

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
ELLESBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON-LINE ON MONDAY 15th MARCH 2021 AT 7.30PM**

Joined: Councillors:
D Panikkar (Chairman) A White
M Glover M McGrail
D Hares

Parish Clerk: R Norris

Some 26 members of the public joined the meeting:

Action

Item 2.1 Apologies. Councillor Hayes is unable to attend on-line.

Item 1.2 Open Forum. The Chairman introduced the meeting by saying that Item 2.9, the review of the Clerk's Pay would be discussed in Camera as the last item on the agenda. With regards to parishioners that wish to address the Council, they could do so at the beginning of the meeting but would be limited to a time of 3 minutes. The Chairman also asked if people would refrain from repeating each other's arguments.

Members of the public then expressed their concerns about any future affordable housing needs survey, focusing on the initial and any ongoing costs, the legal or moral right to continue, the opposition to the project, the quantity of general needs affordable housing in the local area, protection of the AONB, whether or not the Parish Council was being democratic or even operating in a legal manner. Some were also concerned that their comments were being brushed aside. Two members of the public expressed their support for the affordable housing project and the diversity that it would bring to the village.

Other points raised by the members of the public were a problem within Dunsmore where development of a property was causing problems because of the number of HGVs moving spoil were damaging the verges, a danger to pedestrians and cyclists and depositing mud on the road. In the forthcoming local council elections, Councillor White would no longer be eligible to stand and the question was asked about the vacancy.

Item 2.3 Declarations of Interest. There were no Declarations of Interest from any of the Councillors present.

Item 2.4 Minutes. The minutes of the held on 18 January 2021 were unanimously agreed as being correct. The Clerk will arrange for the Chairman to sign them subsequent to the meeting.

RN, RA

Item 2.5 Affordable Housing. Regarding the Affordable Housing Needs Survey, Councillor Hares informed the meeting that Hastoe have decided that a new one is required and are in discussions with all the agencies involved to determine its scope and cost. Navigating the route for the affordable housing project during the Pandemic and the County Council Unification process has not been easy. Despite all that has been said, Councillor Hares stated that he believed in the project and referred to a Church of England report on Affordable Housing which concluded that small developments were of greater benefit.

Councillor McGrail confirmed the Parish Council's position which is that EPC will not fund the additional needs survey and Councillor Hares will advise Hastoe of this decision. If the new survey goes ahead, then its result will determine how the Parish Council will react.

Item 2.6 Road Safety Issues. Councillor White told the meeting that Speedwatch had still to be allowed to resume and that the investigations into replacing the existing Vehicle Activated Signs was ongoing. The Clerk apologised but stated that the workload caused by the affordable housing project had prevented him from completing the action from the previous minutes

Item 2.7 Recreational Facilities. Councillor Panikkar had been in discussion with Risborough Rangers about the use of the playing field and the provision of the matting to allow vehicles to park on the field. Because of the pandemic, Risborough Rangers have not been able to fund raise during the last year and hence they do not have any funds to finance the provision of the matting. Also, at the time it is unclear as to whether or not they will be using the field this year.

Item 2.8 Finance. The Clerk informed the meeting that Councillor Glover 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 £35,613.99 and £6,624.50 respectively. There had been no payments made since the last meeting, but the following payments were made:

Steve Webb (Dog Bins and Strim R of W)	800218	£444.20
R Norris (Annual Salary)	800219	£4,400.00
HM Revenue and Customs (PAYE)	800220	£1,100.00
Zurich Municipal (Additional Insurance Premium)	800221	£36.94
Zurich Municipal (Insurance Premium)	800222	£612.66
Ellesborough Parish Magazine (Donation)	800223	£850.00
R Norris (Office Provision Nov – Feb, Expenses)	800224	£436.13

Item 2.10 Planning. Councillor McGrail briefed the meeting on the applications that he felt were of concern apart from the normal applications for small extensions. There had been an application for 2 buildings on Coombe Hill to be used for residential purposes. They had originally been built for Land Girl accommodation. Neither the neighbour or the Chiltern Society had any objection and Councillor McGrail saw no reason for Ellesborough to object either. Councillor White and former Councillor Malleson were concerned about the HGV traffic that has resulted from the works on a site in Dunsmore but which is in Wendover Parish. A normal condition of planning is that road should be kept clear, but there is also the problem of a large number of HGV movements along the narrow roads in Dunsmore. The Clerk will talk with the Wendover Parish Clerk and ask him to take action. A new fence and gate have been erected at 4 Chalkshire Road and the height and style conflict with the Village Design Statement (VDS). Shortly after the fence and gate had been installed, The Chairman had delivered a copy of the VDS to the householder, who subsequently discussed the matter with Clerk. He was quite concerned that he might have upset people in the village and stated that if he had know about the VDS before, he would have installed something more in line with the VDS. (Clerk's Note: Following the meeting, which the householder had joined, and after discussions with the Clerk and Councillor McGrail, the householder reported that he would be taking action to move the gate further back and alter the fence so it was more in keeping with the principles laid out in the VDS). An application has been made for a carport at 25 Chalkshire Road, Councillor McGrail said that carports were not mentioned specifically in the VDS, but the principle of building a carport in front of a house did go against the VDS. Consequently he proposed that the Council should make a comment on the application to the

effect that objections had been received, it was contrary to the VDS and too close to the boundary. The Clerk is to action this. Lastly, Councillor McGrail and Councillor White had been to look at the situation regarding the dog grooming business at Forge Meadow Nash Lee Road. This is a legal issue which has resulted from a change in advice from the planning authority. The application was submitted in November 2020 and should be resolved as a matter of urgency as the applicant requires clarification to allow financial decisions to be made. The clerk will contact Councillor Harriss and ask if he can ask for the matter to be resolve urgently.

RN

Item 2.11 Clerks report and Correspondence, Circulars and Consultation Documents.

The Clerk reported that only the normal circulars had been received.

Item 2.12 Covid 19. Councillor McGrail reported that there was very little going on with the Covid volunteers. However, a group of them had organised themselves to pick up litter around the village for which the Council was very grateful.

Item 2.13 Dunsmore. Councillor White reported that a meeting was taking place the following week to discuss a permanent solution to the Coombe Hill parking problem. Now that the church wall has been repaired, it has been agreed that a defibrillator could be mounted on it. With the number of walkers visiting Dunsmore and the access problems with the increase in vehicle numbers, a defibrillator is a sensible thing to have. Accordingly, Councillor White is investigating the best way to procure it but for a cabinet and defibrillator the cost may be £1850 + VAT.

Item 2.14 HS2. The Clerk had received information regarding grants from the HS2 Road Safety Fund. Because of the short time given for responding the Clerk had filled in applications for footways/cyclepaths for Nash Lee Road and the A4010 between the garage and the nursing home. However, the Clerk reported that HS2 had informed us that in agreement with Buckinghamshire Council, Nash Lee road is now to be used for up to 11 HGV and 80 other vehicle movements, despite having given assurances that this identified pinchpoint would not be used for HS2 traffic. The Council will be raising in the strongest manner possible our opposition to this decision at a meeting to be held on 22 March.

Item 2.15 Councillor Vacancy. The Chairman introduced this Item by thanking Rob Alexander for the sterling service that he had given as a Councillor, Chairman and Vice Chairman during the last 18 years. The vacancy caused by Mr Alexander's resignation had been advertised and 3 people had volunteered to be considered. The Chairman explained that the 3 candidates had been interviewed by the Council on the 11th of March and they had all been asked the same series of questions. The Clerk then asked each Councillor in turn who they wished to vote for joining the Council. Councillors White and McGrail voted for Mr James Taylor, and Councillors Hares, Glover and Panikkar voted for Mrs Helen Holman. Accordingly, the Chairman proposed and Councillor Glover seconded the proposal that Mrs Holman be elected to the position of Councillor of Ellesborough Parish Council, which was carried by 3 votes to 2.

The Clerk explained the procedure for people to nominate themselves for the forthcoming election for which there is a deadline of 4pm on the 8th of April for the returning officer to receive nomination papers.

Item 2.16 Matters of Report. Councillor Glover reported that the Parish Hall Committee were looking at re-opening the hall sometime in June or July depending on how the lifting of the Covid restrictions proceeds. Consequently, he raised the subject of a village party. After a little discussion, and at the Chairman's suggestion it was thought that an August date might be

appropriate but this could be confirmed at the next meeting in May. Councillor Glover was also looking at the provision of a memorial bench for Val Finch in recognition of her longstanding service to the Parish Hall. The bench will most likely be provided by the same company that we obtained the WW1 Benches from and will be dedicated to Val. The cost will be split between the Parish Council and the Parish Hall Committee. Councillor Glover also thanked David Harper, Anthony Robins and Kip Lund for their work in siding out the footpath along the Missenden Road. The Chairman reported that the footpath fairy had also been at work along Chalkshire Road. Lastly, the Chairman reported that the Terrick bus shelter is to be repaired and painted. (Clerk's Note: This work was completed on 18th March)

Item 2.9 Review of the Pay and Conditions of Service for the Clerk. This item was discussed in camera and in the absence of the Clerk. The decision made was that from the start of the next financial year the Clerk's pay is to be £6,250.00

Item 2.17 Next Meeting. The next Parish Council Meeting, which is the Annual General Meeting and will be the first following the 6th of May Parish Council Election, is scheduled for Monday 17 May 2021 at 7.30pm either online or in the Parish Hall.

The meeting closed at 21.29 hrs.

Signed

D Panikkar
Chairman
Ellesborough Parish Council