



Email – EWVA_Committee@outlook.com

Minutes of Community Meeting Wednesday 17 January @ 8pm

Welcome – Lucy Ludovici (Chair)

Lucy welcomed everyone to the meeting and started by explaining that the scheduled Neighbourhood Watch presentation would not be taking place as planned, as the local area representative had a family emergency and had cancelled attending a couple of hours before the meeting. Lucy advised that a new date would be agreed with Neighbourhood Watch and the community advised.

Approval of Minutes, meeting 18 October 2023

Minutes of the October 2023 EWVA community meeting were approved unanimously.

Diary Update – Lucy Ludovici (Chair), and Helen Branscombe-Davies (Secretary)

Lucy advised that a Christmas Social was organised by EWVA to bring together committee members and volunteers from all the village groups. This took place on Monday 11 December, at the Greyhound, and EWVA committee members were joined by volunteers from Eton Wick Waterways Group, Eton Wick Youth Club, Eton Wick Allotments Society, Wild Eton Wick, Eton Town Council, and Eton Wick Village Hall. Positive feedback was received from attendees, and it is hoped that we can foster greater levels of collaboration between village groups going forward.

Helen advised that EWVA continues to be active in bringing local information and news to the community via social media and village notice boards.

Thames Valley Police Update – Helen Branscombe-Davies (Secretary)

Helen passed on apologies from our local team at Thames Valley Police who had been otherwise assigned that evening and presented the crime figures for the past 30 days.

Eton Wick – 9 reports

Theft from Motor Vehicle - 2

(included one incident whereby a male was observed trying car door handles in the village, for which CCTV of the suspect has been circulated, and also a report of an untidy search of a locked car - nothing was taken.)

Hare Coursing and Lamping - 2

(The two areas mentioned in these reports are Boveney Lock and the area between Dorney Common and Eton Wick Road. A 4x4 appears to have been involved)

Theft of Pedal Cycles – 0

Burglary Residential – 0

ASB Community – 0

Criminal Damage – 0

Other offences – 5

(Including a vehicle interference incident and a suspicious person incident.)

A community member raised the issue of pranksters in village knocking on doors and running away.



Eton Wick Waterways Group (EWWG) Update – Laura Regazzacci

Laura advised that due to the recent period of exceptionally high rain fall, resulting in flooding in Windsor and Eton, the Boveney had broken its bank in the lower half more than in the upper half of the watercourse. This resulted in flooding of land belonging to Eton College. Laura explained that this is a regular event as this is a flood plain, and that flooding in this lower stretch of the Boveney probably saved the upper part of the village as water was able to flow down to the Thames. Laura further advised that reporting of flooding affecting residential properties to RBWM was the responsibility of the residents, and that no reports had been made according to RBWM.

Laura advised that the Asda footpath had remained accessible throughout the period, and that the flooding on Dorney Common was at levels that have become usual at times of heavy rainfall.

An Eton Town Councillor who is resident in Eton advised that residents there had experienced flooding in basements and under building car parks. Laura also supplied the information that 50 houses need to be reported as flooding for government relief funding for flooding to be triggered in an area and that this figure had not been reached in 2024. It was discussed that residents are reluctant to report flooding to RBWM as this could adversely affect their buildings and contents insurance. RBWM Cllr Mark Wilson commented that the Environment Agency (EA) had requested information on the number of homes that are flooded.

A community member asked how recent flooding compared with 2014. Laura, supported by other community members and volunteers with EWWG, responded that the flooding in 2014 was worse than 2024.

Laura advised that the Boveney was now circa 50cm lower than its highpoint so far this year. She informed that members of EWWG had walked to the Jubilee on 6 January and up to a vantage point on the far side to view the Slough Treatment Works and that there was no evidence of untreated outflow entering the watercourse. Plus, it is too early to judge any impact on wildlife from the recent flooding and storm discharge (partly treated outflow).

Community members were advised of an EWWG litter pick taking place on Saturday 20 January from the Brocas to the Church.

info@etonwickwaterwaysgroup.org

Environment Agency hotline – 0800 807060

Thames Water hotline – 0800 316 9800

Eton Town Council Update (incl. Planning) – Malcolm Leach and Linda Tarbox, Eton Town Council

Malcolm advised that a Peter Lawless, a long serving councillor representing Eton Wick on Eton Town Council had resigned with immediate effect creating a vacancy for a councillor to represent Eton Wick. The successful candidate would be in position for three years which would take them to the next election for the town council. Malcolm welcomed applications and advised that there would be an interview process.

Linda advised that Peter Lawless was also the ETC representative on the Eton Wick Football & Social Club and that Cllr Ken Robertson had been asked to take over this responsibility.

Linda advised that remedial works had recently been completed at Haywards Mead play area, plus clearance of land and new fences installed at the Princes Close pedestrian entrance to Haywards Mead. Linda also advised that six cherry trees are proposed to be planted in this area subject to agreement at a full meeting of Eton Town Council. A community member gave their view that the entrance was now too wide, providing easy access for quad bikes etc. Another concern being that this could encourage dumping of waste into the river. Linda responded that the access width requirement for a double buggy/pushchair is the same as for a quad bike. Linda also commented that ETC would investigate whether a further post could be added to help deter small vehicle access, plus that the planned addition of six trees should help.

A community member advised that trees in this area of Haywards Mead house goldfinches and stressed the important of retaining remaining trees.

Another community member asked if the area further down towards the river would also benefit from clearance and Linda advised that the plan is to look at the brambled area and see what is possible whilst ensuring a balance is maintained between provision of a haven for wildlife and the need to remove rubbish and properly maintain the area.

Malcolm advised that maintenance of the planted bed in front of the parade of shops including Nisa had been taken over by ETC, with work to tidy the beds starting prior to Remembrance Day to ensure the area by the memorial was presentable. The remainder of the bed had now been similarly tidied and would be maintained monthly by ETC going forward.

RBWM Update – Cllr Mark Wilson

Mark advised that RBWM parks department were responsible for borders outside the shops at Bell Lane. Helen (EWVA Secretary) asked for clarity on what was included, ie was this just the grassed area or also the planted beds. All agreed that the beds needed to be tidied. Mark commented that marketing has started for the retail unit (formerly the pet shop) at Bell Lane with two open days (Monday 15 and Friday 19 January). Annual rent is published and interested parties need to advise what they plan to use it for.

A community member commented that the entrance to the cycle way opposite St John the Baptist Church and Eton Wick First School allowed access for 4X4 vehicles, that the land had recently been torn up by tyres and the crime of lamping reported on at least four occasions. The meeting was advised that the land belongs to Eton College and they would need to put in additional/new bollards to prevent this.

Mark gave an update on the Eton Wick Library situation, advising that he was in dialogue with the main councillor for Leisure (includes Libraries) and trying to move things forward. Hopefully we are now looking at weeks rather than months before progress is made. Malcolm and Linda advised that they were both working hard to bring all parties together to reach a successful conclusion to the matter.

Mark continued that there were no guarantees, it is a very complex matter, and no assurances of a timeline can be made.

Mark advised that elections for a new Police Commissioner will be held in May 2024.

Finance Update – Alison Hill, EWVA Treasurer

Alison advised that the transfer of the Treasurer role was taking place, that this is a complex task and likely to take 2-3 months.

Any Other Business

Lucy (Chair) asked community members what they wanted from EWVA in 2024, commenting that the Christmas social event organised by EWVA to bring together committee members and volunteers from the various village organisations had been well attended and that it would be good to build on this.

Ideas discussed included social events, wreath making class at Christmas, family fun day, relaunch party for Library reopening (hopefully).

Helen (Secretary) advised that as EWVA pay for and maintain a village information website she had reached out to other village groups to see if they would like their own page(s) at no charge. Page design and management would also be provided free as the aim is to maximise the value of the website for the benefit of all groups in the village with everyone fully maintaining their own identity and no conflict of interests.

Future Events

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.

Lucy Ludovici
Chair

Helen Branscombe-Davies
Secretary

Alison Hill
Treasurer

Janice Caldwell
Social, Fundraising, and Christmas Events