**Minutes of the Ebrington Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday May 9th at 7.30pm in the Village Hall**

1. Welcome and report from the Parish Council Chairman.

The Chairman Andy Warren welcomed residents, County Cllr. Lynden Stowe & new District Cllr. Clare Turner.

1. Apologies for absence.

 Apologies were received from Cllr. Jill Coombes

1. Approval of previous minutes

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1. Report from County and District Councillors

L.S. reported:

* GCC budget had been increased by 5% with 2% ring fenced for adult care
* There had been an increase in the budget for roads maintenance including £200m over 8 years for resurfacing.
* Grants were still available from the Build Back Better fund.
* Trees would be available in the Autumn from the Ash Die Back scheme.

Questions from the floor:

* Were trees properly assessed for bats before felling
* Could road closure and diversion signage be more specific.
* Why aren’t all potholes filled whilst the crew is on site.
* L..S. requested that any examples of inefficient Highways working be reported to him.

C.T. reported:

* She was one of now 2 Green Party candidates and as a group would be represented on Committees.
* Committee responsibilities had yet to be allocated.
* Residents should contact her with any problems
1. Reports from Village Organizations and the Community Police attached.
* Parish Council
* Community Police
* Hedgehog Bus
* Defibrillators
* St. Eadburghas Church
* Village Hall
1. Public Question Time
* What could be done about the FP in the churchyard – PC to investigate.
* What could be done about the brash at the churchyard boundary – PC to investigate
* Would the Highways Village Steward scheme be extended.
1. Conclusion

The meeting concluded at 8.15p.m.

Signed:

**Community Police Report**

Annual Crime figures 1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | **22/23** | **21/22** |
| Violence | 4 | 5 |
| Burglary | 4 | 5 |
| Theft | 9 | 6 |
| Fraud | 0 | 0 |
| Criminal Damage | 1 | 2 |
| Drugs | 0 | 0 |
| Other | 0 | 0 |
| **Total** | **18** | **18** |

The four incidents of Violence, involved 3 domestic incidents, and an assault during a linked theft incident.

The four Burglaries consisted of 2 residential properties, 1 suffering the loss of bikes and the second a House break where a number of items were taken. There were also 2 Burglary’s upon business premises with equipment being stolen at both.

The nine thefts saw 3 crime reports involving vehicles being stolen and 2 of attempts to steal motor vehicles. There were also 2 reports of Theft of number plates and 1 of a Catalytic Convertor being removed. The 9th crime was the theft of a Quad bike.

The Criminal damage involved a vehicle and the manner in which it was being driven causing damage upon the estate of one of the business premises.

This year saw the retirement of Nick Westmacott, who wanted to pass on his thanks for all the help and support he received over the past few years and to wish everyone all the best for the future. Nick has recently been replaced by Natalie Lansdown who is looking forward greatly to the new role and hopes to meet as many of you as possible in the near future.

Neighbourhood Policing Team,

Beat Manager Natalie Lansdown

Paul Hancock & Cassie Wilford

HEDGEHOG BUS

Our three Hedgehog Buses, operated by volunteer drivers, each with an accredited MiDAS qualification, carry passengers on our Service journeys to and from Stratford, Evesham, Moreton and intermediate destinations. In addition, groups and parties regularly use our Private Hire service.

We run from Ebrington to Stratford on Wednesday and Saturday mornings [stopping at Ebrington Road, Hidcote Boyce, the Village Hall, New Road and Church Close] and to Moreton on Friday morning [stopping at Hidcote Boyce, the village Hall, New Road and the Ebrington Arms]. Passenger take-up from Ebrington remains good, with as many as 6 a day travelling to Stratford, and the Moreton service is getting more popular again .

We accept national Bus Passes which allow free travel; alternatively competitive single Fares are available.

We would ask for the Council’s and the village’s continued support in promoting the use of this unique community service. I have a number of Ebrington timetable cards with me for people to take away.

Peter Banton, Ebrington Rep for ‘The Hedgehog’.

CHURCH

St. Eadburgha’s church enjoyed a year of progressively achieving to a renewed normality. We have had a couple of challenging years, but last year saw the return of some big Services, celebrations like the Platinum Jubilee, but sombre events as well.

Our church services are at 09:30 every Sunday, with a range of services throughout the month to appeal to different preferences. Any 5th Sunday has a combined service, at either Ebrington, Mickleton or Campden, in rotation. Last month we enjoyed a Farm Service at Upper Clopton outside of Mickleton.

Sadly, the weather took its toll on the planned churchyard tidy-up yesterday, but this will be re-arranged, probably for a Saturday afternoon, in the near future. Church visitors and residents often comment negatively about the line of tall dead tree stumps in land alongside the churchyard at the Campden Road end, and we look forward to fresh intervention from the Parish Council to see a resolution to improve this first impression as people walk down to our Grade 1 Listed church.

The poor state of repair of the public right of way through the churchyard continues to cause concern; last year we were cautiously optimistic that the County Council might be effecting some repairs, but nothing has happened as yet.

The church looks forward to remaining as one of the centres of the village community in the year ahead with a range of Worship, Social and Fundraising events.

The Church is open daily thoughout the year for Prayer and Reflection.

Peter Banton, Churchwarden

**Ebrington Parish Council**

Activities May 2022-May 2023

Chair – Andy Warren

Vice-chair – Margaret Fisher

Clerk – Kevin O’Donoghue

Councillors – Barry Sabin, Peter Drinkwater, Lynn French, Paul Chappell and Jill Coombe

Throughout May 2022 Heidi Binford continued to support us as acting clerk whilst we prepared to hold interviews for our new clerk. Ruth Davies has also assisted us during this period. Our grateful thanks go out to both of them.

Interviews were held on 27th May 2022 and Kevin O’Donoghue from Willersey was the successful candidate. His experience as an existing Parish Clerk has been invaluable, and he certainly hit the ground running, in particular with matters of finance, protocol and highways issues, to name but three.

We had a very enjoyable celebration for the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee, with all events well-attended. The lighting of the beacon and torch-light procession down from The Clouds into the village was particularly memorable.

A surplus of £1986.16 raised from the events has been spent in Hidcote (new tree on the green), Ebrington (contribution towards new handrails for the village hall and new picture frames) and Charingworth (new seat on the triangle).

Sadly Queen Elizabeth II passed away on 8th September 2022, so preparations began for King Charles III’s Coronation weekend on 6th-8th May 2023. At our behest a steering committee was formed to work up a programme of events in Ebrington, with Margaret representing the Parish Council. A heartfelt thanks to everyone on the committee for all their hard work in preparing the programme and seeing it through to fruition.

The rain and drizzle finally stopped in time for Saturday’s barbecue under the Three Oaks, and the torch-light procession down Ebrington Hill was again a wonderful sight. The church was illuminated adding a fitting backdrop. Sunday’s Big Picnic was extremely enjoyable, as we were blessed with bright sunshine, and a convivial, fun-filled afternoon of music and games.

Precept 2020-21 £11,179.00

Precept for 2022-23 £12,488.00

Precept for 2023-24 £13,100.00

We have £22,282.90 in the bank after drawing down £2259 for the defibrillator at Elm Grove and an increase in Clerk’s salary (due to qualifications and experience).

Kevin successfully received approval for on-line banking, so we can now make payments direct into bank accounts straightaway (following approval by the Parish Council) rather than writing cheques every two months.

Village maintenance contract – we received three quotes for the contract commencing April 2023. Swift Mixer Hire was unanimously approved.

Our thanks to Peter Banton for auditing the accounts.

Lynden Stowe and Sue Jepson supported us throughout 2022/23 as our County and District Councillors respectively. However, Sue lost her seat in the Local Council Elections on 4th May 2023, and our new District Councillor is Dr Clare Turner.

At the same time, elections to the Parish Council were held. A total of 8 candidates were nominated, leading to a public vote. Lynn French lost her seat, with Jamie Macdonald replacing her. Lynn has been an excellent Councillor, in particular her attention to planning matters, defibrillators and liaison with The Ebrington Arms, and she will be greatly missed. However, Jamie brings a wealth of knowledge and local involvement, so he should prove a real asset to the Council.

# Planning – Lynn

A fairly large number of applications were received:

1. The Dovecote, Hidcote Farm, Hidcote Boyce – orangery
2. The Linhay, Hidcote Boyce – tree works
3. Hidcote Manor Gardens – yet more tree works
4. Plum Tree Farm, Hidcote Road, Ebrington – agricultural worker’s dwelling
5. 1 Stretton Close, Stretton-on-Fosse – office and art studio
6. The Hanlin, Ebrington – comply with Building Regs and condition variation
7. Oakham Barn, Ebrington – tree works
8. Cavebank, Hidcote Boyce – change of use to holiday let
9. Campden BRI – change of use from nursery to sui generis use
10. Ebberton House, Ebrington – two storey side and rear extension
11. Crabtree Cottage, Hidcote Boyce – replacement windows and doors
12. 2 and 3 Pages Piece, Ebrington – garages to a dwelling
13. 8 Coldicott Leys – tree works
14. Hidcote House, Hidcote Boyce – new access and landscaping
15. 5 Keyts Acre – new extension following demolition of conservatory
16. The Old Forge, Ebrington – tree works
17. 6 Hidcote Road, Ebrington – replacement doors and windows
18. Hidcote Manor Gardens – more tree works
19. Ebrington Primary School – replacement doors and windows
20. Tythebarn Cottage, Hidcote Boyce – retrospective for replacement windows
21. Ebrington spring – headwall issues new resolved
22. Saxon Fields POS – enforcement has finally been taken (15th March 2023)
23. Oakham Barn, Ebrington – tree works
24. Hidcote Vale, Hidcote Boyce – single storey rear extension
25. Cavebank Farm, Hidcote Boyce – erection of wooden barn

# Works around the parish – Paul and Pete

* Grass cutting
* Prunus bank
* Boundary Stones – cleaned for Jubilee (Jill secured a grant for this) ❑ Storm damaged trees

# Highways – Barry and Lynn, but now Kevin

* Regular communication with GCC officers
* Hidcote Boyce works
* Blocked culverts
* Potholes
* Re-surfacing
* Replacement road signs

# Footpaths – Jill

* New kissing gates
* Liaison with Jerry Gould

# General

* Playing Fields liaison;
* Defibrillators – one now installed at entrance to New Road;
* Risk Assessment – added dog bins, Hidcote Boyce phone box;
* New oak on the triangle – thanks to Mr & Mrs Traher who have continued to cover the oak tree aftercare costs;
* New Elm Tree at Elm Grove – planted by the Parish Council as part of the Queen’s Green Canopy initiative. A plaque and crown-topped tree guard were installed during the Kings Coronation celebrations;
* Consider reduction in speed limit to 20 mph. We decided it is not necessary to implement this in Ebrington at this time due to the narrowness of the road and parked cars which act as traffic calming;
* Potential for a Cotswold National Park;
* Survey about the recreational facilities in the Parish – ongoing assessment following a questionnaire to all residents in the Parish;
* Grit bins – we have bought 6, having secured a grant of £500 from CDC. They arrived in time for the ice and snow in January 2023; ❑ Website improvements.
* Electric Vehicle Charging point in Village Car Park – Lynn has been liaising with The Ebrington Arms about getting one installed;
* Tree stump in verge at Hidcote;
* Overhanging hedge at 25 Elm Grove;
* Saxon Fields/Elm Grove passage;
* Felling of Ash trees along B4035 in Charingworth.

Finally, a thanks to everyone who has worked with us over the last twelve months, including Ebrington Residents’ Association (especially Peter Ellis and Daphne Law), Village Hall Committee (Allison Taylor, Maddie Bowd and Debbie Smith), John Vallance (website), Paul Waters (defibrillators), and Jerry Gould (footpaths).