**MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF**

**ELLESBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL**

**ON MONDAY 21st July 2025 AT 7.30PM**

Present: Councillors:

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

 Parish Clerk: J. McKeown

1 member of the public was in attendance.

 **Action**

**Item 4.1 Apologies –** Councillor Panikkar

**Item 4.2 Declarations of Interest**. None declared.

**Item 4.3 Minutes.** The minutes of 17/03/2025 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**Item 4.4. Road Safety Issues.**  Councillor Withey discussed the road closure caused by a vehicle hitting a tree on Chalkshire Road

**Item 4.4.1 MVAS** Cllr Keeble has analysed the latest MVAS data as follows: -

Ellesborough Road - Minimal change to average speeds when comparing with the April-May dataset. Average speed is around 30mph but roughly 15% of vehicles exceed the speed limit. Max speed observed incoming into the village was 70mph. In comparison, a speed of 84mph was recorded for outgoing traffic. Overall, vehicles movements are down by about 20-30% from April-May.

Chalkshire Road - Minimal change to average speeds when comparing with the April-May dataset. Average speed is around 30mph but roughly 40% of vehicles exceed the speed limit. Max speed observed incoming into the village was 74mph. A speed of 80mph was recorded for outgoing traffic. Overall, vehicle movements are down by about 20% from April-May.

Discussion followed about location points to move the speed cameras, but this will need help to do so as they are very heavy and cumbersome to re-locate**. MM/DH**

**Item 4.5 Coombe Hill Car Park -**Cllr Hamerspoke to a national trust employee who advised there is unlikely to be any progress this year. National Trust employee agreed to help put logs down the verges to protect them and setup a working party to cut back overgrowth from carpark.

Cllr Hares to ask for dates and chase progress. **DH**

**Item 4.6 Recreational Facilities.** Cllr Holman said that the new grass on the playing field had been watered by Ross due to the very dry conditions recently.

**Item 4.6.1 Playground update –** Councillor Holman told the meeting that the playground work has now been completed following this year’s inspection report.

**Item 4.6.2 Biodiversity update** Cllr Holman read and gave back feedback regarding the Nature Recovery Plan document to Chilterns National Landscape.

Cllr Holman has taken over the management of the Churchyard wildflowers and advised that Steve Webb will be cutting the wildflowers the first week of August then 2 weeks later on 23rd August the ‘big rake’ will take place.

Cllr Holman has received a copy of the Local Wildlife Site audit for the churchyard and a listing of plant species found there.  These documents are going to be added to the website at the same time as the information regarding Ellesborough Church is updated.

Cllr Holman also requested funding for ‘tete-a-tete’ daffodil bulbs to be planted in November after the second cut costing £99.95 +£7.99 delivery.   This funding was unanimously approved.

**Item 4.7 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:

800441 £840.10 Grass cutting May 2025

800442 £546.42 Rex Norris MVAS repair work

800443 £1444.10 June Grass cutting and playground repairs

800444 £205.97 Chiltern brewery village party beer

800445 £900.00 Ellesborough magazine donation

800446 £640.37 Clerk office rent, expenses & village party singer fee

800447 £106.74 Cllr Withey village party expenses

800448 £334.48 Matt Glover village party expenses

800449 £540.00 TEEC web hosting annual subscription

800450 £453.30 Hares & Son village party food

**Item 4.8 Planning.** Councillor McGrail told the meeting there were no planning applications that required action from EPC. Also, the new rules by BC were discussed whereby comments on planning applications can no longer be seen by the public due to data protection. Parishioners are requested to email the Clerk any comments they wish to be seen for feedback. As a statutory consultee, EPC can add comments that are available to read on the planning portal.

**Item 4.9 Affordable Housing.** Councillor Hares told the meeting that the sale of the land to Hastoe affordable housing has now been completed. Parrot Construction have been appointed to build the units and have issued a draft construction management plan (CMP) to EPC. Initial discussions on the CMP asked for clarity on several issues viz- lighting plans, contractor parking space, site security and delivery operation times. Cllr Hares to ask for more detail. Construction is expected to commence Oct 2025 through to July 2026 **DH**

**Item 4.10 Clerks Report, Correspondence, Circulars and Consultation Documents**

**Item 4.10.1 Parking restrictions on Wendover Road** the Clerk informed the meeting that Julie Rushton head of parking at BC had sent an email outlining the statutory consultation, which ran from 13 October to 2021 to 21 November 2021, and can be seen here <https://yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com/roads-parking/countywide-public-consultation/> The proposals and consultation was also advertised in the following papers: Bucks Free Press, Bucks Herold and the Slough Observer.

She also stated that any requested changes to the restrictions would require an amendment to the Order, which would include a statutory consultation, and require funding. Clerk to follow up asking for proof of due process and any complaints made at the time. **JMcK**

**4.10.2 S106 money from Backs Council Item –** Clerk to identify the correct form to complete and procedure and forward to Councillors with requests for funding. **JMcK**

**Item 4.10.3 Vat refund & Devolution payment-** Clerk informed the meeting these payments have now been received.

**Item 4.10.4 Village party update –** Clerk informed the meeting that this year’s village party did not generate any surplus funds but was well within the budgeted sum. The meeting suggested organising next year’s party a little earlier to avoid and of term parties etc. A date of 20.6.2026 was suggested which is also the King’s birthday. **SW**

**Item 4.10.5 Parish Council Elections.** The Clerk informed the meeting that the elections held on May 1st will incur a charge of £254. This is to cover costs such as printing of poll cards and postage. Parishes which were contested will incur greater costs.

**Item 4.10.6 .gov.uk email addresses –** it has been requested by BC that all email addresses are to be migrated onto .gov emails for greater security. Clerk to administer and to send new email addresses to Cllr McGrail **JMcK**

**Item 4.10.7 Facebook page –** a parishioner has tried to join the EPC Facebook page without success. Cllr Hares and Keeble to follow up. **VK/DH**

**Item 4.10.8 Footpath 22-** the footpath alongside the Chiltern Brewery is overgrown and impassable. The Clerk has spoken to the landowner three times who promised to trim it back but said he was at odds with instructions from the Environment agency who have told him to allow hedgerow growth for biodiversity reasons. Clerk to report this to the countryside public rights of way portal and to answer the parishioner’s email to this end. **JMcK**

**Item 4.11 Dunsmore.** Cllr Hamer raised the issue of speeding in the area. The chairman suggested borrowing the Speedwatch camera which records number plates and is forwarded to the police. Cllr Hamer to follow up with Dunsmore residents to recruit volunteers following which training would need to be carried out. **JH**

**Item 4.11.1 Bridleway near Cobnut Farm –** Cllr Hamer continues to chase Savannah at Bucks Council. **JH**

**Item 4.11.2 Footpath through church yard –** In the absence of Councillor Panikkar currently no further news. Cllr McGrail to contact her for an update. **MM**

**Item 4.12 HS2.** the Clerk commented on the long closure of Nash Lee Road and the consequences to local businesses. Follow up with EKFB **JMcK**

**Item 4.13 Media & Website** Councillor Keeble noted that parish updates on the site are very old – Clerk to delete. Also Bucks Councillors need to be updated following the elections – Cllr Keeble to email clerk with new details and also to discuss editing rights on the website. **JMcK**/**VK**

**Item 4.14 Matters of report –**

* Cllr Withey updated the meeting on the current building work in the village hall to refurbish the toilets which is expected to be completed by the end of August.
* Cllr Withey also told the meeting that Elizabeth Hine has stepped down from managing the village hall bookings and that it will now be managed by Cllr Withey herself and by using an updated website for bookings. Cllr Withey to provide details. **SW**
* Remembrance Sunday date was noted for 9/11/2025 – do we have a bugler this year **SW**
* Cllr Witheydiscussed a potential Chequer’s visit for September – details to follow **SW**

**Item 4.15 –Open Forum**

* Discussion covered new planning rules that redact public comments. As a statutory consultee, EPC were asked if they can submit comments on behalf of parishioners, so they remain visible. This would depend on the content and whether it was agreed by EPC.

 **Next Meeting** the next meeting will be held in Dunsmore Village Hall on Monday 15th September 2025 7.30pm

**Please note there is restricted parking available at Dunsmore Village Hall so please car share if attending.**

The meeting closed at 20.48 hrs.

Signed

M.McGrail

Chairman

Ellesborough Parish Council