**MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF**

**ELLESBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL**

**ON MONDAY 18th NOVEMBER 2024 AT 7.30PM**

Present: Councillors:

M.McGrail, H Holman, S Withey, J Hamer, D Hares, M.Glover

Parish Clerk: J. McKeown

6 members of the public were in attendance.

**Action**

**Item 6.1 Apologies –** Councillor Panikkar

**Item 6.2 Declarations of Interest**. Councillor Withey for affordable housing.

**Item 6.3 Minutes.** The minutes of 16/9/2024 approved and signed by the Vice Chairman.

**Item 6.4. Road Safety Issues.**  Cllr Withey on behalf of Councillor Panikkar discussed a parishioner has requested the possibility of a pedestrian crossing at the Terrick roundabout on the A4010. James Tunnard responded to Cllr Panikkar that to justify this type of spending there would need to be a number of recorded incidents – information on incidents was requested. There was a serious accident on Nash Lee Road which was attended by police, ambulance, and the fire service. Details have been forwarded to James Tunnard – awaiting a response. The meeting suggested a reduced speed limit should be considered from 50-40mph approaching Terrick roundabout.

**Item 6.4.1 MVAS** Cllr Withey on behalf of Councillor Panikkar told the meeting that the new MVAS data has been examined and shows many vehicles recorded over the speed limit. EPC to continue to gather data and to share this with the police, and to present a summary of the same to the public in the new year. It was also suggested that the cameras are turned through 180 degrees to see if this reduces the average speeds from the opposite direction. The MVAS does record traffic in both directions, but the display is on one side only.

**Item 6.5 Coombe Hill Car Park -**No further update. **DH**

**Item 6.6 Recreational Facilities.**

**Item 6.6.1 Playground update –** Councillor Holman told the meeting that the required maintenance identified from the report of Online Playgrounds has now been completed. However there have been incidents with youths damaging the paintwork on the swings so the use of CCTV was discussed. The meeting felt this may cause issues with children being recorded so dummy cameras or improved lighting was considered. Cllr Withey to follow up with the Village Hall Committee. **SW**

Clerk to book in the annual playground inspection for April 2025. **JMcK**

**Item 6.6.2 Website content –** myparish-council who manage the website have offered a site audit of the website to ensure the template meets latest government standards. The cost of £ 50 was approved by the meeting. Clerk to organise. **JMcK**

**Item 6.6.3 Allotments –** No current vacancies. The cost of water supplied has increased dramatically this year from ~ 30 cubic metres to ~ 150 cubic metres. There was a reported leak so the water readings for next year need to be assessed quarterly. **JMcK**

**Item 6.6.4 Playing field –** Grass is still growing, so it will be cut once more this week at the expense of Risborough Rangers.

**Item 6.7 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:

800408 £100.00 Grass cutting Dunsmore contribution 2024

800409 £1024.73 Grass cutting September 2024

800410 £268.80 Rex Norris MVAS security work

800411 £107.02 Fresh air fitness new bearings

800412 £10.00 BALC biodiversity course

800413 £957.73 Grass cutting October 2024

800414 £483.55 Rex Norris allotment water supply 2024

800415 £306.85 Clerk expenses and office hire

800416 £50.00 J. Hamer Pond clearing expenses

**Item 6.8 Planning.** Councillor McGrail told the meeting there were no planning applications that required action from EPC

**Item 6.9 Affordable Housing.** Councillor Hares told the meeting that BC and Hastoe affordable housing are now close to agreeing the S106 document, and that sole occupancy has been permitted through the rural exception policy. These terms override those of the Bucks Home Choice allocation policy.

**Item 6.10 Clerks Report, Correspondence, Circulars and Consultation Documents**

**Item 6.10.1 Budget 2025/26** The Clerk informed the meeting that initial calculations indicate the precept for next year can probably remain at £21K, as per this year. To be confirmed at the January Parish Council Meeting.

**Item 6.10.2 Devolution agreement –** BC have suggested an agreement extension of 4 years instead of the usual 1 year. Forward email to Chair for consideration. **JMcK/MM**

**Item 6.10.3 Church gates and rotting posts –** Church warden has reported overgrown vegetation and rotting posts that may be trip hazard. EPC to investigate **MM/DH**

**Item 6.11 Dunsmore.**

**Item 6.11.1 Bridleway near The Beeches –** Cllr Hamer told the meeting that repairs to this are underway **JH**

**Item 6.11.2 Bridleway near Cobnut Farm -**dangerous to horses and the public. Hampden Horse group have agreed to cut back the vegetation weather permitting and Cllr Hamer will follow repairs up with James Dixon of BC rights of way and the owners of Cobnut farm. **JH**

**Item 6.11.3 Ash tree removal –** Clerk to follow up with Steve Webb **JMcK**

**Item 6.11.4 Footpath through church yard –** Cllr Panikkar has reported to the rights of way officers having identified that BC are responsible for the path and the top “two spits” (two spade’s depth) and EPC are responsible for below that. An officer will inspect the path and decide what needs to be done so EPC have an idea of costs.

**Item 6.12 HS2.** Cllr Panikkar and the Clerk visited HS2 local sites with EKFB on 19/9/24 and whilst appreciative of the impressive civil engineering of this project were amazed at just how large an area is being used up by HS2 and the number of people employed by it. **JMcK DP**

**Item 6.13 Matters of report**

* Cllr Holman has updated through the Clerk the biodiversity policy after her training course at BC, specifically about night time light pollution.
* EPC thanked Ed for his Last Post and Reveille at the Sunday remembrance service – sadly he is not available next year. Bugler required for 2025. **SW/JMcK**
* Parish Hall committee AGM – annual accounts to be forwarded to the Clerk **SW**
* Tenders are being placed for refurbishment of the Parish Hall bathrooms. **SW**
* Xmas carols concert to be held 13th December
* Xmas lights on hall to be lit at the start of December **MM**
* New planting at the memorial – Clerk to ask Steve Webb who did it **JMcK**
* Mulled wine for the Carol concert to be organised. **MG**
* Open forum at end of meeting for a trial period of three meetings – trial over – put to the floor and agreed to continue with this going forward.

**Item 6.14 –Open Forum**

* It has been noted that some people are blowing leaves onto the roadways – this a form of fly tipping. Mention in Parish Update and Chairman’s magazine notes. **JMcK/MM**
* Bridleway repairs – what materials will be used? A mixture of sand and aggregate to be put down using a “wacker plate” which will be hired.
* Affordable homes discussed including under occupation in the S106, local letting policy clarity, and MP Greg Smith taking the unusual position of submitting a written objection to a planning application that has already been determined.

**Next Meeting** the Parish Council Meeting will be held at Ellesborough Parish Hall on Monday 20th January 2025 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 20.45 hrs.

Signed

M.McGrail

Chairman

Ellesborough Parish Council