**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF**

**ELLESBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL**

**HELD ON TUESDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2016 AT 7.30PM**

**IN ELLESBOROUGH PARISH HALL**

Present: Councillors:

 R Alexander (Chairman) D Hares

 M McGrail D Hayes

 Clerk: R Norris

 **Action**

**Item 7.1 Apologies.** Apologies had been received from Councillors Panikkar, White and Glover.

**Item 7.2 Open Forum.** There were no members of the public present so nothing was discussed under this item.

**Item 7.3 Declarations of Interest.** There were no declarations of personal or prejudicial interest from the Councillors present at the meeting for items on the agenda.

**Item 7.4 Minutes.** The minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2016 were unanimously approved and duly signed.

**Item 7.5 Road Safety Issues.**  The meeting noted that although Nash Lee Road and the Missenden Roads had been closed for repair works to be carried out, it seems that our major concern which was the grooves in the middle of the carriageway has not been addressed. The Clerk is to investigate and report. The other concern was the parking of a van and trailer on the verge of Ellesborough Road in the designated spot for the police speed camera vehicle. After some discussion about the merits of parking on the verge or on the carriageway, it was agreed that it was most probably safer to allow the vehicles to be parked on the verge. However, there was also an issue with rubbish being left on the verge as well. Rather than taking formal action, the meeting agreed that the best course of action would be for Councillor Hares to have a quiet word with the owner of the vehicles. **RN, DH**

**Item 7.6 Clerk’s Report.** The Clerk had nothing to report under this item.

**Item 7.7 Planning.** Councillor McGrail reported that there was nothing of concern under this item. An application had been made for the approval of items to meet the conditions applied to the Dropshort Barn Planning Approval and the meeting noted that Wycombe DC appeared to be taking an exceptional amount of interest in this project, but by doing so were delaying progress and increasing the costs to the applicant.

**Item 7.8 Finance.** The meeting checked the statements for the savings account and the current account and its cashbook reconciliation which were all in order. The following payments were approved:

Payments made since last meeting:

J & S Landscapes (Grass Cutting Sep 16) 800045 £399.47

Oscar Entertainments (Children’s Xmas Party) 800046 £200.00

Royal British Legion (Wreath) 800047 £30.00

J & S Landscapes (Grass Cutting Oct 16) 800048 £635.35

The following payments were made:

Rialtas Business Solutions (Accounts Software) 800049 £135.60

R Norris:

Office Provision Mar – Oct 16 - £720.00

Water Supply to Allotments - £25.27

Expenses as per Expenses Book - £282.95 800050 £1028.22

**Item 7.9 HS2.** The Chairman briefed the meeting on his visit to the Arup HS2 sound lab and the presentation to the House of Lords Committee. The visit to the sound lab was as a result of our presentation to the House of Commons Committee because of our concerns about the noise of trains passing over points. The points that will be used for HS2 are of the swing nose type which virtually eliminate the noise that comes from the older type of points and this was confirmed by the recordings that Arup had made. The visit also showed that significant progress was being made in mitigating the noise that comes from the bogies and the pantograph. However, a major point that came to light was that the line will not be used for freight traffic because the passage of about 3 freight trains along the line would damage the rails so much that HS2 would not be able to run at full speed. Regarding our presentation to the House of Lords, we accepted that HS2 will be keeping the light pollution from the maintenance loops to a minimum, and that they will try to plant trees early in the construction phase. However, HS2 still insist that their construction traffic will not present any major problem for us at Terrick roundabout or the bottleneck opposite the cottages. **RN**

**Item 7.10 Correspondence, Circulars and Consultation Documents.** The Clerk distributed the brochures and magazines that he had received since the last meeting.

**Item 7.11 Footpaths, Stiles and Gates.** Because of the absence of Councillor White, the meeting was unable to assess the progress being made with the kissing gates in Dunsmore. With regards to notice boards, Councillor Hares briefed the meeting on a replacement for the Parish Notice Board. This would be made in powder coated aluminium and would cost about £1700.00 + VAT. After some discussion the meeting agreed that this would be a suitable replacement for the current notice board which was some 16 years old and showing its age. The Clerk is to contact the company and find out about colours etc and when agreed, place an order for the item. Regarding other notice boards, the meeting agreed that Councillor Glover is to clear the replacement of the “tree” notice board with the Parish Hall Committee. Lastly, Councillor McGrail said that children were climbing over the fence between the children’s playground and the adult equipment area and that it might be best if a gate was put in the fence. The meeting agreed that this was sensible and the Clerk is to ask Councillor Panikkar to action this. **RN, DP,**

 **MG**

**Item 7.12 Affordable Housing.** The Clerk is to contact the preferred land owner and Hastoe to arrange a meeting as a matter of urgency and to determine what additional work Wycombe DC will need doing to support a case for affordable housing. **RN**

**Item 7.13 Website.** In the absence of Councillor White, nothing could be discussed under this item. The Clerk was to put the latest minutes and agendas on the site and to see if the Wycombe DC planning portal could be linked to the site. **RN**

**Item 7.14 Fields in Trust.**  The clerk reported that he had started to complete the applications for the playground and the playing field and asked if the allotments were to be included. The meeting agreed that they should. The Clerk was uncertain as to whether or not the War Memorial was suitable for the programme but would check and advise at the next meeting. **RN**

**Item 7.15 Matters of Report.** Councillor McGrail reported that he had investigated the possibility of removing the current telephone box at Butlers Cross and replacing it with the old type red telephone box but housing a defibrillator. Firstly, an email enquiry on the number will establish whether or not the current phone is required. If it isn’t then with an agreement between the PC and BT would transfer the box and the land to the Council but leave the power supply. The defibrillator needs power to maintain the charge in the battery. A red box would cost about two to three thousand pounds and the defibrillator up to one thousand pounds. Add the cost for removal of the old box and the installation of the new one and the total would be between four to five thousand pounds. The meeting agreed that this would be a nice feature and it should be included in the list of projects for the forthcoming year. Councillor McGrail will investigate to see if any grants might be available. The Chairman said that he would like to continue with the policy of undertaking a major project each year and asked that for the next meeting all Councillors should suggest projects that they think could be of benefit to the Parish. **RN, McG**

**Item 7.16 Next Meeting.** The next Parish Council Meeting will be on 17 January 2017 at 7.30pm in Ellesborough Parish Hall.

The meeting closed at 20.58 hrs.

Signed

Councillor Robert Alexander

Chairman

Ellesborough Parish Council