

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
ELLESBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 21ST NOVEMBER 2017 AT 7.30PM
IN ELLESBOROUGH PARISH HALL**

Present: Councillors:
R Alexander (Chairman) A White
D Hares M Glover
D Panikkar M McGrail
D Hayes

Parish Clerk: R Norris

In Attendance:

Councillor Clive Harriss, WDC, Bucks CC
Anne McLoughlin, Operations Director, Hastoe
Karen Hillhouse, Regional Head of Development, Hastoe

Action

Item 6.1 Apologies. None, all Councillors attended the meeting.

Item 6.2 Open Forum. There were no members of the public present so nothing was discussed under this item.

Item 6.3 Declarations of Interest. There were no declarations of personal or prejudicial interest from the Councillors present at the meeting for items on the agenda. However, all the Councillors reviewed and resigned their Declarations of Pecuniary Interest.

Item 6.4 Minutes. The minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2017 were unanimously approved and duly signed.

Item 6.5 Road Safety Issues. The Clerk reported on the recent meeting that he had had with the Local Area Technician (LAT). The advisory speed limit sign on the Chequers main gate bend has been reduced from 40mph to 25mph. Following a request from a parishioner about the speed limit on Nash Lee Lane in front of the Terrick Cottages the LAT will investigate and advise on the possibility of reducing the limit from 40mph to 30mph. The litter bins at Terrick which often have their contents spread over the surrounding area by foxes might be able to be replaced with better ones. The Clerk is to take photographs of the problem and email them to TMorrissey@chiltern.gov.uk. The underground drain at the north end of Chalkshire Road should have a camera survey carried out on it in the next few weeks and then a decision can be taken as to what action might need to be taken. The LAT will arrange for a contractor to clear the ditch at the north end of Chalkshire Road opposite The Plough although it is really the responsibility of the adjacent landowner. Regarding the drains on the Missenden Road from Buckmoorend Farm to the bottom of the hill, they would normally be cleaned out annually but some require attention more often. The LAT will ensure that they are put on the list for them to be done more often. He will also see if they can be cleaned again in the next few weeks.

There was some discussion about the possibility of installing Average Speed Cameras. Although the Clerk had been advised by the police that the cost was in the order of £20k it was thought that a more accurate figure should be obtained. The Clerk is to investigate costs. Apparently as none have been installed within Bucks there is no local evidence as to their effectiveness. The Clerk is also to contact Councillor David Carroll at Bucks CC to see if he can help. (Clerk's Note: since the meeting Councillor Harriss has advised that Thames Valley Police are considering consultation with councils to install average speed cameras subject to them being financed independently)

The problem of parked vehicles obstructing pavements had been brought to the attention of Councillors. The Council has no authority regarding parking and it is for the police to action. However, Councillor Glover will speak with the owner of a vehicle that is currently obstructing the pavement along Chalkshire Road.

Item 6.6 Clerk's Report. The Clerk raised the request from the new Chairman of the Wycombe District Association of Local Councils (WDALC) that the meeting consider membership of the organisation. After some discussion, and bearing in mind the Chairman's experience of previous meetings of WDALC, the meeting unanimously decided not to re-join. The Clerk will advise them of the decision.

RN

Item 6.7 Recreational Facilities. Councillor Panikkar reported that the annual inspection report had not been received and nor had the Clerk been billed for it so she was investigating. Meanwhile, the money promised for the basketball frame was still available and the provision of a bespoke unit was ongoing.

Item 6.8 Planning. Councillor McGrail reported that the only planning application of significance was one for building a house behind Terrick cottages which had been refused. Regarding the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan, he intends to view the information on Friday and respond over the weekend. On the matter of reviewing the Village Design Statement, he has quite a number of names of people who are willing to assist with the update. He will select a team based on their experience and involvement with the original document. The intention is to form a sub-committee and formalise it at the January meeting. The subject of temporary buildings was raised in relation to their size. The meeting was unsure as to the exact regulations but the Clerk would investigate. (Clerk's Note: Since the meeting the Clerk has passed on the basic rules to the Councillor concerned)

Item 6.9 Finance. The bank statement, the reconciliation statement and the expenditure against budget were all checked and found to be in order. The following payments were approved:

J & S Landscapes (Grass Cutting Sep 17)	800085	£530.31
Mazaars (External Audit)	800086	£120.00
Chiltern Society (Annual Subscription)	800087	£30.00
Ellesborough Parish Hall (Hire Aff H Mtg)	800088	£18.00
Dunsmore Village Hall (Hire 19 Sep)	800089	£10.00
Royal British Legion (Wreath)	800090	£40.00
J & S Landscapes (Grass Cutting Oct 17)	800091	£412.16
T Alexander (Bugler Remembrance Day)	800092	£60.00

The following payments were made:

R Norris (Supply of water to allotments)	800093	£17.85
R Norris (Office Rent)	800093	£630.00
R Norris (Refund of Expenses Mar – Nov 17)	800093	£61.06
Risborough Area Community Bus	800094	£500.00
Chiltern conservation Board	800095	£200.00

The meeting noted that current account balance as at 31 Oct 17 was £22,403.78 and that the Reconciliation Statement as at 21 Nov 17 was £20,654.71. The balance in the savings account was about £35,200.00. The Clerk had been unable to determine the exact figure as there had been problems with the online banking system.

Item 6.10 Footpaths, Stiles and Gates. Regarding the replacement of stiles in Dunsmore, the Clerk is awaiting a reply to his letter from Tim Lee. When this is received, Councillor Hares will go ahead and get the contractor to install the offset hurdles. There had also been a report of an oil spill on the footpath along the Missenden Road. The Clerk will ask if Steve Webb had had a problem with his vehicle.

RN

Item 6.11 Field in Trust. The Clerk reported that he had put the applications in for the playground, the car park, the parish hall, the war memorial, the playing field and the allotments. We should now have a visit by Fields in Trust to look at the land we are asking to put into trust. The question of the ownership of the playing field was raised. Councillor McGrail offered to check the ownership with the Land Registry. Regarding the Active Spaces Programme, Councillor Panikkar had looked at it and it really didn't apply to us as it needed a fulltime programme to be arranged. However, it might be applicable to Risborough Rangers and as it was a grant of £5000 this was worth investigation. The Clerk will contact Risborough Rangers.

RN, MMcG

Item 6.12 Affordable Housing. In order to release Councillor Harriss, Ann McLoughlin and Karen Hillhouse, this item was discussed out of order earlier in the meeting. The meeting was generally pleased with the report that had been produced by Janice Alexander of Devon Communities Together (DCT) and felt that it was quite comprehensive. The meeting welcomed Ann McLoughlin from Hastoe who said that it was important that Hastoe played their part in this stage of the project. The need identified in the survey would equate to a build of 4 to 5 houses. Karen Hillhouse had contacted Wycombe District Council who had been quite negative in their response and basically said that they would only talk to Hastoe at the pre-application stage and that they required to see further detail from the survey responses. The meeting was very concerned about the attitude of WDC. This was the second survey that had been carried out and it had been cleared by WDC to see that it definitely would meet their requirements before it had been issued. Considering that there was a shortage of housing in the area and that Ellesborough would be providing affordable housing it seemed unimaginable that WDC would put obstacles in the path of the project. Surely the possible provision of any housing particularly affordable and with the firm support of the parish council should be considered beneficial and be given support and not hinderance by WDC.

Hastoe need further time to analyse the information in the report and had already requested further details which DCT had already provided. Further actions were to look at the WDC plan to see if

that would apply or support this project. Councillor Harris agreed to talk with the planning and housing officials within WDC to see if the project could be moved forward and that meetings could be set up between themselves and Hastoe to progress it. If it would assist, the Parish Council would be prepared to attend meetings. The Clerk and Karen Hillhouse will liaise to ensure that information is distributed to all interested parties.

The Parish Hall has been booked for the 14th of December for another public meeting to disseminate the results of the survey and possibly to reveal the location of the Parish Council's preferred site for the affordable housing. The survey report will be available for distribution via email if addresses are given to the Clerk. As for the previous meeting, Hastoe have agreed to prepare information boards. If required the Chairman and Karen Hillhouse will have another meeting to prepare for the 14th. Hastoe may also prepare a press release before this date.

Item 6.13 Dunsmore Internet Provision. The Chairman has written to the other councils that have a responsibility for Dunsmore, to ask if they would be prepared to contribute towards the cost of providing better internet access for Dunsmore. A company called Village Networks has quoted £25k to install a system which would run into Dunsmore and then provide Wi-Fi links to individual properties. However, the legal situation about connecting to what is essentially a private system needs to be investigated. Councillor White will undertake this. There was some concern amongst Councillors that a £4k contribution towards the cost is too much.

Item 6.14 Chilterns Conservation Board – Donation. This request raised the issue of whether or not the Parish Council should be making donations to charities. Because of the tremendous range of charities and their aims, the meeting felt that each case must be taken on its merits. The Chilterns Conservation Board does carry out work which is important to the local area and hence has a beneficial effect on the area and parishioners. Because of this the meeting agreed to the request, but felt that for our small parish the suggested amount of £500 was too much. After some discussion the amount of the donation was decided at £200.00. The Clerk will forward the cheque to the Board. For the coming financial year, it was suggested that a figure be set for donations in our budget and then any that we make can be deducted from this figure and be appropriate to the size of our budget figure.

RN

Item 6.15 Matters of Report. Councillor McGrail noted that BT had removed the phone from the box next to the Russell Arms but as yet still had to remove the box. He will chase them up. Since the new notice board had been put up in front of the hall, the Parish Hall Committee have decided that the hall sign also needs replacing. The Clerk is to give the details of the company that provided the notice board to Councillor Glover (Clerk's Note: This has been done). Whilst on the subject of notice boards, the meeting agreed that the one at the rear of the hall and the one at the playing field should be removed. Councillor Hares will action. Councillor Glover asked who was responsible for the wall at the front of the hall. The meeting agreed that it was the responsibility of the hall committee. Councillor Glover will pass this information on. The meeting noted that the Silver Band Christmas Concert was on the 15th of December and asked that Councillors attend. Finally, Councillor Panikkar had been contacted about branches falling from the trees in Royal Mead as these may cause damage or injury. The Clerk will contact Bucks CC to see if they can be pollarded as a matter of urgency.

**RN, DH
McG, MG**

Item 6.16 Next Meeting. The next Parish Council Meeting will be on 16 January 2018 at 7.30pm in Ellesborough Parish Hall.

The meeting closed at 21.24 hrs.

Signed

Councillor Robert Alexander
Chairman
Ellesborough Parish Council