**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF**

**ELLESBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL HELD**

**ON THURSDAY 30th MAY 2024 AT 8.00PM**

Present: Councillors:

D Hares, H Holman, S Withey M McGrail

Parish Clerk: J. McKeown

7 members of the public were in attendance

**Action**

**Item 1 Chairman’s Introduction to the meeting –** the meeting was chaired by Chairman Councillor McGrail

Apologies were accepted from Councillor’s Panikkar, Hamer and Glover.

**Item 2 Minutes of 2023 meeting to be signed -**the minutes were approved and signed by Vice Chairman Councillor Holman as she chaired this meeting in 2023.

**Item 3 Chairman’s Report** Councillor McGrail outlined the following points from the last Parish year as follows: -

* The Village party was a great success and £1000 was raised for charity which was split between Chiltern MS Society and Wendover Dementia.
* A successful visit to Chequers was made by several invited parishioners and councillors.
* Remembrance Sunday and the Christmas Carol service went well.
* New Councillor Mr Julian Hamer was appointed.
* HS2 engagement continues with monthly meeting between Councillor Panikkar and the Clerk
* New double yellow lines are to be painted at the crossroads between Chalkshire Road and Ellesborough Road.
* Devolution of grass cutting – a new 5-year contract was tendered and signed.
* Planning applications continue to be monitored by EPC.
* Rural Affordable Housing was approved by Bucks Council subject to a S106 agreement which is yet to be agreed by all parties.
* Two new dog waste bins were purchased and erected in the parish.
* Parish magazine continues to be supported financially by EPC.
* Dunsmore pond is now back in a good condition

Councillor Withey covered road safety in the absence of Councillor Panikkar.

* Councillor Panikkar successfully completed the funding application to North West Chiltern Community Board for the contribution to MVAS funding including informing and receiving feedback from residents.
* MVAS have now arrived and will be installed imminently, the first one on Chalkshire Road in one of the 9 agreed sites. Details of the 9 sites can be found on the website.
* Speedwatch continues to pick up offenders - 118 last month and a total of 639 in the past 12 months. Details are forwarded to Thames valley police. More volunteers are needed – anyone interested, please contact the Clerk in the first instance.

Councillor Hares covered further points

* A permissive footpath was opened directing the public through the Churchyard rather than on the dangerous bend in the carriageway.
* The new footpath on the A4010 was completed by Bucks Council at the request of EPC which now provides a safe walking path all the way to Stoke Mandeville.
* Coombe Hill car park charging is due to be introduced by National Trust. No further details on timing and management yet.

Councillor Holman covered playing field and playground

* The playground refurbishment was competed at a cost of £9638 inc. Vat with given donations of £8034. The painting of the equipment is nearly finished.
* The next annual inspection of the playground and ball wall is being arranged for July
* Recreation ground was successfully used by Risborough Rangers under 16’s and the track repairs following heavy rain and vehicle movements is being completed by them also.
* Recreation ground entrance track damage is being quoted for.
* A new pedestrian gate was fitted at the entrance to the recreation ground.
* The allotment fees were increased to £20 per annum and new leases issued and signed and there is currently just one vacancy of plot no.2 south.
* One half of one allotment has been donated to make a wildflower garden from the kid’s competition results, which will be judged at the village party on the 29th June.
* A new biodiversity policy has been written by the clerk and responsibility taken on by Councillor Holman who will be attending a course on 16th September 2024.

The Chairman finished by thanking the clerk and councillors for their efforts over the past 12 months, and mentioned the village hall committee, Speedwatch volunteers, litter pickers, and the Ellesborough and wildlife trusts.

**Item 4 Accounts for the Year 2023/24 –** the Clerk reported that the current account stood at £16988 and the savings account at £26022. The donations from Bucks Council £2500 for the MVAS and £1284 towards the playground were received this week.

The main expenditure items for this year were the clerk’s salary, purchase of the MVAS, and grounds maintenance. The clerk advised that the payment for the playground repairs have rolled over into the new financial year. The precept for this year remains the same as last year at £21000.

The Clerk also reported that the AGAR (Annual Governance and Accountability Report) has been completed, internally audited and is now with PKF Littlejohn the external auditors.

**Item Members of electorate considerations**

* Smiley faces to be considered for the new MVAS although it was advised that Bucks Council say only speed should be displayed.
* Can data from MVAS be collated for the parish meetings
* Can exposure to the parish meetings be increased to attract more parishioners.
* Can bullet points from the open forum be expanded although it was advised that points raised cannot be minuted verbatim.
* Can the open forum be pushed back later onto the meeting agenda
* Asset register was discussed and outlined to the meeting.
* Will EPC re-consider the vote carried out on 2 bed Hastoe affordable houses and the S106 restricted to Ellesborough and Kimble.
* The need for a neighbourhood plan was discussed although for a small parish it was advised this is not practical currently.
* The re-opening of Marsh Lane was discussed. This will happen once the Stoke Mandeville bypass is completed and a junction with Marsh Lane will be made by HS2. Probably in 2025.

The meeting closed at 21.15pm

Signed

Councillor McGrail

Chairman

Ellesborough Parish Council