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Minutes of Community Meeting Wednesday 19 April, 2023 @ 7.30pm

Approval of Minutes, meeting 18 January 2023

Minutes of the January 2023 EWVA quarterly meeting were approved unanimously.

Diary Update – Helen Branscombe-Davies (Secretary)

Helen advised that although no organised community activities had taken place during the first quarter, EWVA had been active in bringing local information and news to the community via social media, village notice boards, and the Library.

At the January meeting, community members had voiced concerns regarding the installation of the speed hump on Eton Wick Road adjacent to the church of St John the Baptist and Eton Wick First School. Karen Waller, Headteacher of Eton Wick Church of England First School, was present at the meeting and reported that following some teething problems as road users got used to the new layout the speed hump had definitely made an improvement in road safety for parents and children accessing the school. Karen advised that she monitors the parking situation very frequently and reminds parents to park responsibly when dropping off and collecting students.

Thames Valley Police Update – PCSO Melita Wright

Melita presented the reported crime figures for Eton Wick for the past 30 days.

- Attempted theft of motorbike.
- Thefts from cars parked in Bunces Close. Some cars left unlocked so easy prey for opportunists who are trying all the doors.
- Residential burglary – live investigation.
- Two public order offences, one of which is a live investigation.

A community member raised the issue of the car parked on wide pavement at Bell Lane shops. Melita advised that the vehicle is not abandoned, the owner lives in Eton Wick, and she has called at the address but not been able to make contact. She advised the vehicle is taxed, has an MOT and is not blocking the highway or causing an obstruction on the pavement and so the owner is not breaking any laws. It appears that the vehicle has been targeted with tyres being let down and eggs thrown at the windscreen.

Melita also advised that ongoing community engagement with sessions in Eton Wick Library being well attended. Details of these sessions, times and dates, are published via social media by EWVA.

A community member asked if any further information was available regarding the reported possible firearm incident in the village a couple of weeks ago. Melita advised that she did not have any new information to share.

Several community members at the meeting raised the issue of three motorbikes (two off-road/scrambling bikes and one motorbike) being ridden through the village and along local footpaths in a dangerous manner in the early evenings. One community member reported seeing one of the bikes purposely rev its engine and ride close to a horse with a young rider outside the Nisa causing the horse to buck and nearly throw the rider. Other community members had experienced the group of bikes riding fast along footpaths with no consideration to pedestrians and dogs being walked, commenting that it was lucky no serious incident with injury to people and their animals had occurred. Melita advised that she was aware of the group of bikes and asked the community to call the police as soon as they saw them so that CCTV could be called into play as the CCTV cameras in the village could zoom in and capture images of great clarity and provide identifying information to the police.

Melita had to leave the meeting early as the three motorbikes could be heard and then seen from the Village Hall, and she left to gather more information and try to apprehend them.

RBWM Update – Cllr Samantha Rayner

Cllr Rayner advised that polling cards were dispatched last month to those on the electoral register. The deadline for registering to vote was 17 April, and the deadline for making new postal vote and postal proxy applications was 18 April, both dates have now passed. The deadline for receiving new applications to vote by proxy is 5pm on Tuesday 25 April. Cllr Rayner reminded residents that voting for the Borough Elections will be on Thursday 4 May 2023 in the Eton Wick Youth Club space on the ground floor of the Village Hall. Voting will open at 7am and close at 10pm.

Cllr Rayner reminded that the Coronation Street Party for Eton and Eton Wick will be in Eton High Street on Sunday 7 May from 1-5pm. Plus, it will be Big Help Out Day on Monday 8 May and we are all encouraged to lend a hand and volunteer in our communities. A community member reminded attendees to book their tickets for the street party. Tickets are available from Ella's Party Shop, Eton Wick (cash only).



Cllr Rayner also advised that the new Chief Executive of RBWM, Steven Evans, has now started in role, replacing Trevor Reeves, who took over as Interim Chief Executive and Head of Paid Services in October 2022.

Cllr Rayner continued with the news that the assistance with energy scheme had now been extended to cover those households who were not on mains gas or electricity.

The new financial year for RBWM has commenced with four new police officers now funded and in place. Two more car parks have been added to the resident parking permit scheme providing the first hour of parking free, one of which is Victoria Street car park. Residents who already have the first hour free permit will need to apply again for a new permit as it is not possible to add car parks to an existing permit.

Car parks that apply

- Datchet – **Horton Road** Zone 62402.
- Eton – **Meadow Lane** Zone 62403.
- Maidenhead – **Grove Road** and **West Street** (one application covers both car parks) Zone 62400.
- Windsor – **Alexandra Gardens** and **Alma Road** (one application covers both car parks) Zone 62401.
- **Victoria Street Multi-storey**, Windsor – Zone 62405.
- **Hines Meadow** Multi-storey, Maidenhead - Zone 62404.

Please note, the RingGo zone number for the car park permit is different from the standard zone number for the car parks. The link to the resident parking discount scheme is below for your convenience.

<https://www.rbwm.gov.uk/home/transport-and-streets/parking/resident-parking-discount-scheme>



Eton Wick Waterways Group (EWWG) Update – Laura Regazzacci

Laura outlined this summer's plans for maintenance of our waterways, the following has been agreed with landowners: -

Eton College will be contracting weed maintenance for approximately 50% of the Boveney Stream, from the Thames Confluence upstream through to Haywards Mead and on the upper Boveney around lower Tilstone Close, where the Norfolk Reeds cause a problem when they take root in the riverbed.

Eton Town Council will be sharing the responsibility with the college for the clearing of weed on the Haywards Mead section of the Boveney.

Whilst the Dorney Estate do not actively participate in river maintenance on the Roundmoor they continue to put pressure on Thames Water to manage the Roundmoor River.

Our Volunteer Group will undertake the remainder of the Boveney – along Princes Close and Queens Road, but if we are to undertake more than this, for example the Roundmoor, then we will need to recruit more volunteers this year. If you think you can lend a hand, whether in the water or on the banks, please contact us, even if you might only be able to offer a few mornings this summer.

Work on clearing weed from the waterways will not commence until the end of the spawning season in mid-June, and riparian residents are advised against going into the river before then to give fish a chance to reproduce. We would rather you joined our group than to undertake work on your own for safety reasons anyway. We have the correct equipment including waders of all sizes and our group is always accompanied by a qualified leader. Two village residents offered to volunteer during the meeting, which was a great start.

One person asked if the pipeline, which is due for completion in 2025, will affect the volume of water in our waterways. Laura responded that the intention of the pipeline was to alleviate the local waterways by taking excess storm water straight to the Thames, which will reduce the risk of pollution by sewage and excess water levels in our local catchment during heavy rainfall periods. For the rest of the time the pipeline will most likely just take a nominal 'sweetening flow' from the treatment works so that our waterways should maintain their 'normal' level.

Contact us at info@etonwicwaterwaysgroup.org if you would like to join our group, even if on a very part time basis.

Eton Town Council Update – Peter Lawless, Eton Town Council

Peter advised that voting will not be required to elect councillors to the parish council of Eton and Eton Wick (Eton Town Council) as there were fewer candidates than available seats. Peter explained that Eton Town Council comprised 14 councillors, seven representing the ward of Eton and seven representing the ward of Eton Wick. Two seats for the ward of Eton Wick will be vacant when Eton Town Council starts its new term in May. Peter continued, giving details of the Eton Wick councillors who had stepped down, and making a personal comment that he believes there is now a lack of planning expertise on Eton Town Council.

A community member asked why there hadn't been advertisements locally, on social media or by other means, for the parish council elections. Commenting that only people with inside knowledge of Eton Town Council would have had an opportunity to put themselves forward. Helen (Secretary EWVA) advised she would contact the Clerk of Eton Town Council to raise this query regarding publicity/communication of the opportunity to stand for the parish council.

Helen commented that, with two vacancies for the Eton Wick ward of the Eton Town Council, she felt that a suggestion made by Claire Taylor (EWVA Treasurer) earlier was perfect. The suggestion was that one of the seven Eton seats be represented by a resident from the Broken Furlong, Somerville, Stonebridge area, and one of the seven Eton Wick seats be represented by a resident of Bunces Close as both these areas are currently without representation on Eton Town Council. EWVA will put forward the recommendation that Eton Town Council should look to fill at least one of the vacant spaces by proactively co-opting from those areas.

Planning Update – Peter Lawless, Eton Town Council

Peter advised that no new planning applications had been received for the Eton Wick area, plus there was no update available on the existing Crown Farm and Shepherds Hut planning applications.

Peter reported that the proposed 18m telecoms mast at the junction of Bell Lane and Eton Wick Road had been refused by RBWM following objections made by Eton Town Council and Cllr Samantha Rayner.

Church Update – Helen Branscombe-Davies on behalf of Rev La

Church Room - progress is being made with plans for the new church room. The paperwork for going out to tender for the works is being prepared.

Meanwhile, in the current church room we have :-

- Free lunch on Mondays from 12-2pm
- Crafty Creations group every 1st and 3rd Tuesday from 2-4pm
- Coffee morning on Wednesdays from 10.30am to 12 noon
- Toddlers on Thursdays from 10-12

For all of these groups, just turn up if you would like to take part.

Churchyard – Mowing will be starting again soon. Please make sure that spent flowers and compostable material is put into the green bin. Please put flower wrappings, old Christmas decorations, flowerpots etc into the black bin.

Funds – We have a total of £3,700 in the two restricted accounts set aside for churchyard maintenance including mowing and cutting the hedge. Thank you to those who organised a Bingo session last year. Fund raising is needed again this year.

We are looking for more people to join in with our Open the Book assemblies on Thursday lunchtimes at the school. Contact La if you would like to help with the story telling.

Eton Wick Youth Club (EWYC) Update – Helen Branscombe-Davies, EWYC Secretary

Helen reported a Junior group membership of 53 with average attendance of 34-36, with Seniors continuing to be a much smaller group with a membership of 15 and average attendance of 8-10. A request for more volunteers, particularly for the Junior session, was made.

Nominations for EWVA Chair – Helen Branscombe-Davies, EWVA Secretary

Helen advised that no nominations had been received and asked community members if they had any nominations to fill the vacant position. No nominations were received.

Finance Update – Claire Taylor, EWVA Treasurer

Claire reported that at the January quarterly meeting, EWVA were only just working through the year end account, and at that time still waiting for the separate bank account for Youth Club operations to be opened. This meant cheques for the youth club couldn't be banked and they were borrowing from EWVA's reserves for some outlay.

Claire was pleased to report that EWVA closed the year with :-

- **£2,487.76** in the Savings Account - ring fenced funds from projects such as library
- **£23,001.99** in Eton Wick Waterways Group's account - following a year of not being able to work on the river due to Thames Water's study and then intensive action. However, EWWG have been asked for fund a second hydromorphology report that is being written, currently priced at £10,000 after VAT, which Laura alluded to in her report.
- **£2,357.15** in the current account of which **£311.49** was EWVA funds

In the first quarter of 2023, EWVA has paid out for the website renewal and public liability insurance, the latter is a cost that has been split between EWVA, Waterways Group and Youth Club so as at the April 2023 quarterly meeting the balances of account are :-

- **£2,487.76** EWVA Savings Account - restricted or ring fenced funds
- **£22,911.45** EWWG Account

- **£292.50** in the current account. The proportion of insurance not being as visible as in other accounts due to several people making their annual deposit for the 100 club. Major fund raising is required in the months ahead if we are to host Christmas.

Outgoings to settle will include 100 club which Claire will be drawing later this month.

Recent funding applications on behalf of the Waterways Group had been unsuccessful but EWWG are also building a shopping list of items to replace as they restart operations in June.

Any Other Business

Christmas Lights – Janice Caldwell (Christmas event organiser) reported that the lights had been collected, serviced and returned and were now in storage until Christmas 2023. Janice advised that a number of the lights were now several years old, and some had failed to function at Christmas 2022. Quotes had been obtained for replacements and options for additions to the display. Helen advised that she will take the quote to Eton Town Council with a request for funding.

Speeding and Speed Indicator Devices – Helen reported that enquiries made by EWVA and Eton Town Council regarding the speed of motor vehicles through Eton Wick had been responded to by a Senior Traffic and Road Safety Engineer. Helen read out extracts of the correspondence which is summarised below for your information.

RBWM have only ten SID (Speed Indicator Devices) and 165 primary sites, plus 37 secondary sites, around the borough. Each site gets two or three deployments per year for a week at a time. One SID was deployed in Eton Wick monitoring east bound traffic for week commencing 12/12/2022 and another was deployed in a different east bound location for week commencing 23/01/2023. All surveys carried out consistently show 85th percentile speeds to be between 27 and 29 mph. The 85th percentile is judged to be the most accurate expression of the "general" speed of all traffic). There are a minority of drivers who will travel faster than the speed limit, but they are in the minority. There is an extensive system of physical calming measures through Eton Wick, including the recently installed full width hump near to the school. Over the past ten years there have been just nine collisions involving injury along Eton Wick Road, only one of which had a vehicle travelling at speed to be a causation factor (in the 40mph section). Based on all information available, the collision history would not qualify Eton Wick for a speed camera.

Helen advised that Eton Town Council had not been receptive to her request on behalf of EWVA for funding to pay for solar SIDs which would be mounted at either end of the 30mph section through the village, ie facing vehicles entering the village from Dorney Common and facing vehicles entering the village by the church and school. Helen suggested that volunteers from the village could be trained to run a Community Speed Watch and asked for community members to contact EWVA if they were interested in participating. Training and equipment would be provided by Community Speed Watch and copies of their recent newsletters were available for attendees to look at. Helen took the action of posting on social media to request for volunteers to come forward.

Future Events

Helen advised that the EWVA Public Meetings are booked in for the year ahead and published on the EWVA website and social media. Future dates in 2023 are currently planned as 19 July and 18 October. Advance notice of each meeting will be published on social media, EWVA website, in Library and on village noticeboards.

The **Christmas Lights** event will be on **Saturday 2 December 2023** and further information will be communicated in due course. Further events for 2023 are being planned and these will be promoted at relevant times.

Residents are reminded to follow EWVA on Facebook and social media, visit the website and subscribe to our email mailing list to be kept up to date throughout the year.

Helen Branscombe-Davies
EWVA Secretary

Claire Taylor
EWVA Treasurer