

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
ELLESBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON-LINE ON MONDAY 16th NOVEMBER 2020 AT 7.30PM**

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

Parish Clerk: R Norris

Members of the Public who joined the meeting:

M Crouch	R Nicholson
H Hick	N Strathon
A Smith	J Stewart
S Stewart	M Powell
R Jennings	M Russell
B Hancock	E Hancock
M Richards	R Pearce
M Hick	

Action

Introduction. For administrative reasons, Councillor Alexander chaired the meeting which he introduced by explaining to the members of the public that under Item 7.2, Open Forum members of the public would be given a chance to raise matters with the Council. However, he asked that those interested in the Affordable Housing project wait until Item 7.5 when details would be disclosed and it could be discussed.

Item 7.1 Apologies. Apologies were received from Councillor Glover and Councillor Hayes is unable to attend on-line.

Item 7.2 Open Forum. Knowing that some members of the public wished to discuss the planning applications submitted for 86 Chalkshire Road, the Chairman explained how the Council had dealt with the subject. The timescales for the submission of comments would not have allowed them to be discussed at a scheduled meeting so a special meeting was called. This was correctly called and advertised via the web site and the parish notice board. At the meeting, Councillors took note of all the comments that had been posted on the planning web site and voted unanimously to support the applications with a preference for the one with 2 houses facing south and utilising the current access. (Clerk's Note: The Clerk did not join this meeting and took no part in the preparation of the Council's comments). The Chairman was concerned about comments that the Council was operating devoid of transparency. There is legislation that determines the activities of Parish Councils and the Council is very aware of the need to follow this legislation. To be fair to all concerned it cannot target information at individuals that it thinks may like it, since this could be deemed to be unfair to others not given the same treatment.

Mr Nicholson thanked the Chairman for this explanation and then went on to discuss matters concerning all 3 applications. He was concerned that the Council had not supported the first application and felt that as nothing had changed significantly, the Council should not be

supporting the subsequent applications. He was particularly worried about the south facing orientation of the houses in the second application as he said that no other houses in Chalkshire Road aligned east west. However, it was pointed out to him that in fact there were houses in the road with this orientation. His other main concern was on access for farm vehicles through to the fields and for the parking and turning of vehicles associated with 86 Chalkshire Road. Mr Crouch stated that the site should only be used for affordable housing but Councillor McGrail explained that the site wasn't suitable for this. Mr Richards was concerned that Council had changed its mind and now supported the applications and felt that this would be regarded as infill and would open up other sites for development.

The Chairman said that the Council had noted these comments, but said that their concerns had been covered by their representations already made to the planning authority and which the Council had taken into account in their deliberations on the applications. If there was anything that was material to the applications then the Council would consider them.

Item 7.3 Declarations of Interest. There were no Declarations of Interest from any of the Councillors present.

Item 7.4 Minutes. The minutes of the held on 21 Sept 2020 were unanimously agreed as being correct except for Item 5.15 where Councillor Alexander should be added. The Clerk will correct this and arrange for the Chairman to sign them subsequent to the meeting.

RN, RA

Item 7.5 Affordable Housing. The Chairman explained the background to the Affordable Housing project and went onto say that the scheme being proposed was a modest one. It has taken some 12 years to get to the stage we are at today but it is still just a proposal, no planning application has been formally submitted, but when one is it will be subject to the normal scrutiny and comment by all concerned. Councillor McGrail then continued the briefing, saying that the 2 major hurdles in the process so far were identifying a suitable partner to move the project forward and finding a piece of land within the village that the owner was prepared to put forward for the project. Because of the way affordable housing is set up, the price paid for the land is not set at the normal commercial price, but approximately the agricultural value. Although quite a few suitable sites were identified, only one owner was prepared to put land forward for the project. Hence, there is no option of using any other location within the village. As the affordable housing in Kimble was seen as a success, and there is a very limited number of Housing Associations that specialise in rural schemes, Hastoe was chosen as the company to take the project forward, but the Council was very aware that the project in Kimble took 7 years to bring to completion.

Councillor McGrail continued with the briefing and stated that unlike other housing projects which produced affordable housing as a by-product, this one had no links to other schemes or offsets. Furthermore, the occupants would be chosen by a waterfall scheme whereby the housing is offered first to those with a connection to the parish, then those who work in the parish, then to those with a connection to adjacent parishes before being opened up to allcomers, and this system will remain in force in perpetuity. The meeting was shown the site that the project will occupy and then shown a plan layout of the 3 houses (semi-detached) which will provide 6 units as identified in the needs survey. The Council proposes to publish the details that are available on the parish web site in December and Hastoe are hoping to submit the planning application in January, but this depends on completion of a satisfactory drainage report

Various members of the public commented about the use of a green field site goes against the principles laid down in the Village Design Statement and contested the findings of the needs survey. The use of this particular piece of land was also questioned despite this being the

only piece of land on offer. The problem of communicating with the Parish was also raised and the Chairman responded that the Council and Hastoe had always planned to hold a public meeting before the formal submission of the planning application. However, for obvious reasons this could not go ahead at this time. As an alternative, Councillor Mcgrail will prepare an article on the project for inclusion in the December issue of the Parish Magazine. This will attempt to answer some of the queries that were raised including more detail on the design and the procedure for allocating the houses to occupants. There was some further discussion about how affordable housing was being provided in the area, but this will not be of the “protected” type that is planned for Ellesborough.

Item 7.6 Road Safety Issues. The Clerk reported that because of the second lockdown, the planned resumption of Speedwatch hadn’t materialised. For the same reason the meeting to discuss road safety had yet to be held. The Clerk will arrange for it to be held via zoom in the near future and see if Sgt Davey from Risborough Police would join the meeting.

RN, AW

Item 7.7 Recreational Facilities. Councillor Panikkar reported that the new lockdown had prevented any football being played on the Royal Mead pitch. The Allotment reports are being prepared and will be issued shortly. The lockable bollard has been put in place in the lane up to the playing field and courtesy of Ellesborough Relief in Need, 2 new benches are to be provided in the playground to replace the old wooden ones which are nearing the end of their life. Finally, new Christmas lights have been purchased for the tree at the crossroads together with an illuminated stag.

DP

Item 5.7 Finance. Councillor Panikkar informed the meeting that she had carried out the checks on all the finance documents and there were no discrepancies in the figures. The savings and current account balances as per the reconciliation statements were £35,602.29 and £15,516.73 respectively. The following payments made since the last meeting were approved:

Steve Webb (Grass Cutting Sept 20)	800205	£881.00
Royal British Legion (Wreaths)	800206	£50.00
X2 Connect (K6 kiosk for the Defibrillator)	800207	£4020.00
Rialtas (Accounts Software Support)	800208	£148.80
R Norris (Supply of Post, Reindeer and Materials)	800209	£245.58
R Norris (Supply of Water to Allotments)	800209	£78.62
R Norris (Office Provision Mar 20 to Oct 20)	800209	£720.00
BCH Electrical and Plumbing (Defibrillator Elec)	800210	£256.59
T Alexander (Bugler Remembrance Day)	800211	£30.00
Steve Webb (Grass Cutting Sept 20)	800212	£596.15

Payments made: None

Councillor Glover agreed to carry out the next financial check.

RN, DP

Item 7.9 Planning. Councillor McGrail told the meeting that apart from a few non contentious applications for extensions and one concerning a high hedge which was the responsibility of Planning Enforcement there was nothing of note. However, the Clerk stated that there was an application from the Terrick Cottages for the creation of a parking space in front of the cottages. Councillor McGrail will investigate as there have been problems in the past with vehicles blocking the pavement.

Item 7.10 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 7.11 Covid 19. Councillor McGrail reported that the voluntary group set up at the beginning of the pandemic to assist people was still up and running satisfactorily. Councillor Panikkar thanked everyone for the support given to her and her husband since they contracted the disease. However, the Chairman responded that perhaps we should be thanking her for all her work at Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

Item 7.12 Dunsmore. Councillor White reported that the parking restrictions in place adjacent to the Coombe Hill car park were working well with access to Dunsmore considerably improved. However, the Council noted that the current restrictions come to an end in January 2021 and we should look to getting them extended. The Clerk is to investigate. The down side of restricting the parking at Coombe Hill is that considerably more vehicles are using the Parish Hall car park and parking near the church and along Chalkshire Road. Councillor White also reported that the work to refurbish the Dunsmore church wall had been completed at a cost of some £487.57 and as agreed at a previous meeting he had forwarded receipts to the Clerk for £243.78 for payment. **RN**

Item 7.13 HS2. The Chairman stated that Stephen Cunningham, the Engagement Manager for Eiffage Kier Ferroviaire BAM JV had agreed to provide a report prior to each of our meetings with the latest information on factors affecting Ellesborough. The Clerk had asked for this a few days ago but we still haven't had any information from. The clerk will continue to press him to respond. The latest information about the proposed work to improve the Terrick situation is that nothing is now going to be done. Mr and Mrs Stewart reported that they had seen an increase in the number of large vehicles using Nash Lee Road. If they are able to note registration numbers we will report them to HS2. **RN**

Item 7.14 Matters of Report. The Chairman mentioned that he had circulated an example of a Communications Policy and asked that it be added to the agenda for the next meeting. He had also sent out a booklet written by a Miss Cooper some 26 years ago detailing the efforts of Ellesborough councillors from 1894 through to 1994. Some extracts may appear in the next issue of the Parish Magazine. Councillor Panikkar was concerned about the condition of the bus stop adjacent to the Terrick roundabout and asked for it to be included on the next agenda so that it can be considered for refurbishment.

Item 5.17 Next Meeting. Subject to any restrictions imposed because of the Coronavirus, the next Parish Council Meeting is scheduled for Monday 18 January 2021 at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall.

The meeting closed at 21.14 hrs.

Signed

Councillor R Alexander
Deputy Chairman
Ellesborough Parish Council