

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
ELLESBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON-LINE ON MONDAY 21st SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 7.30PM**

Joined: Councillors:
D Panikkar (Chairman) M Glover
R Alexander (Deputy Chairman) M McGrail
D Hares

Parish Clerk: R Norris

Members of the Public who joined the meeting:

M Crouch R Nicholson
I MacWhannell N Strathon

Action

Introduction. For administrative reasons, Councillor Alexander chaired the meeting which he introduced by explaining to the members of the public that they would be given a chance to address the meeting at the start, but once the meeting was under way they could take no further part in it, and merely had to observe. The Affordable Housing project would be discussed in camera by the Council at the end of the meeting with the intention of giving it approval. However, it may need amendment and referring back to Hastoe. In any case, once the plans are finalised, the Parish Council will publish them and undertake a consultation process with parishioners.

Item 5.1 Apologies. Apologies had been received from Councillor White and Councillor Hayes is unable to attend on-line.

Item 5.2 Open Forum. Messrs Nicholson, Crouch and Strathon only wished to observe the meeting. Mr MacWhannell explained his concern about vehicles speeding within the village and especially on Ellesborough Road. As a professional within the legal system, he volunteered his services to help the Parish Council in their dealings with the police and in any other way of which he could be of assistance. The subject of road safety was discussed fully under Item 5.5.

Item 5.3 Declarations of Interest. There were no Declarations of Interest from any of the Councillors present.

Item 5.4 Minutes. The minutes of the held on 20 July 2020 were checked for actions and unanimously approved. The Clerk will arrange for the Chairman to sign them subsequent to the meeting.

RN, RA

Item 5.5 Road Safety Issues. Following on from Mr MacWhannell's briefing on his concerns about speeding and road safety in the village, the Clerk and the Chairman explained the history of the Council's actions to try and curb speeding. The Chairman explained that various options had been investigated and for valid reasons dismissed. The Clerk has a thick file with all of these investigations in it. The Clerk explained why Speedwatch had been suspended and that he was in the process of getting 5 sites approved for the use of the equipment when we are allowed to use it again. Although we could use the equipment without sending the data onto the police, this would invalidate the insurance cover that we

have from the police. The Chairman suggested that it might be an appropriate time to consult with the village to see what people think about the issue, and suggested that a small sub-committee should be set up under the chair of Councillor White with the clerk and Mr MacWhannell. Councillor Panikkar told the meeting that at the last meeting with PC Turnham, speed reduction measures were discussed but the cost of implementing them were prohibitive. The Clerk will continue to press Thames Valley Police to allow the resumption of Speedwatch.

RN, AW

Item 5.6 Recreational Facilities. Councillor Panikkar reported that the new Red Tractor piece of playground equipment was seeing plenty of use as was the adult fitness equipment. The Chairman asked about the Covid signs and Councillor Panikkar said she would check them. The allotment project had worked very well and was still continuing to supply produce to the village. The use of the playing field by people from Aylesbury seems to have resolved itself by securing the goals. Councillor Panikkar will liaise with Risborough Rangers at the weekend to see if they are still using the parking monitor. The clerk will also repaint the spots on the road to mark the position of the no parking bollards. The Chairman asked when we invoiced Risborough Rangers for the use of the playing field. The Clerk advised that normal time is in September and ask if the Council should consider reducing the charge for this year because the Covid restrictions prevented the fields use at the end of the last season. The meeting unanimously agreed to reduce the charge for this year from £450 to £300.00. The Clerk will action this and advise Risborough Rangers.

RN, DP

Item 5.7 Finance. Councillor McGrail informed the meeting that he had carried out the checks on all the finance documents and there were no discrepancies in the figures, but there was a duplicate entry on the Asset Register. The Clerk will correct this and at the same time add the defibrillator telephone kiosk. The savings and current account balances as per the reconciliation statements were £35,596.34 and £14,450.88 respectively. The following payments made since the last meeting were approved:

Steve Webb (Grass Cutting Jul 20)	800202	£661.01
Open Spaces Society (Ann Subscription)	800203	£45.00
Steve Webb (Grass Cutting Aug 20)	800204	£795.67

Payments made: None

Councillor Panikkar agreed to carry out the next financial check.

RN, DP

Item 5.8 Planning. Councillor McGrail told the meeting that there hadn't been much activity during the past 2 months and the only application of any note was one for a fairly large extension at Whitegates on the Risborough Road, but even this wasn't contentious. The update to the Village Design Statement had come to a halt because of Covid 19 and when work does start on it again there needs to be a further 2 members of the sub-committee. Councillor McGrail explained the difference between a Village Design Statement and a Neighbourhood Plan. A Neighbourhood Plan imposes more control on the planning system, particularly in terms of development. However, as Ellesborough falls within the AONB and the Green Belt, Councillor McGrail thought that the restrictions that these apply to development negate the need for Ellesborough to produce a Neighbourhood Plan. However, he will discuss this with the sub-committee and advice the Council on the way to proceed.

Item 5.9 Affordable Housing. Because of the sensitive nature of the project, this was discussed in camera and a separate minute will be sent to the Councillors as an annex to the minutes.

Item 5.10 Clerks report and Correspondence, Circulars and Consultation Documents.

There were no items to be discussed under this heading as all topics were covered under the agenda.

Item 5.11 Covid 19. The Clerk reported that the Caddy Bags should be distributed with the next edition of the Parish Magazine. In response to a question from Councillor Panikkar who was concerned about the rising number of Covid cases, Councillor McGrail said that the volunteers hadn't been stood down, but at the moment there were few requests for help. Councillor Glover explained that because of the need to clean the Parish Hall after it has been used and with a limit of 6 people in it at any time, it would remain closed for the foreseeable future. However, the Management Committee has taken the opportunity to clear out the storage rooms.

Item 5.12 Dunsmore. The meeting noted that the road up to Dunsmore and the Coombe Hill car park is still designated as a rural clearway. Although the no parking bollards are unsightly, the consequences of removing them are not acceptable especially in the winter months as the result could be serious damage to the verges. The solution would be to extend the car park but we know that like many organisations, funding is short, nevertheless Councillor Hares will raise this with the Forestry Commission Warden

DH

Item 5.13 HS2. The Chairman briefed the meeting on the results of a meeting that had been held with Stephen Cunningham, the Engagement Manager for Eiffage Kier Ferroviaire BAM JV. There had been some confusion between the A418 and the A413. Mr Cunningham had said that there would be some 200 HGV movements across the A418, However, these would have no effect on Ellesborough as it was movements on the A413 that would affect us. He also stated that the Traffic Information Guides could not be released to us yet as they were awaiting approval from Bucks CC. Nevertheless, he was asked about the figures for earth moving vehicles on the haul road at Wendover as these did not have to be approved by Bucks CC. Unfortunately, the figures were unavailable but he will give them to us as soon as he can but he also suggested that we should have a meeting with their movements team. If traffic is regularly held up as a result of movements on the haul road, then drivers will take an easier route which is via Chalkshire Road and Nash Lee Road creating yet more problems at Terrick. There will also be a slight increase in the number of HGVs using Terrick as up to 20 movements a day will result from the work on St Mary's Church Stoke Mandeville. Lastly, we had been told that putting a cycle lane in alongside the Nash Lee Road was outside the scope of work for HS2. However, there were grants available from HS2 and the Clerk is to investigate if they could be used to create cycle paths along Nash Lee Road and from the Garage to the Nursing Home along the A4010.

RA, RN

Item 5.14 Parish/Village Sign. The Clerk said that this item had resulted from a suggestion by a parishioner. Investigation revealed that the tradition of village signs is believed to have started in Norfolk early in the 20th century when Edward VII suggested that village signs would aid motorists and be a feature of interest on the Sandringham Estate. The spread of interest beyond Norfolk can be attributed to Prince Albert, Duke of York (later George VI) who gave a speech to the Royal Academy in 1920 promoting the wider use of village signs. In many parts of England, an ornamental village sign is erected to announce the village name to those entering the village. They are typically placed on the principal road entrance or in a prominent location such as a village green. The design often depicts a particularly characteristic feature of the village or a scene from its history, heritage, or culture. They are typically made of wood or metal or a combination of both, and the designs are often made by the local community. Councillors Panikkar and Glover agreed to investigate and report at the next meeting.

DP, MG

Item 5.15 Footpaths and Rights of Way. Councillors McGrail and Hares had been to see

a problem with footpath ELL/58/1 at Dirtywood Farm. Historically, it should pass directly through the farm, although some digital devices now show it on an alternative route to the west of the farm. One result of the Covid pandemic is a large increase in the numbers of people walking in the countryside and this was causing problems for the owners with them finding walkers all over their property. Consequently, they may apply to have the footpath officially rerouted and hoped that the Parish Council would support their application. The meeting agreed that this would be a sensible solution to their problem.

Item 5.16 Matters of Report. Councillor Panikkar told the meeting that she was going to look at Christmas decorations with a view to improving the display on the tree outside the Parish Hall. Councillor Glover asked about the 2 redundant posts on Ellesborough Road. The Clerk had continued to chase the Local Area Technician for an answer but as yet hadn't received a reply. One solution would be to use our own resources to remove them and Councillor Hares and the Clerk will investigate. (Clerk's Note: Subsequent to the meeting after suggesting to the LAT that we would remove them ourselves, the LAT advised that that they will be removed shortly.)

Item 5.17 Next Meeting. Subject to any restrictions imposed because of the Coronavirus, the next Parish Council Meeting is scheduled for Monday 16 November 2020 at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall.

The meeting closed at 21.28 hrs.

Signed

Councillor R Alexander
Deputy Chairman
Ellesborough Parish Council