**MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF**

**ELLESBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL**

**ON MONDAY 20th JANUARY 2025 AT 7.30PM**

Present: Councillors:

D.Panikkar, H Holman, S Withey, J Hamer, D Hares

Parish Clerk: J. McKeown

10 members of the public were in attendance.

**Action**

**Item 1.1 Apologies –** Councillor’s McGrail & Glover.

**Item 1.2 Declarations of Interest**. Councillor Withey for affordable housing.

**Item 1.3 Minutes.** The minutes of 18/11/2024 were approved and signed by the Vice Chairman.

**Item 1.4. Road Safety Issues.**  Councillor Panikkar discussed data from the MVAS readings since installation in August 2024. Over 150,000 vehicles have been recorded showing 96% below 40mph (bearing in mind a 30mph limit). The data is now collected with a 30mph limit which gives more accurate information. There have been incidences of vehicles travelling at 70mph plus on Chalkshire Road and 75mph plus on Ellesborough Road. This information has been shared with PC Lee Turner who manages Speedwatch in the area and has been asked to provide an increased police presence – speed vans etc. Cllr. Panikkar to follow up with James Tunnard and PC Lee Turner. **DP**

For information Speedwatch have registered 3275 offenders in the last period of which 426 have received warning letters – 95% of offenders do not re-offend.

It was requested that some of this information be shared on the website including the Speedwatch newsletter and MVAS pie chart results. Clerk to follow up **JMcK**

**Item 1.6 Coombe Hill Car Park -**No further update, however it has been noted that many of the verges have been damaged by vehicle parking, which Cllr Hares has photographed. This may add concerns over the proposed car park charging which may encourage vehicles to park on verges.

**Item 1.7 Recreational Facilities.** Cllr Holman said that plates have been put down to protect the new grass, however Risborough Rangers have yet to use the playing ground this year.

The pedestrian gate to the playing field is very noisy. Clerk to follow up with Steve Webb. **JMcK**

**Item 1.7.1 Playground update –** Councillor Holman told the meeting that Online Playgrounds have been contacted to carry out this year’s inspection around April 2025. Cllr Holman also stated that she hopes to raise some funds this year to replace the picnic table which is old and rotting. **HH**

**Item 1.7.2 Website content –** myparish-council have carried out a site audit of the website to ensure the template meets latest government standards. Minor improvements have been made at a cost of £30

**Item 1.7.3 Allotments –** No current vacancies.

**Item 1.8 Finance.** The pre council reconciliation and savings and current account balances were checked by Councillor Holman and signed off.

The following payments made since the last meeting were approved:

800417 £483.55 Rex Norris allotment water supply 2024 – previous cheque not cleared

800418 £60.00 TEEC Website Audit

800420 £30.00 TEEC Website corrective work

800421 £40.00 BALC Village greens course Cllr Hamer

800422 £40.00 BALC Rights of Way course Cllr Hamer

800423 £384.00 Clerk expenses and office hire Nov 2024- Jan 2025

800424 £70.90 Cllr Withey Xmas party expenses.

**Item 1.9 Planning.** Councillor Holman on behalf of Councillor McGrail told the meeting there were no planning applications that required action from EPC.

**Item 1.9.1** Work commenced at 91 Chalkshire Road appears to be outside planning requirements. Email to be sent to planning office for clarity **MM**

**Item 1.9.2 Bird boxes –** EPC to request to Bucks planning that all new builds should include an appropriate bird box on construction for biodiversity measures. **MM**

**Item 1.10 Affordable Housing.** Councillor Hares told the meeting that Hastoe affordable housing and the landowner have now signed the final S106 document, and that Buckinghamshire council now need to sign this off. Following this there will be a judicial review period for public to raise any legal concerns. Cllr Hares to establish the length of this review. **DH**

Once signed off Parish update to be issued by clerk. **JMcK**

**Item 1.11 Clerks Report, Correspondence, Circulars and Consultation Documents**

**Item 1.11.1 Budget 2025/26** The Clerk informed the meeting that following a budget review which was circulated to Councillors, that the precept for next year needs to be increased by £1000 to £22K. This was unanimously agreed at the Parish Council Meeting. **JMcK**

**Item 1.11.2 Devolution.** The devolution agreement with Bucks Council is to remain on a one-year contract rather than the 4-year turnaround offered.

Further duties on devolution were discussed, such as hedge management and overhanging branches, but it was decided that these items could be dealt with on an ad hoc basis. The clerk stated that Zoe Ford of Bucks Council said that any further requests for funding would not be possible, and that extra funding would need to be met by increasing the precept which affects local council tax bills. Fix my street are responsible for several of the “extras” so should be contacted in the first instance.

**Item 1.11.3 Parking restrictions on Wendover Road.** EPC have received several emails and a list of nearly 80 objecting parishioners about the new “No Parking” signs erected on Wendover Road, particularly on the layby opposite the golf course. EPC raised objections to this in 2021 but received no feedback. EPC to raise objections to Steve Broadbent, James Tunnard, Kevin Goad, and Julie Rushton at Bucks Council. **DP/JMcK**

**Item 11.11.4 Church Hill Charity** Clerk has been asked to take over as trustee of this Charity and carry out annual returns, now Rex Norris has retired. Clerk to follow up **JMcK**

**Item 1.12 Dunsmore.**

**Item 1.12.1 Bridleway near The Beeches –** Cllr Hamer told the meeting that James Dixon of Bucks Rights of Way promised stone chippings to be supplied but despite repeated emails this is yet to happen **JH**

**Item 1.12.2 Bridleway near Cobnut Farm -** stilldangerous to horses and the public. Cllr Hamer is struggling to establish the landowner of this bridleway. Can Cllr McGrail assist? **MM**

**Item 1.12.3 Footpath through church yard –** Cllr Panikkar has reported to the rights of way officers and is awaiting a reply. The Clerk has two quotes to carry out repairs; one ~£2000 and the other £1500 but informed the meeting we only have £1100 left in the budget. Clerk suggested asking the church to cover the cost of replacing the handrail at around £500 which would enable the rest to be covered by EPC. At a minimum it was suggested that the dangerous step at the end of the path be repaired asap as it is a trip hazard. Cllr Panikkar asked if we could wait for two weeks for a reply from Bucks. **DP/JMcK**

**Item 1.13 HS2.** Cllr Panikkar and the Clerk have been invited to the A413 on 30/1/25 to observe the viaduct launch across the road. Cllr Panikkar declined but Mr Richard Jennings asked if he could attend as editor of Ellesborough Magazine. Clerk to ask EKFB. **JMcK**

**Item 1.14 Matters of report**

* EPC magazine contribution is in this year’s budget – to be paid in the summer **JMcK**
* North West Chiltern Community Board is joining up with South West Chiltern Community Board and will be renamed “West Chiltern Community Board”. Cllr Holman to update when it happens. **HH**
* Christmas carol concert was a great success with good attendance  **SW**

**Item 1.15 –Open Forum**

* MVAS positioning or turning through 180 degrees was discussed **DP**
* Damaged verges were raised again – follow up with Steve Broadbent **DP**
* Affordable housing and the S106 was discussed regarding consulting with parishioners and its legal standing**. DH**

**Item 1.16 Annual Review of Clerk’s pay and conditions. –** following a review of “Clerks and Council’s Direct” this year’s minimum clerk’s pay is recommended at £12.85 per hour which on ~750 hours per annum is £9650, an increase of £400 on last year’s salary was agreed. The current government minimum pay is £12.21 per hour.

**Next Meeting** the Parish Council Meeting will be held at Ellesborough Parish Hall on Monday 17th March 2025 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 20.50 hrs.

Signed

H Holman

Vice Chairman

Ellesborough Parish Council