Anyone who spots a highways issue must report it using the MyWilts app or via the website. Wiltshire has welcomed 1,374 guests so far and is one of the top authorities in England for taking in Ukraine nationals - 165 families have now moved into private rented accommodation and every Ukrainian household has a named Case Worker assigned to support the guests to help them integrate into the community. More information is at [Wiltshire stands with Ukraine - Wiltshire Council](#). It has been a pleasure to support both Town and Parish Councils, community groups and residents with a whole host of local issues over the last year including, waste collection, housing, road safety, footpaths, and planning matters. If there is a local issue that you are concerned about, please do get in touch and I will do my very best to help. Finally, I would like to say a huge thank you to all the Town and Parish Councils that make up our community area – they and

the many other local organisations help ensure our town and villages are such fabulous communities and brilliant places to live.

Wilts Cllr C Williams then answered questions from those present and The Chairman then thanked Wilts Cllr C Williams for his report.

4. **Wiltshire Police Report.** The Chairman welcomed Insp Ricky lee to this his first time attending an Everleigh Parish Meeting. Insp Ricky Lee then introduced himself and gave a precis of his career to date, highlighted issues that he felt needed addressing, explained the revised staffing levels and outlined his vision for his tenure in office.

Insp Lee then answered questions from those present and the Chairman thanked Insp Lee for his report.

- .5. **Questions.** There being no written questions or other business the Chairman thanked all who attend and closed the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.40pm

Signed: 

Date: 27 Jun 23