**MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF**

**ELLESBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL**

**ON MONDAY 12th MAY 2025 AT 7.30PM**

Present: Councillors:

 D Hares, H Holman, S Withey J Hamer V Keeble D Panikkar

 M McGrail Chairman

 Parish Clerk: J. McKeown

4 members of the public were in attendance.

Two local Police Officers were in attendance.

 **Action**

**Item 3.1 Chairman** Councillor McGrail was proposed, seconded, and re-elected as Chairman

**Item 3.2 Chairman’s Declaration of Acceptance of office** was signed by Councillor McGrail and witnessed by the Clerk

**Item 3.3 Vice Chairman** Councillor Holman was proposed, seconded and re- elected as Vice Chairman

**Item 3.4 Vice Chairman’s Declaration of Acceptance of Office** was signed by Councillor Holman and witnessed by the Clerk

**Item 3.5 Appointment of new councillor**

Vikki Keeble was co-opted onto the council; was proposed, seconded and voted into office.

The following Councillor’s responsibilities were agreed

1. Planning comment co-ordinator – Councillor McGrail
2. Recreational Facilities, Allotments & Biodiversity – Councillor Holman
3. Transport and Road Safety, – Councillors Panikkar and Keeble
4. Village Hall Management Committee – Councillor Withey
5. Footpaths, Rights of Way and Dunsmore – Councillors Hamer and Hares
6. Rural affordable housing – Councillor Hares
7. HS2 co-ordinator – Councillor Panikkar
8. Website and media – Councillor Keeble

**Item 3.6 Councillor’s Declarations of Acceptance of Office** Councillor’s Hamer, Withey, Hares, Panikkar and Keeble signed their declarations of acceptance of office, and these were witnessed and signed by the Clerk.

**Local Police Officers -**Following the formal re-election paperwork being signed and witnessed the meeting was opened for discussion with the guest police officers Caitlin and Briony, to allow the floor to ask questions enabling the officers to leave earlier.

A number of subjects were discussed including speeding, rural crime, and burglaries.

Questions from the floor included contact details for communicating with PC Neal, reviewing the positions given for Speedwatch activity, speeding letters to offenders, identity theft, and number plate stealing.

**Item3.7 Councillors Election Expenses –** No expenseswere incurred due to uncontested election but required paperwork was completed, witnessed by the clerk, and signed.

 **Item 3.8 Apologies –** None

**Item 3.9 Declarations of Interest**. None declared

**Item 3.10 Minutes.** The minutes of 2024 Ellesborough Parish Council AGM held on the 20th of May 2024 were unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman.

**Item 3.11 Road Safety Issues.**  Councillor Panikkar told the meeting that along with the clerk a meeting was held with Cabinet minister for Transport Mr Steven Broadbent to discuss the new parking restrictions opposite the golf course on Wendover Road. Mr Broadbent was sympathetic with our complaint and said he would look into revoking this new restriction.

As he has now taken over as leader of the council following the 2025 election, the clerk to follow up with him and find out who will be the new Cabinet minister for Transport **JMcK**

**Item 3.11.1 MVAS update –** data continues to be collected from the two MVAS units and is now also added to the website each time it is analysed.

**Item 3.11.2 Coombe Hill Car Park** Councillor Hares told the meeting he has not received any further news on this. Over the recent bank holiday traffic parking overspilled onto the verges leading to Dunsmore causing a great deal of distress to residents. Cllr Hamer to provide photographs to Cllr Hares to pass on to National Trust in the hope of pressuring the expansion of the car parking area. **JH/DH**

**Item 3.12 Recreational Facilities.** Cymbeline Lodge contributed to a new bench situated in the playground with a plaque recognising their donation.

**Item 3.12.1 Playground inspection 2025. –** Councillor Holman told the meeting that this year’s inspection has been carried out and that two of the stepping stones have been replaced as they were split and potentially dangerous. Remaining work - benches need washing, and 2 coats of wood stain for £225. Metal clasp repair and post removal £15, two no dogs’ signs and fix £50, 3 planks and new bolts fitted £120; a total of £410 was approved unanimously. **JMcK/HH**

**Item 3.12.2 Playing field -**Risborough Rangers have now ended their football season and through Ross Prentiss, are completing the repairs to the car parking areas on the playing field and new earth and grass seed has been applied. **HH**

 **Item 3.12.3 Allotments –** All allotments are currently in use – no vacancies

**Item 3.12.5** Councillor Holman is currently assessing the Chiltern nationwide nature recovery plan and will update in due course. **HH**

**Item 3.13 Finance.** The pre council reconciliation and savings and current account balances were checked by Councillor McGrail and signed off.

The following payments made since the last meeting were approved:

800434 £96.00 Granite chips for bridleway

800435 £5.16 Post Crete for new bench

800436 £144.10 BALC annual subscription

800437 £243.60 Rialtas accounts annual subscription

800438 £210.00 Fenland Leisure playground inspection fee

800439 £592.10 Grass cutting April 2025

800440 £30.00 Alan Weston AGAR internal audit fee

**Item 3.13.1 AGAR Annual Signatures** the Chairman signed off the annual Accounting Governance figures and they were witnessed and countersigned by the Clerk

**Item 3.14 Planning.** Councillor McGrail informed the meeting that there were no new applications of concern to the Council apart from comments made on the application for 92 Chalkshire Road.

**Item 3.15 Affordable Housing.** Councillor Hares stated that there has been no further progress. It is understood that Hastoe affordable housing and the landowner are finalising agreements. A construction contractor has not yet been appointed. An informative letter box drop will be carried out once there is more information to share, and parishioners’ comments will be welcomed at this time. Hedge work does not necessarily need to wait until autumn. Contractors can appoint an environmental impact assessment to gain permission to cut hedges sensitively outside of the permitted window. No permission for this has been sought yet.

**Item 3.16 Clerks Report, Correspondence, Circulars and Consultation Documents**

**Item 3.16.1 VAT Refund -**Clerk informed the meeting that the VAT refund has been applied for but has not yet been received. (£1932)

**Item 3.17 Dunsmore** CllrHamer told the meeting that Cobnut bridleway is owned by Bucks Council, but they have no funds to apportion to this. Cllr Panikkar to provide Cllr Hamer with contact details of Rights of Way staff who may be able to apply pressure. **DP/JH**

**Item 3.17.1 Ash tree quote** – A quote of £450 to remove the ash tree with ash die back on Dunsmore Road needs to be followed up. **JH**

**Item 3.17.2 Footpath through Churchyard –** Cllr Panikkar informed the meeting that Bucks Council will be following this up. **DP/JH**

**Item 3.18. HS2.** The clerk said EKFB are closing many local roads soon including Risborough Road from 19th-21st June and Lower Road on the 27th May – 1st June to start the tie in to the new Stoke Mandeville Bypass. This will be followed later in the summer with the new tie in made, which will need a longer road closure -dates to be confirmed. Once the bypass is completed Risborough Road will be closed permanently and will only have access for pedestrians and cyclists through an underpass.

**Item 3.19 Annual Village Party –** Councillor Withey informed the meeting that the only date that works currently is 5th July although the Silver band is not available for this date. Covers band to be sought. **JMcK/SW**

**Item 3.20 Matters of report**

* Cllr Withey has been asked if the dog training currently done in the parish hall can be carried out in the playing field. No objections made- can this be a charged for event? **SW**
* Cllr Keeble requested media is added to future meeting agendas. **VK/JMcK**

**Item 3.21 Open forum –**

* Since the departure of Eddie Bacon at Hatsoe affordable housing his replacement is proving difficult to contact. EPC to follow up. **DH**

 **Next Meeting** the Annual Parish Meeting will be held at Ellesborough Parish Hall on Thursday 30th May 2024 at 8pm

The meeting closed at 20.55 hrs.

Signed

M McGrail

Chairman

Ellesborough Parish Council