**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF**

**ELLESBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL**

**ON TUESDAY 21st MARCH 2022 AT 7.30PM**

Present: Councillors:

D Panikkar (Chairman) N Gordon

S Withey M McGrail

H Holman

C Harriss (Buckinghamshire Council)

Parish Clerk: R Norris

Sgt

4 members of the public were in attendance

A minutes silence was held at the start if the meeting in memory of Don Hayes who had been a Parish Councillor for many years and who recently passed away.

**Action**

**Item 2.1 Apologies.** Apologies had been received from Councillors Glover and Hares.

**Item 2.2 Open Forum.** The need for a policy on the retention of documents was raised. However, the Clerk had already answered this query and he didn’t think it necessary for a small parish council.

**Item 2.3 Declarations of Interest.**  There were no Declarations of Interest for items on the agenda.

**Item 2.4 Minutes.** The minutes of the Meeting held on the 18th of January 2022 were unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman.

**Item 2.5 Road Safety Issues.**  Councillor Withey told the meeting that there was an increase in the number of Speedwatch sessions being carried out but that there was still about 20% of vehicles speeding. However, the volume of traffic seems to have increased with about 150 to 200 vehicles an hour passing in one direction. Investigations into the provision of Vehicle Activated Signs continues but Evolis appears to be the best value for money. Waddesden already has an Evolis system and Councillor Withey will try to arrange a visit to see the system in operation. The subject of speed bumps and chicanes was discussed again but the need for street lighting needs to be clarified. **SW**

**Item 2.6 Recreational Facilities.** Councillor Holman reported that the hedgehog house, insect hotel and a honeycomb bee house had been installed around the playground. The additional matting had been laid on the playing field and it was now fit to be driven on and another meeting will be arranged with Risborough Rangers to finalise arrangements. Councillor Holman sought approval for the purchase of a pack of 50 hedgehog highway surrounds for gaps in fences, which she will sell to parishioners at the cost price of £3.00 each and for the purchase of a pack of 15 trees: 3 goat willow, 4 silver birch, 4 dog rose, 4 rowan totalling £36.95 to be planted next to the allotments with a plaque explaining they were planted to celebrate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee 2022. These were approved unanimously. **HH**

**Item 2.7 Finance.** Councillor Holman had carried out the pre-meeting financial check and there were no discrepancies in the figures. The savings and current account balances as per the reconciliation statements were £35,639.75 and -£98.75 respectively. However, the Clerk told the meeting that this negative figure was only theoretical as the Reconciliation Statement had deducted the cheques that were still to be signed and the ones for the Clerk’s salary and PAYE will not be presented until we have received the first payment of our precept which normally occurs in mid April. The following payments made since the last meeting were approved:

Steve Webb (Laying Playing Field Matting) 800266 £1500.00

Playdale (Playground Equipment Repair) 800267 £1088.40

TEEC (Domain Change) 800268 £144.00

Suregreen (Matting) 800269 £1385.94

Steve Webb (Dog Bins Jan, Feb 22) 800270 £173.00

Zurich Municipal (Insurance) 800271 £711.08

The following payments were made:

R Norris (Salary) 800272 £5000.00

HM Revenue and Customs (PAYE) 800273 £1250.00

R Norris (Office Provision Nov 21 – Mar 22) 800274 £450.00

The Clerk suggested that come July/August it would be prudent to transfer £5000.00 from the savings account to the current account.

**Item 2.8 Planning.** Councillor McGrail said that there were no applications of concern to the Council but he had been unable to access any information on applications for Brockwell farm or Craycraf due to problems with the Bucks Planning website. A meeting is to be arranged with Stoke Mandeville Parish Council

**Item 2.9 Affordable Housing.** There has still been no information from Hastoe regarding a possible planning application, therefore, there was no discussion under this item.

**Item 2.10 Clerks Report, Correspondence, Circulars and Consultation Documents.** The Clerk stated that everything was being discussed under the appropriate item numbers.

**Item 2.11 Dunsmore.** Three fallen trees which were blocking footpaths had been reported and cleared and actions continue to improve the condition of the pond. Some of the actions have already been implemented, a beech tree has been removed and 2 bales of barley straw have been put in the pond. An environmental charity has been found who may help with the finance of the improvements because the solar aeration system would cost about £500. The meeting agreed an initial grant of £250 towards the project in the hope that the charity would match this contribution. Councillor Gordon reported that the residents had no real opinion about changing the electoral boundary so that Dunsmore became either wholly within Wendover or Ellesborough. There are still some stiles in need of repair and Coucillor Gordon will progress these further with Ruth Malleson **NG**

**Item 2.12 HS2.** The increase in traffic along North Lee Lane is still a major concern and an on-site meeting is to be held on 30 March to see if an acceptable solution may be found. There are various options to discuss including traffic restrictions, reducing the speed limit and physical enforcement of an HGV restriction. A decision on the application for a footpath from the garage to the nursing home on the A4010 is expected in April.

**Item 2.13 Fields in Trust.** Councillor McGrail and the Clerk are to go and see the solicitors to progress this.

**Item 2.14 The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Celebration.** The celebrations will start with people gathering at the Russell Arms at 12.30pm for a procession at 1.00pm to the playing field and the opening of the Jubilee Picnic at 14.00. Following on from this there will be entertainment from the Silver Band and Fiona Harrison, games and activities, tea and cakes concluding with a hog roast or barbeque and a final session from Fiona Harrison. Full details will be posted on the parish website. The meeting agreed to a budget for the event of £1500.00.

**Item 2.15 Notice Board.** Because of unplanned expenditure during the last year, the Chairman decided that this expenditure should be put back into the next financial year. **DP**

**Item 2.16 Footpaths and Rights of Way.** The application to reroute Footpath ELL/58/1 has still to be submitted so no further action can be taken on this matter.

**Item 2.17 Bank Account Signatories.** The Clerk proposed the removal of R Alexander, D Hayes and A White as signatories to the bank accounts and the addition of H Holman, S Withey and N Gordon. The proposal was unanimously agreed.

**Item 2.18 Resignation of the Clerk.** The position is still being advertised as nobody has yet come forward to fill it. The clerk has agreed with the Chairman to continue in post until a replacement can be found, but he will put more tasks onto the Councillors in order to reduce his workload. **DP, MG**

**Item 2.19 Matters of Report.** Councillor Holman thanked the Chairman and Councillor Withey, who despite being affected by the power cut on the north end of Chalkshire Road, found the time to go around all the affected houses checking on residents and offering assistance. The Chairman raised the question of how the Parish Council should be reacting to the emergency in Ukraine and it was agreed that the next parish update will give details of how best to contribute to the various agencies giving assistance. Lastly, the Chairman is monitoring the situation with the expansion of Luton Airport and how it might affect Ellesborough.

**Item 2.20 Next Meeting.** The next Parish Council Meeting which is the Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Monday 16 May 2022 at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall.

The meeting closed at 21.07 hrs.

Signed

D Panikkar

Chairman

Ellesborough Parish Council