

The Minutes of a Meeting of the Edington Parish Council held at The Parish Hall, Edington on Monday 14th October 2013 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Mesdames Greening, Pike, O'Donoghue, Bromhead and Dorgan and Messrs Mitchell, Pollard, King, Swabey, and Hinton

Apologies were received from Mr Pinson.

PCSO Caroline Wright was also in attendance for part of the meeting.

1. The Minutes of the meeting held on the 9th September 2013 were adopted as read and signed.

2. Matters Arising. Village Pond. Part of the problem of rats there was that people were leaving bread for the ducks.

3. Planning:-

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

(i) W/13/03461/FUL and W/13/04020/LBC Fishing Lodge on Lake Edge at The Priory Farm, Inmead for Mr Chad Pike

(ii) W/13/04411/TCA Fell 2 no. Leylandii Trees at Ashley Cottage Edington (sic) Road, for Mr Dennis Rolfe

(iii) W/13/04916/TCA Fell Sycamore (T1) and Ash (T2) at Bonshommes Cottage for Mr Michael Jones

(b) The following decisions had been received namely:-

(i) W/13/02504/FUL Single storey extension, new doors to dayroom and relocation of oil tank at 67 Westbury Road for Mr and Mrs P Wiltshire – Approved

(c) The Clerk reported on proposals from the Planning Office to changes in the way TCA applications were going to be dealt with. In essence WC's tree officers will only be involved if the PC raises any objections although they will retain a discretionary ability at any time to investigate any application.

4. Policing.

(a) PC Foulger had sent in his report for October which PCSO Wright explained. She also reported that an Edington resident had been sent to Prison for 2 years and 8 months for theft from people she had been working for. ASB issues in Bratton were the subject of increased patrols.

(b) Speedwatch Co-ordinator. There had been some possible interest and the Chairman said he would follow that up.

5. Playfield (PF).

(a) Mr Hailstone had quoted £117 to make a metal Christmas tree holder that would support a tree up to 5 metres high and its installation in concrete with metal stabilisers. Mrs Dorgan proposed that this be accepted, that no other quotes be sought on the basis that the PC policy was to support local businesses wherever possible and the amount was relatively small. This was seconded by Mrs Bromhead and carried unanimously.

(b) Mrs Dorgan reported on suggested arrangements for the Christmas tree. The Three Dagers had indicated a willingness to provide the electricity, probably the lights and a contribution towards the Tree which could possibly be supplied by the shop. The suggested weekend for erecting the tree was 14/15th December.

(c) Mr Hinton reported that the Flag was getting battered and it was agreed it should be taken down

(d) the Pub fence had not yet been dog proofed

(e) Mrs Dorgan agreed to arrange for a safety check to be carried out.

6. Finances.

(a) It was proposed by Mrs Dorgan seconded by Mrs Pike and carried unanimously that the following invoices be paid or payment be confirmed:-

(i) Society of Local Council Clerks Annual Subscription £75.00

(ii) Grant Thornton the Audit fee of £120.00 the Audit having been completed and no issues raised.

(iii) Callaway Grass Maintenance for mowing the Village Green in August £30 and September £30

(iv) Miles & Francis for grounds maintenance to PF, Car Park and various highway triangles, clearing growth between pond and road, tidying up entrance to the Weir and clearing footpath down from the pond £420

(b) A reminder had been received of the AB grant scheme

(c) Council Tax Support and the Precept. The Clerk explained the potential effects that the changes from Council Tax Benefit to Council Tax Support by reducing the Council Tax Base could have on the Parish precept. For the year ended 31st March 2013 WC had passed on to Town and PC's the grant aid it had received from central government but this was going to be reduced as the years went by and was not ring fenced meaning that WC could decide not to pass on any such grant. A reduced Council Tax base meant that the precept would be shared by fewer people thereby increasing the amount they pay unless the PC cut the precept in a cost cutting exercise. The situation was further complicated because the Government was threatening to impose a cap on the ability of PC's to put up the precept by a large percentage without a referendum. Hitherto PC's have not been subject to any limits on the amount of their precept.

7. Highway Matters/Footpaths.

(a) A number of concerns were expressed about the current arrangements with WC regarding the new set up of Community Days with the new Local Highway and Streetscene Co-ordinator. Mrs Greening was having difficulty making arrangements for a number of matters that the PC was concerned about and it was agreed that the Leader of WC be notified that the position was unsatisfactory.

(b) A discussion ensued regarding the PC carrying out a complete review of the arrangements it made for all the work that was done around the village by Miles & Francis, Callaway Grass Maintenance Ltd, Bratton General Maintenance Services that would otherwise be the responsibility of WC Highways. A small group led by the Chairman would consider this and the rationalisation of who did what in relation to the Village Green, PF, BG and Car Park. Clarification was also needed as to when WC carried out its verge cutting.

(c) The Monastery Road corner wall and road edge were down to be dealt with on a Community Day

(d) Mrs Dorgan suggested that a set of bollards be obtained for use when there were village functions requiring some parking control. She would see if AB grant was available for that.

(e) Mrs Pike asked that the grass be cut around the flower boxes at the entrances to the village

8. Wiltshire Council (WC) Report :-

(a) Mr Swabey in opening his report said that the sad news was that our Wiltshire Councillor Linda Conley was seriously ill with liver cancer. The PC expressed its good wishes to her.

(b) A recent meeting of the Community Action Transport Group (CATG) had confirmed that the work at the Plough junction was scheduled to be carried out after Christmas.

(c) On the question of speed limit reviews there was already a proposal for a 40mph limit at Dunge and Mr Swabey was asking that both the PC and Edington Station Yard write to the AB expressing support for the moving of the 30mph limit to north of the bridge on the Steeple Ashton Road where the Edington village sign was. This was agreed.

9. BKVC. It was understood that Mr Fraser was interested in fronting an entry in 2014. The PC was grateful for that and if indeed he was willing it would offer all the support it could.

10. Projects. Mr Hinton reported that he had not yet heard from the May Ball committee.

11. Burial Ground (BG).

(a) The Clerk had spoken with Mr Pinson who was much more relaxed about the issues discussed at the previous meeting. Nonetheless several councillors were concerned that the position should be regularised acknowledging that it had not for many years had to bear the cost of maintaining the part that the Pinson's and the Pike's had cared for. After a wide ranging discussion including the potential additional cost of that maintenance to the PC it was proposed by Miss O'Donoghue and seconded by Mr Hinton that the part of the BG currently being maintained by the Pinson's and the Pike's should return to the direct control of the PC. An amendment was proposed by Mrs Greening and seconded by Mr Pollard that the present arrangements continue but be properly formalised. On the amendment being put to the vote it was defeated by 5 votes to 3; the main proposition being carried by the same margin. It was agreed that the Chairman and/ or the Clerk would report this to Mr and Mrs Pinson. It meant also that the review of village maintenance would now need to include the entirety of the BG.

(b) The PC unanimously agreed to the erection of the Edington Festival marquee in 2014.

12. Correspondence.

(a) SPTA News Sheet –October 2013

(b) WALC Circular – October 2013

(c) Notice had been received of the Community First AGM was now to be held on the 3 December 2013

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

14. Date of next Meeting. This was fixed for Monday 11th November 2013 at the Parish Hall at 7.30pm.