**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF**

**ELLESBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL HELD**

**ON MONDAY 18th MARCH 2024 AT 7.30PM**

Present: Councillors:

M.McGrail, D.Hares, S Withey, H Holman, J Hamer D.Panikkar

Parish Clerk: J. McKeown

3 members of the public were in attendance.

**Action**

**Item 2.1 Apologies** Cllr Glover

**Item 2.2 Open Forum.** The following points were raised: -

* Draft S106 statement on Bucks planning portal.
* Donation received from Hastoe towards playground repairs.

**Item 2.3 Declarations of Interest**. Councillor McGrail for advising a landowner with regard to the Stoke Mandeville neighbourhood plan that has recently been published.

**Item 2.4 Minutes.** The minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on the 15th of January 2024 were unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman.

**Item 2.5 Road Safety Issues.**

**Item 2.5.1 Moveable Vehicle Activated Signs** - Jackie Binning of North West Chilterns Community Board has now received all of the details required and has approved the purchase of the MVAS. These have now been ordered and are expected to be delivered by the end of March 2024. Once received they will need to be erected in the agreed positions as previously advised. **DP**

**Item 2.5.2 Hard standing** – the movement of the bus stop to a safer position further down the A4010 is subject to further investigation. Work in progress **DP**

**Item 2.5.3 Grit bin on North Lee Lane**, decision to purchase a grit bin at the cost of £400 for new bin is put back to September/October **MM**

**Item 2.5.4 Road safety working party-** Cllr Panikkar is to put out feelers to see if there is a warranted response within the parish. **DP**

**Item 2.6 Coombe Hill Car Park** Councillor Hares stated that National Trust have advised that charging for parking will not be introduced until 2025. They also cannot currently estimate increased capacity until further assessments have been carried out. **DH**

How to manage verge parking was discussed given they are already in a very poor condition, and it was suggested that photos of existing damage are sent to Bucks Council. Further suggestions of how to manage this issue included use of redundant telegraph poles or wood to protect the verges. Work in progress**. JH/ DH**

**Item 2.7 Recreational Facilities**

**Item 2.7.1 Annual playground inspection** Cllr Holman stated that today the repair work started 18th March, and that on stripping down the roundabout, it was discovered that a number of bearings are damaged which will increase the cost of the repairs to this item. This work is expected to be completed very soon and once finished, Steve Webb will carry out the re-painting and small works which has already been quoted for and agreed at a cost of £740. This is expected to be carried out in April.

**Item 2.7.2 Website content** Russell Arms content to be provided to the Clerk **MG**

**Item 2.7.3 Allotments-** following a review of the contract and the increase in price to £20 pro rata per annum Clerk to issue both, to all allotment holders in the next 7 days. **JMcK**

**Item 2.7.4 Playing field –**Cllr Holman stated thatfollowing heavy rain, the playing field was damaged during a Risborough Rangers match. It was agreed that Risborough Rangers would bear the cost of repairs which has already started, by initially laying a surface of crushed concrete. This will be followed in May by laying terrain fabric, soil and grass seed and replacing the damaged matting. They have also been approached to quote for laying crushing’s down the approach track from the road to the entrance to the playing field. **HH**

**Item 2.7.5 Car park signs -**The village hall committee have agreed to purchase some new car park signs to discourage non hall users from parking and using up the available spaces. **SW**

**Item 2.8 Finance.** The savings and current account reconciliation statements of 31/03/2024 were checked and signed off by Councillor McGrail.

The following payments made since the last meeting were approved:

800368 £210.00 Playing field inspection Fenland Products.

800369 £125.10 Dog bin emptying January 2024.

800370 £734.72 Zurich Insurance annual policy fee

800371 £7040.00 Annual Clerk’s salary payment.

800372 £1760.00 Paye on Clerk’s salary.

800373 £6.99 Replacement batteries for Speedwatch camera

800374 £125.10 Dog bin emptying February 2024.

800375 £228.00 Rex Norris playing field hedge cutting.

800376 £433.33 Clerk’s office rent and expenses – 18/3/24.

**Item 2.9 Planning.** Councillor McGrail circulated a summary report prior to the meeting – very quiet for the last quarter - no actions required.

**Item 2.9.1 Stoke Mandeville neighbourhood plan –** due to a conflict of interest noted by Cllr McGrail this was discussed by Cllr Holman, who stated this plan has taken many years to complete. There needs to be joined up thinking re cycle paths and walkways that cross over into our parish and we need to be made aware of nature and landscape infrastructure projects

**Item 2.10 Affordable Housing.** Hastoe affordable housing contactors are waiting to start cutting back the hedge but are unable to commence until the draft S106 agreement has been updated and agreed by Hastoe and Buckinghamshire planners. They cannot give a date to complete this due to workload. This may hold up proceedings as the hedge cutting moratorium on bird nesting season may overtake the decisions. **DH**

**Item 2.10.1 Yellow Lines on Chalkshire Road -**

Highways are running a month behind but are expecting to have a design in March/April 2024. This will need to be agreed once seen. **EPC** Clerk to alert residents of any progress through the parish updates. **JMcK**

**Item 2.11 Clerks Report, Correspondence, Circulars and Consultation Documents**

**Item 2.11.1 Bucks Council Grass Cutting Devolution** – Clerk has now received two copies of the contract for the next five years which have been duly signed off by the Chairman and the contractor. Clerk has filed these contracts. The grass cutting map from Bucks is incorrect and has been returned to be updated. BCC is aware of the issue and have accepted the returned paperwork under the existing grass cutting template. Clerk to follow up. **JMcK**

**Item 2.11.2 D Day Beacons 6th June 2024 –** the cost of D Day beacons is prohibitive. Item to be removed from the agenda.

**Item 2.11.3 Biodiversity Policy** Clerk stated that the draft copy of the new Biodiversity policy has now been approved and will be added to the standing orders & website. Cllr Holman has taken on responsibility for this policy. **JMcK**

Cllr Holman suggested inviting a beekeeper to the summer event, and to invite children to draw a wildlife garden. Competition prizes should be wildflower seeds. **HH**

**Item 2.11.4 Equal Opportunities Policy-** this policy has been approved by EPC and will be added to the standing orders and website by the Clerk. **JMcK**

**Item 2.11.5 King’s Portrait –** the official 2024 portrait has been ordered by the Clerk for display in the village hall. Clerk to follow up. **JMcK**

**Item 2.12 Dunsmore.** Councillor Hamer has found two replacement stiles to be provided by

the Chiltern Society. No more are currently available – follow up with landowners. **JH**

**Item 2.12.1 Road surface** the road damage caused by heavy traffic through Dunsmore is getting

worse- potholes are being repaired only to fail again within a couple of weeks. Cllr Hamer to

provide the Chairman with a list of issues – road surface, clearway signs in Dunsmore village and

Coombe Hill verges to write to Cabinet minister Steve Broadbent. **JH/MM**

**Item 2.12.2 Ash die back** a large tree in Dunsmore appears to be suffering from ash die back.

Steve Webb to have it surveyed in the summer. **JH**

**Item 2.13. HS2.** HS2, through EKFB, will be closing the A4010 from 2/4/24 - 5/4/24 to cut back vegetation for access to the new Stoke Mandeville relief road. It this excessive to close this road – can it not be controlled by traffic managed lane closures. Follow up **JMcK**

**Item 2.14 Matters of report**

* The annual village party for EPC was suggested for 29th June 2024. **MG**
* Ellesborough Trust – has a new Chairman Cllr Debra Panikkar, also Cllr Hares is on the committee.
* Ellesborough Church currently has no vicar due to Janet Wales retirement. Services to be completed by visiting clergy until a replacement can be found.

**Next Meeting** the Annual General meeting will be held at Ellesborough Parish Hall on Monday 20th May 2024 at 7.30pm followed by the Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 30th May at 20.00hrs at Ellesborough Parish Hall.

The meeting closed at 20.54 hrs.

Signed

M McGrail

Chairman

Ellesborough Parish Council