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

Approval of Minutes, meeting 19 April 2023

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

Diary Update – Helen Branscombe-Davies (Secretary)

- A quote for annual service and maintenance of existing Christmas Lights has been presented to Eton Town Council for approval. In addition, we hope to agree a programme of end-of-life replacements and some additional complimentary items to be scheduled over the next 3-4 years.
 - Following the elections on 4 May 2023 EWVA Secretary, Helen Branscombe-Davies, joined Eton Town Council as a parish councillor representing the ward of Eton Wick. Accompanying other Eton Wick councillors, Helen met the three new borough councillors representing Eton & Castle for a tour of Eton Wick on Saturday 20 May, taking them to various areas of particular concern around the village with the aim of gaining their support and progressing necessary works by RBWM.
 - In May the outstanding parish councillor vacancies for the ward of Eton Wick were publicised via the EWVA Facebook page and shared with the two main village groups – Only in Eton Wick, and Eton Wick Village.
 - Although no organised community activities have taken place, EWVA has been active in bringing local information and news to the community via social media, village notice boards, and the library. Since the April 2023 meeting, EVVA social media post statistics show: -
 - 32 posts – on EWVA Facebook page and shared to both Eton Wick Facebook groups.
 - 5,749 people reached
 - 6,313 impressions
 - 22 shares
 - 65 engagements
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Thames Valley Police Update

PCSO James Searle had been expected to attend, however he was called to an incident that evening. PCSO Melita Wright sent apologies on his behalf and provided the crime/incident report details below.

Eton Wick reports – 8 June to 4 July 2023

- **Fraud** – Reference 43230290130 - 01/07/2023
Bank Protocol - Contacted Police - No money taken on this occasion. £55,000 to buy gold due to a scam call from a fake police officer who had told her that she needed to take money out and buy gold and then get a taxi home and have it collected so that it would be insured.
 - **Anti-Social Behaviour** – Reference 43230264126 - 16/06/2023
Complaints about parking for the Church at Haywards Mead on Sunday morning and the busy car park for the football tournament at weekends blocking pavements and causing obstructions.
 - **Dangerous Dog** – Reference 43230287789 - 29/06/23 19:55hrs.
 - **Miscellaneous** – Reference 43230318614 - 18/07/2023
Person sleeping in a tent on Bell Lane green area has been referred to Ruff Sleepers team.
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RBWM Update – Cllr Mark Wilson and Cllr Devon Davies

- **Bell Lane Shops** – Cllr Wilson advised that paving will be re-laid and planting tidied up. The enormous planters will be removed. Only one quote for the work had been received so far out of the three quotes required, so the deadline has been extended to end August. Work therefore not likely to start until September 2023.
- **Grass Cutting and Hedges** – Cllr Wilson described the situation as disastrous across the whole borough, not just Eton Wick, advising that the situation had been escalated borough-wide with the contractor. A copy of the contract with the work schedules for Eton Wick had now been obtained and was being reviewed, as it was important to be able to the frequency of cuts for each grass area and also for hedges to community members.
- **Report it** – Cllr Wilson recommended use of the Report-it online tool, accessed via the RBWM website. A discussion between community members covered a variety of local issues including incorrect use of the pedestrian crossing on Eton Wick Road, outside Nisa. Community members were advised to report local issues, for example pot holes, overgrown hedges or other plants obstructing footpaths, and non-functional traffic lights, using the online tool.
- **Household Support Fund** – Cllr Wilson advised that the Household Support Fund had been relaunched and will continue to help community members in financial hardship. £20/week in vouchers, throughout the summer holidays, is being provided to those school children who are in receipt of free school meals, with vouchers being handed out on the last day of term. Local housing associations, churches, and other partner organisations help RBWM to identify community members to receive the Household Support Fund. Citizens Advise Berkshire was identified as a good contact for residents who felt that they should receive the payment.
- **Flooding and Waterways** – Both Cllrs advised they had been actively engaging with all the stakeholders including the Environment Agency, Thames Water, Dorney Residents Association, and Eton Wick Waterways Group (EWWG). They had both been volunteering with EWWG, helping clear the local rivers of excessive weed to enable water to flow into the Thames more easily. Cllr

Wilson advised that he was working with a Slough Borough Councillor from Cippenham to identify what works are needed to stop the path to Asda flooding.

- **Parking** – Cllr Wilson advised that parking issues on Bell Lane, Stockdales, Colenorton had been identified as hot spots and they had not decided whether it would be best to tackle one-by-one or do as a whole. A community member raised the issue of new double yellow lines appearing in Bunces Close with no consultation with residents whose homes are nearest the lines. The resident explained that the situation is now a nightmare as the parking issues had all now been compressed further down Bunces Close causing significant problems. The lines appeared 2-3 weeks ago at the top of Bunces Close near to the junction with Eton Wick Road. Cllr Wilson promised to look into this matter with urgency.



Eton Wick Waterways Group (EWWG) Update – Laura Regazzacci

Laura detailed how the flooding on Dorney Common, Bell Lane, Tilstone Close, Queens Road, Cornwell Close and Princes Close has been much worse this year. Residents have complained to Thames Water, the Environment Agency, and the Royal Borough about the flooding and smell that has been caused by standing water on Dorney Common. The Moores Lane footpath was impassable for two months and had to be closed by the local authorities of Slough, and Windsor and Maidenhead, in early summer. As this has now become an annual problem, the two councils are now collaborating to find a solution, so that the footpath remains passable throughout the year, and plan to have something in place before the next flooding event.

Laura advised that weed reduction on our waterways started with the Boveney Stream on 18 June, when the EWWG team of 12-14 volunteers started work on clearing weed from Queens Road. The pond weed here was very thick and causing high river levels, as much due to its volume as its resistance to flow. Maydencroft environmental contractors pulled weed from the lower Boveney the same week, from the confluence with the Thames up to and including Haywards Mead Recreation Ground. This was done on behalf of both Eton College and Eton Town Council.

The volunteer team continued for the next two weekends clearing the Boveney along Queens road and Cornwall Close, while the Maydencroft team cleared reeds and weed along Princess Close and lower Tilstone Close on behalf of Eton College. This arrangement worked well, and we saw an immediate drop in river level along the Boveney of up to 70cm in some places. The river was flowing much faster and began clearing the backlog of water trapped in the Roundmoor, Cress Brook, North Ditch, and Dorney Common, although some of the standing water needed more time to evaporate or drain through the ground. More recently, volunteers started clearing the weed along the Roundmoor to encourage flow and improve the river levels along Tilstone Close. However, unless some assistance is offered by the landowners of Dorney Common and the field to the north of Colenorton Crescent, we don't intend to tackle the upper Roundmoor above Colenorton Crescent this year. It is hoped that RBWM will place enough pressure on the Environment Agency and Thames Water to tackle the problem of flooding to the north of the village, as this is due to a complex and systemic failure of the Roundmoor to carry water

quickly enough to the Thames. It is simply unacceptable that sewage effluent, whether treated, partially treated, or untreated is allowed to flood property and form permanent lakes of standing water, rather than being directed away through larger watercourses such as the Thames or Jubilee.

Laura further advised that the 'pipeline project', previously promoted by Thames Water as a solution to local flooding and storm water pollution, appears to have been delayed. Despite many prompts from us, Thames Water Project Team have been unable to comment on this delay, saying only that there have been several challenges currently hindering progress. Meanwhile, the steering group of EWWG are working with our newly elected borough councillors to hold Thames Water and the Environment Agency to account for the annual flooding and to make plans to mitigate a repeat of flooding next spring. One course of action being considered is to enable the worst sections of the Boveney to be cleared of weed much sooner in the year, and another to reduce the amount of silt and mud that is caused by both the spring flooding and the cattle poaching into the river in the summer months.

Laura advised that seven new volunteers have recently been welcomed to EWWG including all three newly elected councillors from the Eton and Castle ward which includes Eton Wick. This has enabled much faster work on clearing the weed and getting the waterways flowing as they should. If you would like to join EWWG as a volunteer, or inform of any waterways issues, please contact EWWG using the email address below. (Please don't rely on social media if you wish to report something to EWWG).

info@etonwickwaterwaysgroup.org

A community member, whose property is adjacent to Common Brook, asked whether Thames Water would be compensating residents for the flooding and damage to property and gardens. The resident described how a cellar at her property had been flooded for many months. A lengthy discussion followed where Laura explained Thames Water are aware of the flooding issues on the Common Brook and surrounding area, however the maintenance of this watercourse is not their responsibility. If there are culverts blocked downstream, then that is the responsibility of riparian landowners. The Environment Agency classify this watercourse as a main river, and as such it is their responsibility to enforce maintenance of the river upon landowners.

Following the discussion above, Laura encouraged residents to continue complaining to Thames Water and the Environment Agency about flooding, smells, and sewage discharge as often and as soon as it happens near you, preferably giving a grid reference or by using the app 'What3Words' location and keep these details handy. The more calls they get the better the response time.

Environment Agency hotline – 0800 807060

Thames Water hotline – 0800 316 9800

Eton Town Council Update – Linda Tarbox, Eton Town Council

Linda introduced the new councillors for Eton Wick who had joined Eton Town Council post the May parish council elections. Cllr Liam Bulson whose responsibilities would include liaising with the Eton Wick Allotment Association, and Cllr Riccardo Ludovici whose responsibilities would include working with Eton Wick Waterways Group.

Regarding the waterways, Linda advised that Eton Town Council are investigating funding water quality testing at a selection of sites around the village, for example were the syphon from Thames Water treatment works feeds the Roundmoor, the standing water on Dorney Common and the now permanent wetlands to the north of Colenorton Crescent, and the well servicing the allotments.

Linda advised that the Eton Wick Christmas Lights funding would be in place again this year, with a £2,500 fund for service and maintenance and up to an additional £1,000 from the Community Infrastructure Levy could be called upon this year to fund any replacement or additional items.

The junior football tournament, running over eight weeks at Haywards Mead, had now finished and Linda declared the first year to be a great success and advised that this junior league tournament is planned to return to Haywards Mead in future years. The organisers were praised for their management and organisation of all aspects of the event each week. A community member queried access across Haywards Mead for walking/dog walking during this time. Linda explained that grass treatment work had been undertaken and a central access route across the sportsground had been provided during works.

Planning Update – Peter Lawless, Eton Town Council

Peter advised that there was no update available on Crown Farm and Shepherds Hut planning applications.

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

Helen explained that Rev La was not able to attend the meeting and read out a report provided by La.

The Church - La's last service will be 30th July at 11 o'clock. Reverend Carole Gooding will be continuing for a year, so will continue to look after Sunday services, the weekday Crafty Creations, Toddlers and Coffee Morning, our school services and assemblies, as well as baptisms, weddings, funerals and burials at the church. Rev Carole can be contacted at revcarolegooding@gmail.com or contact the church at stjohnstjamesed@hotmail.co.uk

The Churchyard - Is currently beautifully maintained by Stephen Chester. Please remember no burials or scattering of ashes may take place without permission. Contact 01783 852268 or stjohnstjamesed@hotmail.co.uk

Equally no stones of any sort may be introduced without permission. Annuals, spring bulbs and cut flowers are permitted, but grave surrounds or coverings, perennials, artificial flowers containing plastic, lights etc etc are not. This is for reasons of safety, ease of maintenance and in order to keep the quietness and tranquillity of the surroundings.

You will begin to notice some tiny wild-life friendly adjustments – bird and bat boxes amongst the trees, and bug hotels in a corner or two, and, as now, leaving the area around the rowan tree for longer grass.

The upkeep of the churchyard currently costs £3,500 per year. The church received last year nearly £850 in restricted giving for the churchyard (donations after funerals or direct gifts) as well as receiving £400 from historic giving. Fundraising to make up the rest is now needed as the funds from the previous 'Churchyard Fund' have now been used.

The Church Room - This is progressing. Some grants have been received and in Eton Church several events have been produced thanks to Jane Speller to raise funds for this. The plans are with the architect ready to go to tender at the end of this month – we hope!

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

Helen advised, that building on a great start to 2023, membership continued to grow over the spring term with attendance peaking at 45 for the Junior session. Explaining that whilst having so many members is fantastic it can be quite a challenge with the limited pool of dedicated helpers.

The second half of spring term ended on Monday 27 March with Easter themed activities and prizes. Earlier in the month St David's Day provided an opportunity to make Welsh Cakes, and Mother's Day was also a focus with attendees at both sessions creating cards and decorating flowerpots planted with wildflower seeds.



(senior session)



(junior session)



On 9 June this lovely photo was sent in by one of our member's mums (junior session), showing that her Mother's Day present from her son had finally bloomed.

Helen advised that summer term activities included a variety of art, craft, leisure, and sports activities. Use of the adjoining RBWM Sports Hall and the playing fields immediately at the rear have broadened activity options now that evenings are much lighter and warmer.

As the relaunched youth club will hold its first birthday in the Autumn, we held a meeting of volunteers on Wednesday 21 June to hear their feedback, and great ideas, on how to run the youth club in the best way possible for our members and community going forward. The meeting provided great insights into how our volunteers are feeling and what is working well, and what not so well. The meeting was very positive, with a majority in agreement across all matters discussed. Helen advised that EWYC has already commenced implementation of some suggestions and will be working through the other outputs over the coming months.

Enhanced DBS checks are underway for seven of our regular volunteers through Berkshire Youth, and a volunteer training plan will be put in place for the second half of the calendar year.

Adult volunteers are essential to making The Wick a success and enabling us to continue through 2023 and beyond. If you are interested and available on a Monday evening to help at either or both sessions, please get in touch.

ewyc-committee@outlook.com

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 talked through the finances for the year to date, details provided below. Claire advised that this information was now slightly out of date as the Cain BioEngineering Report 2 for Eton Wick Waterways Group looks likely to be more than £12,000, with a figure of up to £20,000 possible.

INCOME EXPENSE REPORT FINANCIAL YEAR TO DATE (June 2023)



Eton Wick Village Association - Community Account - Restricted and Unrestricted Funds

Income		Expense
2500	Grants *R	
114	100 Club	
41	Donations	
	Administration	519.39
	Christmas Lights	
	Events	
397.99	Transfers - Savings Ac 1	178.6
220.34	Transfers - Savings Ac 2	2350.15
366	The Wick	2626.16
	Wild Eton Wick	43.04
	War Memorials	9.5
<u>£ 3,639.33</u>		<u>£ 5,726.84</u>



Eton Wick Village Association - Savings 1 (Waterways Group) - Restricted and Unrestricted Funds

Income		Expense
£ 76.46	Grants *R	
	Donations	
	Interest	
	Equipment	£ 73.97
	Consumables	£ 41.42
	Administration	£ 282.60
<u>£ 76.46</u>		<u>£ 397.99</u>



Eton Wick Village Association - Savings Account 2 - Restricted Funds (Acc opened March 2023)

Income		Expense
£ 1,545.66	Platinum Jubilee Suppluss *R	
£ 300.00	Bell Lane Bin *R	
£ 45.00	Library *R	
£ 446.54	War Memorial *R	
£ 8.83	Wild Eton Wick *R	
£ 4.12	Interest	
<u>£ 2,350.15</u>		<u>0</u>

Assets		Assets and Liabilities	
Cash at Bank No. 1 Account	£ 270.14	Liabilities	
Cash at Bank No. 2 Account	£ 22,700.65	100 Club	£ 57.00
Cash at Bank No.3 Account	£ 2,350.15	Cain BioEngineering Report 2	£ 12,000.00

Any Other Business

- **Social Events** - Lucy Ludovici, EWVA Social Events, advised she would be aiming to organise a social event for community members before Christmas and, going forward, to look at social event opportunities at intervals throughout the year. These events would raise funds for EWVA as well as being a great opportunity to bring the village community together. Community members suggested Bingo and Quiz Night as options they felt would be well received and attended.
 - **EV Charge Points** – A community member asked if EV charge points had been considered for Eton Wick. Linda Tarbox responded to advise that Eton Town Council had tried to progress providing EV charge points in both Eton and Eton Wick however they had been advised by RBWM that this would be organised by RBWM in due course with other areas (eg Windsor town centre) taking priority.
 - **Pedestrian Crossing** – A community member raised the issue of the traffic light controlled pedestrian crossing by Nisa not being used properly with people walking across the road without waiting for the lights to change or without even pressing the button. Plus, cars stopping to allow pedestrians to cross whilst the traffic light was still green. Some community members wanted the traffic light crossing to be removed and replaced with a simple zebra crossing. Other community members felt that users should be educated so that they understood how to use the crossing.
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Future Events

Helen advised that the EWVA Community Meetings are booked for the year ahead and published on the EWVA website and social media. The fourth quarterly meeting of 2023 will be on 18 October, 7.30pm at the Village Hall. Community Meeting dates for 2024 are currently planned as 17 January 2024, 17 April 2024, 17 July 2024, and 16 October 2024. 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

Lucy Ludovici
EWVA Social Events

Janice Caldwell
EWVA Christmas Events