

The Minutes of a Meeting of the Edington Parish Council held at The Parish Hall, Edington on Monday 9th January 2017 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Mesdames O'Donoghue, Pike, Dorgan, Lewis, Watts and Greening and Messrs Swabey, Pollard, King, Johns and Lupton

Apologies were received from Mr Wickham (WC)

1. The Minutes of the meeting held on the 12th December 2016 were adopted as read and signed

2. Matters Arising. The PC acknowledged with thanks to the WC Footpaths Officer the good works that had been carried out to 2 Footpaths going up to the Plain including the provision of Kissing gates.

3. Planning.

(a) The following applications had been received and there were no objections to either of them:-

(i) 16/12360/TCA T1- reduce limbs on Dawn Redwood tree overhanging boundary by approx 1.5m; T2- trim Conifer to boundary by reducing limbs by approx 1.5m at The Manor House Lower Road for Mrs Latham of 13 Greater Lane

(ii) 17/00065/TCA reduce silver birch at top of bank by 30% at Brackenfell Charlton Hill for Ms Sonia Heywood

(b) The following decisions had been received:-

(i) 16/11527/TCA Works to trees: Front garden Maple (1) to reduce by 30% and shape crown; Rear garden Liquidamber (2) to reduce crown by 20% and shape; Drummondii (3) to reduce crown by 30% and thinning of 10%; Malus (4) to reduce crown by 25%; Silver Birch (5) to reduce crown by 25% and shape all at The Vines, Inmead for Mrs Elizabeth Windo – no objection

(ii) 16/11782/TCA Fell Cypress Tree. Reduce 3 Cypress Trees by 40% at Mount View, 23 Westbury Road for Mrs Elizabeth Pike – no objection

(iii) 16/10056/FUL Rear single storey orangery/conservatory extension at Windy Ridge 7 Charlton Hill for Mr and Mrs C and R Shepherd – approved

(c) Neighbourhood Plan (NP). Group meetings were to be held before the February PC meeting.

4. Policing.

(a) The report for December confirmed it had been a quiet month although hare coursing was a continuing problem.

(b) Speed Watch. This would be restarting shortly but more volunteers were needed.

(c) Cold Calling. The Chairman reported that Sue Wilkins from WC would be carrying out a review of the Downsview area as a potential area to be covered.

(d) Neighbourhood Watch. Mr Lupton had been making enquiries of some residents but there seemed to be little appetite for the involvement that would be necessary. It was agreed it could be raised at the APM.

5. Playfield (PF).

(a) It was agreed that arrangements would be made in for a full safety inspection of all the equipment.

(b) It was agreed to investigate the possible provision of exercise/fitness units and to consider these at the February PC meeting.

6. Finances.

(a) The PC needed to consider the Precept requirement for 2017/2018. 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 2017 would be in the region of £7200 bearing in mind that a VAT refund of £330 was anticipated before then. In view of the grants and donations that had been received for the new PC equipment it was unlikely that the VAT paid on it of £1396 would be recoverable

(b) Once again, because of the extremely low Bank interest rates, interest on the Deposit Account would only be in the region of £7.00

(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

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 possible acquisition and development of the additional land extending the PF as previously discussed. It was noted that the PC had been fortunate in the past for many projects to be covered by grants and donations received (such as the PF Tractor in 2013) but these could never be guaranteed. Nevertheless ordinary expenses were increasing (such as the Clerk's hourly rate on which his salary was based) and so it was suggested that the Precept be increased to £8500. No WC grant would be made and the Council Tax for a Band D property would be £25.82 compared with £24.68 for 2016/2017).

(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 2017/2018 would increase to £8500.

After further discussion it was proposed by Miss O'Donoghue seconded by Mrs Dorgan and carried unanimously that the Precept be made in the sum of £8500 and that the Grants and Donations listed above be paid.

(e) Headstone fees had been received of £128 re Denise Giddings and donations of £1000 from Edington Station Yard and £300 from The Three Daggars both of which were gratefully received

7. Highway Matters/Footpaths/CATG.

(a) Consideration was given to the provision of a gate at the top of Footpath opposite the Three Daggars and Mr Johns would speak to the landowner.

(b) The Chairman reported that the CATG meeting to be held on the 13th January 2017 would be looking at freight priorities which would involve the B3098.

(c) It was noted that some white lining had been done in Tinhead Road but no response had yet been received to the PC request relating to the B3098 and extending lines to Sandy Lane

(d) The Parish Steward was due and Mrs Greening was collating works that were necessary

(e) It was noted that a new pole was needed for the Footpath sign at Greater Lane and to request a 'No Cycling' sign for the footpath past Shepherds Cottage

8. Wiltshire Council (WC) Report.

In the absence of Mr Wickham there was no report.

9. Village Green and Pond.

Mr Lupton confirmed that there was nothing further to report and the decision on the grant application was expected later Jan/Feb.

10. Civil Emergency Plan and Defibrillators. Miss O'Donoghue had the Plan in hand. As to Defibrillators it was understood that AB grants were available

11. Annual Parish Meeting (APM). It was agreed to hold this on the 24th April 2017

12. Correspondence.

(a) SPTA News Sheet – January 2017

(b) WALC December Newsletter – forwarded by email

(c) Clerks & Councils Direct - January 2017 – being circulated.

13. News items. Consideration was given to items to be included.

14. Date of next Meeting. This was fixed for Monday 13th February 2017 at the Parish Hall at 7.30pm