

The Minutes of a Meeting of the Edington Parish Council held at The Parish Hall, Edington on Monday 8th January 2018 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Mesdames O'Donoghue, Lewis and Pike and Messrs Johns, Swabey, King, Pollard and Lupton and Mr Wickham (WC)

Apologies were received from Mesdames Greening, Watts and Dorgan

1. The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 18th December 2017 were adopted as read and signed

2. Matters Arising. White Lining of B3098. It was agreed that CATG be asked for this to be treated under 'Priorities' along with damaged and broken 30mph repeater signs.

3. The News. Mrs Lewis introduced the report that she and Mr Johns had prepared. The Editor had been made aware of the PC's concerns about printing errors and omissions, missing or incomplete articles that had appeared in the News and had accepted the idea of sending relevant draft copy to the PC for accuracy and extent of content, but this would be dependent on appropriate liaison by the PC there being a tight turnaround deadline. After discussion this was agreed but it would require the PC being able to appoint one or two people to act as liaison. The concept was further developed by suggesting that those appointed did not necessarily have to be Parish Councillors and that all copy from the Village could be funnelled through them. A couple of names were mentioned and the Chairman agreed to sound them out. These suggestions were agreed and Mrs Lewis would explain them to the Editor with a view to this new arrangement starting as soon as liaison people were identified and had accepted their role.

4. Planning.

(a) Development Plan/Neighbourhood Plan.

Mr Pollard had drafted and circulated by email the remaining completed sections for the Development Plan and a proposed Introduction which had been agreed. He proposed to finalize the DP and put it in draft form on the website but limited to viewing in the first instance by the PC only. It was then agreed that when the DP was ready for publication it would be accessible on the Website but that 150 hard copies would be made available with a re-run if that proved necessary. The PC expressed its thanks to Mr Pollard for all his work in getting the DP to this point.

The Chairman reported that having had a discussion with the Chairman of Bratton PC there had been a misunderstanding. Bratton was not looking for a joint NP but whether there was any land in Edington that might have been available for small scale development to link with its own.

(b) The following application had been received:-

(i) 17/12185/TCA Fell Conifer (T1) due to proximity to buildings and neighbouring property at 15 Inmead for Mrs Hart. There was no objection

(c) The following decisions had been received:-

17/10171/FUL proposed alterations and extension with glazed link at Tudor Cottage, 15 Westbury Road for Bigglestone – approved with conditions

5. Policing.

(a) The December area report had been received and it had been a quiet month.

(b) Speed Watch. There had been one session so far. None of the 123 cars checked had been speeding although it was obvious that some cars had braked on seeing the SW team.

(c) Cold calling. As there had been no further progress Mrs Lewis undertook to contact the WC officer concerned.

6. Playfield (PF).

(a) Mr Lupton would be seeing if he could renovate the Tractor which was a favourite with the children

(b) Christmas tree lighting up. The general feeling was that this had again been successful and especially the youngsters from the Bratton Training band so much so that the PC unanimously agreed that it would support its efforts by making a grant this year. In addition it was agreed to discuss at a future meeting a suggestion that the tree be erected on the Village Green rather than the PF

7. Highway Matters/Footpaths/CATG.

- (a) It was agreed that there should be a litter pick in the next few weeks
- (b) There had been fly tipping at Salisbury Hollow and the bottom of Coach Hollow
- (c) Mrs Pike reported a fallen tree in Coach Hollow and the leaching of slurry at the top of Long Hollow.
- (d) The Local Highways January Newsletter had been received
- (e) The Chairman agreed to raise the issue of the Monastery Road trees at the next CATG meeting but it was noted with thanks that Mr Richardson had cleared some saplings from the Road
- (g) B3098 Strategy. Mr Johns was anxious that this should not be lost especially in the light of 2 recent accidents suggesting to him that there were safety issues in relation to the road. Mr Wickham assured him that it would remain a live issue and that they were awaiting the proposed Freight Strategy and how it may affect the B3098
- (h) Mrs Pike was concerned that the hedge on the south side of the B3098. Need cutting. Mr King understood that would happen as part of farming practice.

8. Wiltshire Council (WC) Report.

Mobile Library. As from 14th Feb this would be at the Post Box, Tinhead Road on Weds every 4 weeks between 1500 and 1530. It was understood that some villages had lost this service and so it did need to be used.

9. Village Green and Pond. Mr Lupton had checked the decrease in the flow from the spring and was satisfied that was the result of a crack in the feeder pipe which he proposed to line. Although the pond was clean and bright it would need regular attention. He also suggested that a pole and plaque be erected to recognise the grant that had been made.

10. Finances.

(a) The PC needed to consider the Precept requirement for 2018/2019. This would be the PC levy under the Council Tax. The Chairman and Clerk had met to prepare a Budget and Statement of Finances which had been copied to all Councillors. It was noted that the balance in hand taking into account expenses (including grants and donations referred to below) to be paid by 31st March 2018 would be in the region of £10500 bearing in mind that a VAT refund was anticipated plus a donation that had been notified to the PC..

(b) Once again, because of the extremely low Bank interest rates, interest on the Deposit Account would only be in the region of £7.

(c) The PC considered Grants and Donations for the current year. It was reminded of its long standing policy of making grants and donations out of interest received. In view of the small amount received the PC needed to consider whether it was right to maintain its usual list of recipients and if so the amounts to be donated. After discussion it was agreed to continue to make grants especially where they would be of potential relevance to parishioners and their needs and it was therefore agreed that the following be made:-

- (i) £40 to the Independent Living Centre
- (ii) £50 to Dorothy House
- (iii) £40 to Bobby Van
- (iv) £40 to Splash
- (v) £40 to Youth Action
- (vi) £45 to CAB
- (vii) £30 to the Bratton Training Band

The PC agreed as Establishment expenses grants be made to:-

- (i) £100 to Parish News
- (ii) £50 to Four Villages Link
- (iii) £30 to Three Villages Minibus

(d) The Statement of Finances and Budget as proposed was then considered.

(i) The PC was unanimous in its view that it was essential that healthy reserves be maintained in order to provide the facilities that were from time to time identified for the village without having to borrow the money or raise the precept to a level that some may consider unacceptable. Resources needed to remain available to cover not only longstanding needs such as verge protection and a footpath between Monastery Road and the Three Daggars but also such matters as the Neighbourhood Plan and the possible acquisition and development of additional land extending the PF. It was noted that the PC had been fortunate in the past for many projects to be covered by grants and donations received but these could never be guaranteed. Nevertheless ordinary expenses were increasing (such as the Clerk's salary which was now fully in accordance with NALC guidelines and the ongoing cost of Village maintenance) and so it was suggested that the Precept be increased by £1000 to £9500. This would increase the Council Tax for a Band D property by £3.23 to £29.06 compared with £25.83 for 2017/2018. The PC was also conscious that the Police Authority and WC were anticipating increases in their Council Tax

(ii) The Clerk's Salary would continue to be in accordance with NALC guidelines.

(iii) The Clerk then explained the proposed Budget and after discussion it was agreed that the Precept for the year 2018/2019 would increase to £9500.

(e) One invoice had been received namely:-

Edington Parish Hall for Room Hire 2017 £144

(f) It was understood that the Government's warning that it could impose capping of Precept increases unless in a referendum the Parish approved the Precept had been put on hold for 3 years.

After further discussion it was proposed by Mr Pollard seconded by Miss O'Donoghue and carried unanimously that the Precept be made in the sum of £9500 and that the Grants and Donations listed above and the invoice referred to in paragraph (e) above be paid.

11. Best Kept Village Competition. Mrs Lewis had agreed to front the application this year and to see if she could involve other village organisations.

12. Correspondence.

(a) Clerks & Councils Direct – January 2018

13. Date of next Meeting. This was fixed for Monday 12th March 2018 but the Chairman would call a meeting if something significant came up requiring a full PC decision.