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## **Minutes of Community Meeting Wednesday 18 January, 2023 @ 7.30pm**

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### **Approval of Minutes, meeting 19 October 2022**

Minutes of the October 2022 EWVA quarterly meeting were approved unanimously.

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### **Diary Update** – Helen Branscombe-Davies (Secretary)

Janice Caldwell provided an update on the Christmas Lights Switch on event, reporting a good level of attendance. Unfortunately, it was not possible to use the icicle lights around the Bell Lane Shops due to canopy renovation works, although this did not appear to be noticed by attendees/residents. It was the first year that the living tree outside the shops was of sufficient stature to perform the task it was planted for. It was slightly trimmed into shape prior to the event by Oliver Tarrant, a local tree surgeon. Use of the living tree worked well and should improve year-on-year as it continues to gain height. Thanks to Vicky at Ella's Party Shop for allowing use of their electricity, Nisa for hosting an EWVA collection box, and to ETC for their significant funding. Feedback from the room was positive, particularly regarding use of the living tree. Attendance at the Village Hall for refreshments following the light switch on was good and £112+ was raised for the 2023 event. Janice thanked Claire Taylor for the quality of handover and confirmed she will continue in role and organise the 2023 Christmas Lights. A date has not yet been set for this.

Community members voiced thanks to all involved with the Christmas Boxes, with 131 being delivered to residents in December 2022. It was reported that it had been more of a struggle to get the boxes together than in previous years, and attendees were reminded that every donation helps. Children from the village helped deliver the boxes. Thanks were also voiced by attendees to the ladies who knit the Christmas Angels.

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## **Thames Valley Police Update** – PCSO Melita Wright and Sgt Stef Day

Melita reminded the room of the importance of keeping vehicles locked, empty of items on view, and empty of any items of value. Plus, the importance of reporting all unauthorised access to vehicles (locked/unlocked) to enable the Police to respond, investigate, and build a profile of suspicious and/or unlawful activity in the village.

Melita advised that the local Police will be increasing levels of patrols and returning to providing local crime prevention surgeries within communities, asking for Eton Wick residents to come forward if they are aware of any clubs or organisations that would benefit from more regular community policing contact.

A community member raised concerns regarding a black BMW vehicle that has been witnessed to speed through the village, overtaking, and generally driving dangerously. The vehicle is believed to be local and has tinted windows making driver identification difficult. Melita stressed the importance of residents reporting these occurrences with as much detail as possible. In particular the vehicle registration (index) is needed plus dates and times. When this information is available, the Police will be able to investigate.

Another community member raised concerns regarding inappropriate/hazardous parking at the junction of Haywards Mead and Eton Wick Road, blocking the line of sight for drivers attempting to exit Haywards Mead. The reported vehicle is a van which restricts visibility to a greater extent than a car due to its size and height. Community members agreed that parking in Eton Wick is a known challenge, with many properties built with no adjacent or off-street parking. Drivers were reminded to park with consideration at a suggested distance in excess of 10m from a junction, especially if the vehicle is a van or other high sided vehicle which may block the line of sight for other road users.

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## **RBWM Update** – Cllr Samantha Rayner

Cllr Rayner advised that planning for Crown Farm was at the confidential pre-application stage with a full planning application expected to follow in due course. No information can be provided at this time due to required confidentiality.

Cllr Rayner also advised that the budget review was complete and functional areas are currently setting their budgets for 2023. Council Tax would rise by just under 5%, the rise driven by significant increases in cost of utilities and inflation.

A new Chief Executive of RBWM has been chosen and will replace Trevor Reeves, who took over as Interim Chief Executive and Head of Paid Services in October 2022 and will continue in role until May 2023.

Cllr Rayner advised that Castle Hill, Windsor, improvement works will commence March 2023 and run in four phases, avoiding the busy summer period. The works will make Castle Hill and the area around the statue of Queen Victoria more pedestrian friendly and attractive.

Community members voiced concerns regarding the speed hump on Eton Wick Road adjacent to the church of St John the Baptist and Eton Wick First School which was installed in November 2022. Concerns included blind spots and chicane now created, made worse by poor parking and speeding. Karen Waller, Headteacher of Eton Wick Church of England First School, was present at the meeting and reassured community members that the school frequently reminds parents to park responsibly when dropping off and collecting students.

A community member queried whether Nicholson's car park in Maidenhead town centre was open. Cllr Rayner confirmed that the car park was in a poor state of repair and currently closed for the foreseeable future. Although previously well used, it now requires significant improvement works to be brought back into use and RBWM are still reviewing the situation.

A community member queried the newly proposed telecoms mast at the junction of Bell Lane and Eton Wick Road. Clarification was sought by attendees regarding whether this mast was in addition to the proposed 5G installation on the roof of Bellsfield Court and it was confirmed that yes, it was in addition, and was for a different telecoms client. Community members requested that Cllr. Rayner and ETC make strong representation that the masts are not wanted by local residents. A community member advised that a letter from Bellsfield Court residents and housing association (Abri), including a petition with 25 signatures, had this week been sent to RBWM to confirm their objection to the proposed mast.



#### **Eton Wick Waterways Group (EWWG) Update – Laura Regazzacci**

Laura advised EWWG were working with Thames Water to build a plan for the ongoing maintenance of the Roundmoor and Boveney river. Laura advised that Thames Water had paid £50K in total for the two weed clearances (£30K summer and £20K autumn) and that this level of cost could not be supported by the local riparian landowners going forward. Laura continued that it was a busy couple of weeks with meetings with many stakeholders to discuss and agree future actions.

Laura informed those present about the recent storm releases, which were communicated to residents at the end of last week via social media and multiple village noticeboards, advising that people and animals (eg dogs and horses) should not be entering the water at this time. Laura described the process for storm release and that the water entering the local streams may be almost fully treated or have been released at an earlier stage in the process. Community members asked if signage could be located at the 'pond' on Dorney Common to raise awareness of possible pollution in this area of standing water.

Please post any questions to: [info@etonwickwaterwaysgroup.org](mailto:info@etonwickwaterwaysgroup.org)

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**Eton Town Council Update** – Linda Tarbox, Eton Town Council

Linda reported that ETC had chased up the ground maintenance along Eton Wick Road as these had been poorly executed over the last year. They are in conversation with RBWM to ensure a more effective schedule of works is carried out in 2023.

Linda advised ETC were working with highways on proposals for new parking bays to be built adjacent to the Bell Lane shops and down Moore's Lane. She advised that the plans EWVA had printed for the meeting regarding parking proposals were not the most current and so these were not circulated for review by community members. ETC are still awaiting amended plans from Highways.

Linda also advised that there were no further updates available regarding planning proposals for the Shepherds Hut. Further meetings with the developer are expected but nothing in the diary.

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**Planning Update** – Peter Lawless, Eton Town Council

Although planning updates had been covered in both the RBWM and ETC sections of the meeting, Peter Lawless provided a specific planning update to attendees.

Peter explained that pre-apps are always followed by the submission of the actual planning application, and so we should expect applications in Q1 2023 for both Shepherds Hut and Crown Farm.

Peter reminded community members that installation of telecom masts fall within Government permitted development and planning permission is not required. Peter advised that ETC has written to the contractors planning to install the 18m telecoms mast at the junction of Bell Lane and Eton Wick Road to request mast placement to be done with consideration of the views from residents' windows.

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**Churchyard Update** – Helen Branscombe-Davies on behalf of Rev La

Helen apologised for not presenting an update provided in advance by Rev. La who was not able to attend the meeting, advising this would be included in the minutes. Please see Rev. La's update below:

**Churchyard** – At the moment, Steve Chester is looking after the churchyard and doing it beautifully. It costs £3,500 per year, so any monies raised towards this will be gratefully received. I have investigated using the probation service people to help in some way and this is an ongoing discussion. Thank you to all for ongoing respect of the regulations as it facilitates upkeep. (If you would like to receive a copy of the regulations, please contact [EWVA\\_committee@outlook.com](mailto:EWVA_committee@outlook.com))

**Church/Community Room** - With support for heating costs from RWM and other trusts, we can offer free lunch on Mondays from 12-2pm at the moment. Coffee mornings on Wednesdays

continue without a break. We meet from 10.30 to 12 noon. Toddlers is on Thursdays from 10 to 12 noon, starting back on 12th Jan.

**Church services** - Sundays at 11am. Particularly children focussed on 1st and 3rd Sunday each month. For baptisms, weddings and funerals, please get in touch.

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

Helen reported the largest attendance to date at the Junior session on Monday 16 January 2023, advising there are now 32 members in this age group. The Senior sessions are attended by approx. 10 young people each week, achieving consistency if not volume of members. It is hoped to see growth in attendance for the Seniors as we move through 2023. Claire thanked our adult volunteers, some of whom attended the Community meeting, for their continued support.

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#### **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.

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#### **Eton Wick Church of England First School** – Karen Waller, Headteacher

Karen gave an impromptu update, advising that school numbers are growing with 16 in the nursery and the prospect of 25 new students joining in September 2023. Karen advised she would like to rebuild presence in the community and will be providing an update at each EWVA quarterly Community Meeting going forward.

Karen also advised the school will be supporting day care and pre-school with the goal of wrap-around-care supported by Shelley Canavan, a local registered childminder. Shelley will be taking children from age two and is operating from the buildings formally used as a children's centre in the grounds of the school.

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#### **Finance Update** – Claire Taylor, EWVA Treasurer

Claire reported that the EWVA fiscal year end closed on 15 January 2023, and she is currently working through confirming all entries on the account. The balance at year end was £2,357.15.

Eton Wick Youth Club is currently using the residual balance whilst their bank account is being opened. A confirmed grant for the Youth Club has yet to be banked and this will repay EWVA. The grant has also enabled EWYC to continue to subsidise membership subscriptions in the short term.

Eton Wick Waterways Group have not been in receipt of any funds whilst the Thames Water works have been in progress.

No additional EWVA funds have been applied for as we enter a period of restructure. The focus has been on applying for funding for EWYC in its start-up stage, quickly followed by compliance and training requirements. Much needed funds have been raised via the collection box at the cash till in Nisa for both EWVA and EWYC.

Claire advised that the 100 Club will be drawn soon, however this has not proved as successful as hoped and we will need to review whether continuing this fund raising initiative is worth it. Currently, resident funds are barely covering the license fee leaving almost nothing to pay out to winners!

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## **Any Other Business**

**Cubs & Beavers** – Ron Lewandowski advised of a membership drive for Beavers and Cubs, sessions held at the Scout Hut by Haywards Mead. Beavers (age 6-8) on Friday evenings, Cubs (age 8-10) on Thursday evenings. A community member asked if a young person could attend a trial session at no charge and Ron confirmed yes.

**Speed Limit on Dorney Common** – Helen reported she had been in contact with Dorney Parish Council regarding the speed limit across the Common and that they are going to raise this at their next meeting.

**Speed Awareness Signs** – Helen advised she had obtained quotations for a fixed, solar powered, speed awareness sign to be purchased and installed at the Eton Wick cattle grid to alert drivers of the need to decrease speed before entering Eton Wick. More information will be provided to community members before any decision is reached and EWVA will need to apply for funding to cover the cost. On a positive, initial quotes are coming in at under half the price quoted back in 2018.

**Potholes** – A community member raised the issue of potholes in local roads, in particular those through Dorney on Lake End Road. All agreed the importance of registering/reporting potholes to the relevant local authority to prompt remedial action.

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## **Future Events**

Helen advised that the EWVA Community 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 April and 19 July and 18 October. Advance notice of each meeting will be published on social media, EWVA website, in Library and on village noticeboards.

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