

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
ELLESBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 20TH MARCH 2018 AT 7.30PM
IN ELLESBOROUGH PARISH HALL**

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

Parish Clerk: R Norris

Action

Item 2.1 Apologies. Apologies had been received from Councillors Alexander and Glover.

Item 2.2 Open Forum. There were 4 members of the public present, Anthea York and Pauline Hall from the Ellesborough Guide Centre to brief the Council on their planning application and Ivan Stillwell and Chris Royal from Dunsmore who came to inform the Council on the situation regarding the provision of internet access in Dunsmore. The information they provided is recorded under the relevant item heading.

Item 2.3 Declarations of Interest. There were no declarations of personal or prejudicial interest from the Councillors present at the meeting for items on the agenda.

Item 2.4 Minutes. The minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2018 were unanimously approved and duly signed.

Item 2.5 Road Safety Issues. The email from Paul Merry about speeding prompted a lot of discussion on the subject which is of great concern to the Parish Council. Efforts to get more policing of the parish have consistently failed and the police have failed to respond when we have contacted them. In order to try and take the matter further we need more data and this should be available from the VASs. The Clerk is to contact Peter Tilbury and see what data he has available. Also, although the Clerk has asked, through David Carroll, to be contacted by Bucks CC about the provision of Average Speed Cameras, as yet he has had no response. The Clerk is to contact David Carroll to see if he will chase them up again. The Clerk has a file which is about 5 cm thick on various measures that can be taken to reduce speeding, but for various reasons all have been rejected. The Clerk is re-examine the file and provide a summary of it.

RN

Item 2.6 Clerk's Report. The Clerk said that he had received a letter from a Mr Addison about cleaning traffic signs in the parish but there was no indication of costs. The Clerk is to respond asking for a quotation for the cleaning of all the signs in the parish. Fields in trust have also asked the Council if it would like to join it. The cost would be £50.00 per year. As the Council is always receiving such requests and does not have the funds to join everything it was decided not to take up the offer.

RN

Item 2.7 Recreational Facilities. After much prompting from Councillor Panikkar, WDC have found that Ellesborough was somehow removed from the list of places to be inspected last year, but

the safety inspection will be carried out during the week beginning 26 March 18. A request had been received for a dog waste bin to be positioned adjacent to the footpaths that cross Chalkshire Road on the south side of Malt House Farm. The meeting agreed to the request and the Clerk is to contact Steve Webb to arrange for its provision and include it on the emptying schedule. Councillor McGrail said that some paint had been sprayed on the equipment in the playground. Councillor Panikkar will investigate and see what remedial action needs to be taken.

RN, DP

Item 2.8 Planning. Councillor McGrail reported that there had been very few applications since the last meeting and there was nothing of consequence for the Council to review. The meeting received a very comprehensive briefing on the planning application for the Guide Centre. Apart from remedial work, there will be no change to the front of the building and the main aim of the application is to upgrade the toilet and washing facilities as they currently fall way below acceptable standards. A meeting room is also included and the heating and electrical system will be upgraded. A pre-application meeting has already been held with the planning authorities and it was hoped that the application will meet all their concerns. The meeting considered that the Centre was an important facility for the parish and when the application is sent to the Council for comment, a note of support will be given.

Item 2.9 Finance. The bank statement and the reconciliation statements were all checked and found to be in order. After all payments have been taken into consideration there is £11,400.99 in the current account and £35,252.58 in the savings account. The following payments were approved:

Devon Communities Trust (Housing Survey)	800100	£2350.08
Ellesborough Parish Hall (Hire 16 Jan 18)	800101	£15.00
Steve Webb (Dog Bins and Strim RoW)	800102	£249.53

The following payments were made:

R Norris (Salary)	800103	£4000.00
HM Revenue & Customs (PAYE)	800104	£1000.00
R Norris (Office Provision Nov 17 – Feb 18)	800105	£360.00
Zurich Municipal (Insurance)	800106	£556.37

Item 2.10 Footpaths, Stiles and Gates. Councillor Hares said that he had had great difficulty in getting quotes for the replacement of the 2 stiles in Dunsmore, but that he now had a single quote of £480.00. He said that he considered the quote to be fair and in the right order of magnitude. Therefore, the meeting agreed to accept the quote and get the work done. Councillor Hares will action this. With regards to the Church gates, the meeting questioned why gates are needed. The Clerk is to put this to the Church Wardens.

DH, RN

Item 2.11 Field in Trust. Fields in Trust have sent the Council a number of documents for consideration. The Clerk passed these to Councillor McGrail and he will look at them and advise on the action to be taken.

MMcG

Item 2.12 Affordable Housing. Hastoe are to have a pre-application meeting with the planning authorities on 23 March 18 and Councillor McGrail will attend on behalf of the Parish Council.

Item 2.13 Dunsmore Internet Provision. The meeting was briefed on the problems that Dunsmore is experiencing with communications. The hamlet is served from Cabinet 7 which is on the A413 adjacent to the garage and the Firecrest public house so even if the cabinet is upgraded to fibre, there will still be a considerable length of traditional copper cable running from the cabinet to Dunsmore and it is this length of copper cable that degrades the internet service. So, with the cabinet upgraded, Dunsmore still cannot expect to have a good internet connection. The cost according to BT of providing a fibre cabinet in Dunsmore would be £50k. There are other problems in Dunsmore associated with the wiring and some houses no longer have a landline because BT are unable to correct wiring faults. Cabinet 7 has been promised to be upgraded on many occasions but the work has always been cancelled. The latest promised date is the end of May 2018.

An alternative would be to extend the fibre system that has been installed to Clayton House to Dunsmore and then install a wireless feed system to individual properties. This would cost in the order of £25k to install with a monthly charge of about £40 and at the moment some 25 households in Dunsmore are willing to invest in this system which would provide a 50Mbps service. However, if installed other households may well join the system. Dunsmore residents are asking if the Parish Council would be willing to assist in funding this system. With about 50% of households being in Wendover Parish, Wendover Parish Council has already turned down an appeal for help with funding the project and WDC and Bucks CC have failed to respond to a similar request. Councillor White is to ask for a history with dates of the saga so that it can be put to WDC and Bucks CC to see if any extra pressure can be put to bear on BT and Connected Counties to improve the current service. However, bearing in mind the limited number of houses that Ellesborough is responsible for in Dunsmore the meeting was reluctant to commit any funds at this time.

Item 2.14 Provision of a K6 Kiosk for the Defibrillator. The Clerk had received a quote of £3350 for a refurbished K6 kiosk complete with light and signs. However, the estimated cost of £1000.00 to install and connect the electricity supply did seem to be expensive. However, if it included removal of the existing cabinet then it was satisfactory as the meeting considered that would be the best site for the defibrillator. The Clerk is to find out if the removal of the existing kiosk is included in the budget figure of £1000.

RN

Item 2.15 Matters of Report. Councillor McGrail was concerned that if the Parish Hall Committee is a sub-committee of the Parish Council, then the Council would ultimately be responsible for its administration and finances and he would like to see the accounts. Councillor Glover is to see if this can be arranged. Regarding the grass cutting in Dunsmore, Councillor White told the meeting that there were no longer any youngsters in Dunsmore who could take this on and asked that it be added to the Council's grass cutting contract. The Clerk is to arrange this.

RN, MG

Item 2.16 Next Meeting. The next Parish Council Meeting, which is the AGM will be on 15 May 2018 at 7.30pm in Ellesborough Parish Hall and this will be followed by the Annual Parish Meeting on 24 May 2018 at 8.00pm.

The meeting closed at 21.10hrs.

Signed

Councillor Robert Alexander
Chairman
Ellesborough Parish Council