**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF**

**ELLESBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL**

**HELD ON TUESDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 7.30PM**

**IN DUNSMORE VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Councillors:

 D Hayes (Chairman) M Glover

 M McGrail D Panikkar

 A White D Hares

 Clerk: R Norris

 **Action**

**Item 6.1 Apologies.** Apologies had been received from Councillor Alexander.

**Item 6.2 Open Forum.** Mr R Waller attended the meeting to update the Council on the latest information from the Wendover Society regarding HS2. Firstly, there is now a great deal of concern about the hydrogeological status of the area around Coombe Hill and Wendover. It has been calculated that some 20 million litres of water flows via Wendover and the Wendover Arm of the Grand Union Canal to feed the mainline of the canal at Tring Summit. The proposed route of HS2 and its method of construction as it passes Wendover will interfere with the flow of water through the aquifer and to overcome this HS2 are apparently proposing collecting/settling ponds in the Nash Lee Road area with the water then being pumped back to the Grand Union Canal. He also told the meeting that Wendover will be contesting the costs put forward by HS2 for the Wendover tunnel and will be putting forward their own costings which will come from a reputable and experienced tunnelling company.

**Item 6.3 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 6.4 Minutes.** The minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 2016 were unanimously approved and duly signed.

**Item 6.5 Road Safety Issues.**  There were no road safety issues to discuss and the meeting noted that Peter Tilbury was still moving the VASs at regular intervals. **RN**

**Item 6.6 Clerk’s Report.** The Clerk reported that all the late correspondence would be dealt with under the respective agenda items.

**Item 6.7 Recreational Facilities.** Councillor Hares agreed to remove the humps from the playing field which would make more of the field available for Risborough Rangers to use for their training. Councillor Panikkar reported that the field was looking in very good order since the reseeding works in front of the goalmouths. (Clerk’s Note: the humps were removed on the 22nd of September thanks to Councillor Hares)

**Item 6.8 Planning.** The meeting noted with pleasure that Dropshort Barn had been demolished and work was proceeding to clear the site and hopefully proceed with the construction of the single house that has been given planning approval.

**Item 6.9 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:

Ellesborough PCC 800039 £2629.71

Steve Webb (Grass Cutting July 16) 800040 £698.71

Parish Hall (Hire 19 Jul 16) 800041 £16.00

Mazars (External Audit) 800042 £270.00

J & S Landscapes (Grass Cutting Aug 16) 800043 £572.63

The following payment was made:

The Chiltern Society (Annual Subscription) 800044 £30.00

**Item 6.10 HS2.** Following on from Mr Waller’s briefing, the Clerk informed the meeting that it was likely that Ellesborough will be called to appear before the Select Committee in the week beginning 24 October. However, before then it would be sensible for us to have a meeting with HS2 Ltd to see if our concerns may be resolved without resorting to petitioning the House of Lords. The Clerk is to contact HS2 to see if a meeting may be arranged. **RN**

**Item 6.11 Best Kept Village Competition.** The meeting discussed the competition and agreed that it might be possible for Ellesborough to enter, but noted that the closing date for entries was 30 April 2017. The Clerk had bought a quantity of daffodil bulbs for distribution to any parishioner interested in planning them outside their houses. He will prepare some notices to advertise this and put an article in the next issue of the village magazine. **RN**

**Item 6.12 Correspondence, Circulars and Consultation Documents.** The Clerk distributed the documents that he had received since the last meeting.

**Item 6.13 Footpaths, Stiles and Gates.** Councillor White reported that he was slowly obtaining the necessary approval from the landowners for the installation of the kissing gates and that they will eventually be installed.

**Item 6.14 Affordable Housing.** The meeting welcomed Karen Hillhouse from Hastoe and in conjunction with her discussed the various sites that had been identified as possible for affordable housing and the response from WDC on their suitability. Although WDC preferred site 1, this would be seriously affected by HS2 construction traffic. After looking at the various sites, the meeting agreed that the preferred sites as far as Ellesborough is concerned are no 8, no 6 and no 11. Karen asked about meeting with landowners and the Clerk advised that she should liaise with Councillor Alexander to meet with the owner of site 8. The Clerk will contact the owners of sites 6 and 11 to see what their reaction is to affordable housing on their land. The Clerk is also to brief our WDC Councillor on the situation. The aim is to have a positive decision by the next meeting on the 15th of November. **RA, RN**

**Item 6.15 Website.** Councillor White reported that he had transferred much of the information on the old web site to the new one and that this should save the Council some £500. The new site should become live in the next 2 days and then he and the Clerk will go through the process of loading files such as minutes and agendas etc. This was arranged for 25 September. **AW, RN**

**Item 6.16 Church Path.** Councillor Hares felt that enough work had been done on the path but there was still a problem with the remains of an old iron kissing gate. The Clerk will arrange for it to be removed. **RN**

**Item 6.17 Ellesborough’s Response to Bucks CC.** The meeting discussed how the Council should respond to Bucks CC but felt that the subject was too large for us to put forward constructive comment. The Clerk felt that there was too much reliance on consultation rather than making decisions and accepting responsibility for them. Also with planning there was too much disregard of comments made by parish councils and also WDC was not meeting its deadlines for processing applications. The Chairman and the Clerk will continue to liaise with Bucks CC. **RN**

**Item 6.18 Matters of Report.** Councillor Glover reported that the Parish Hall Committee had asked if the lines in the car park for the disabled parking and deliveries bay. The meeting agreed that this could be done and the Clerk is to arrange it. Also there is a plaque in the foyer of the hall and would the Parish Council consider having it refurbished before hanging it in the main hall. The meeting also discussed the Parish Hall Committee’s decision not to waive the hall hire fee for the LEAP Christmas party for the children of the parish. The Councillors agreed that this was not a good decision and then discussed how the Parish Council could help. Bearing in mind that the Council does fund events in the village, the meeting agreed that it will pay for the hire of the hall for the children’s party and also for the entertainer. The meeting noted that Maureen Audsley is going to hand over more responsibility to Gill White and that Councillor Glover is likely to take over as treasurer for the Parish Hall. Councillor Panikkar had investigated the free NHS health checks being offered by Bucks CC. However, with the restrictions placed on the tests and the fact that we would have had to pay for hire of the hall, the meeting agreed that it didn’t really suit our village circumstances and hence we would not be taking up the offer. Councillor McGrail briefed the meeting on the taking over of the phone box. An application to British Telecom will establish if there is a need for the telephone and if not then we could apply to take over the land on which it stands. Then we could install a red box and possibly put a defibrillator in it. An estimated cost for this would be £5000. Councillor McGrail will investigate further and apply to BT to take over the land currently occupied by the phone box. **RN, McG**

**Item 6.19 Fields in Trust.**  Having seen the brief circulated by the Clerk, the Councillors agreed that putting areas into the Fields in Trust programme was a good idea as it will protect them for ever. The meeting agreed that the Clerk is to submit an application to Fields in trust for the playground, the playing field and the war memorial to enter the programme. **RN**

**Item 6.20 Next Meeting.** The next Parish Council Meeting will be on 15 November 2016 at 7.30pm in Ellesborough Parish Hall.

The meeting closed at 21.18 hrs.

Signed

Councillor Robert Alexander

Chairman

Ellesborough Parish Council