

The Minutes of an Open Meeting of the Edington Parish Council held at The Parish Hall, Edington on Monday 13th January 2020 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Mesdames Greening, O'Donoghue, Pike, Watts and Dorgan and Messrs Pollard, Johns, Swabey and King and Mrs Wickham (WC)

There was one member of the public, Mr Binney, in attendance and for part of the meeting Mr Richardson and Mrs Sarah Killian (who had taken over the chairmanship of the NP Steering committee from Mr Richardson)

Mrs Nicholson had tendered her apologies.

1. Precept

- a. The meeting had been called as an Open Meeting to enable the Village Council Tax payers to comment on the PC's proposals to increase the Precept as per the letter that had been delivered to all households in December; and to agree the Precept requirement for 2020/2021. 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 and the Chairman had prepared a power point presentation which is attached to these Minutes. It included the Budget and Statement of Finances. In addition the Clerk had prepared a Projection to the end of the financial year showing the balances in hand at the end of each March from 2007 to 2019 and an estimated balance at the end of March 2020 of £4152. It was noted that the balances had been reducing over the years. The Clerk reminded the meeting that the general rule was that the PC ought not to hold significant balances other than for working capital and earmarked expenditure. The Chairman went through the power point which set out the reasons for the PC seeking an increase in the Precept and he and the Clerk explained the Budget and Statement of Finances leading to the suggestion of raising the Precept to £13000. This would amount to Council Tax of £39.35 for a Band D property or 76p per week
- b. Once again, because of the extremely low Bank interest rates, interest on the Deposit Account would only be in the region of £6.50
- c. 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 identified for the village without having to borrow the money. 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 but these could never be guaranteed. Nevertheless ordinary expenses were increasing such as the Clerk's salary (in accordance with NALC Guidelines), PF Inspection requirements and funding contributions for highway matters.
 - ii. The one member of the public and Mrs Nicholson both expressed support for the budget proposals.

d. The PC then 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. £45 to Bratton Youth Band

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

- viii. £100 to Parish News
- ix. £50 to Four Villages Link
- x. £30 to Three Villages Minibus

After further discussion it was proposed by Mrs Dorgan seconded by Mrs Pike and carried unanimously that the Precept be made in the sum of £13000 and that the Grants and Donations listed above be paid.

2. The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 9th December 2019 were adopted as read and signed

3. Matters Arising.

It was noted that the Coal Path railing had been dealt with and the Monastery Road stiles leading into the Pepler's field.

4. Planning

a. The Neighbourhood Plan (NP) Questionnaire was ready for distribution.
b. The Housing Needs Survey needed a paragraph from the PC which the Chairman would provide. Mr Richardson would now be stepping down as Chairman of the Steering committee and thanks were expressed to him for all the work he had done

c. The following applications had been received and there were no objections to either of them:-

- i. 19/11939/TPO Crown reduce beech tree to the rear of the 3 Daggers by no more than 2m at The Three Daggers for Mr William Warden
- ii. 20/00090/TCA Reduce Laurel by 30% at The Grange 4 Inmead for Mrs Rhona Atterton

d. The following decisions had been received:-

- i. 18/11434/TCA Reduce height of Beech tree by 2-3 m. Prune leggy laterals by 1-2m all round. Prune back over pond at Pond House, Tinhead Road for Edington PC – no objection. Mrs Pike reported that it was anticipated that the work would start on the 20th January 2020
- ii. 19/11177/FUL Single storey side extension at Birdhurst 4A Tinhead Road for Mr & Mrs Alabano - approved

5. Policing

a. Police Report. Again there was no report but Mr King reported that there had been an investigation into hare coursing

b. Speed Watch. There was to be a possible training on the 17th January

6. Playfield (PF)

- a. The Chairman had been in discussion with Mr Stuart Hollburn-Thorburn (who had carried out PF equipment maintenance for Bratton PC) and was prepared to carry out monthly inspections at the PF at a cost of £30 per month. It was proposed by Mr Swabey seconded by Mr Johns and carried unanimously that this be agreed.
- b. Trees. It was agreed that every June and December an inspection of all trees where the public had access would be checked.

7. Highway Matters/Footpaths/CATG

- a. Salisbury Hollow degradation. Enquiries had revealed that the 1st part of the Hollow was highways responsibility and it then became a bridleway. Mr Pollard and Kirsty Rose would review the state of the Hollow in the next couple of months, and what could be done to protect it.
- b. Monastery Road Bend/HGVs. In discussion with CATG “Unsuitable for HGV’s” signs were proposed at various points. The AHE would be checking the bend itself in April to see what could be done.
- c. Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs). Plans were being drawn up as to the proposed siting of the spigots.
- d. B3098 Strategy/White lining. Weather permitting this should be carried out shortly
- e. Three footpaths needed attention:-
 - i. Parish Hall footpath as previously minuted. The bottom end near The Plough was very slippery and dangerous and needed a good clean – possibly a power wash.
 - ii. The path behind the Old Chapel
 - iii. The Permissive Path through the watercress beds at Imber Road, Bratton. Mr Johns would try and meet with the Footpaths Officer to discuss
- f. Road cleaning. Mr Pollard would be meeting with Mrs Wickham and Adrian Hampton (WC Highways) to discuss arrangements.
- g. Water from Shore House running into the road. The nearby gulley needed clearing and it was agreed to refer it to the AHE
- h. Parish Steward. To be asked to deal with the Parish Hall footpath; and it was noted that a tree had fallen at the top of Coach Hollow.

8. Wiltshire Council (WC) Report.

There was nothing of particular note to report.

9. Finances

- a. It was proposed by Mrs Watts seconded by Miss O’Donoghue and carried unanimously that the following invoices be paid or confirmed:-
 - i. Bratton General Maintenance Services £170 for grass cutting BG and verges Sept to Nov 2019
 - ii. Miles & Francis £410 for grounds maintenance to PF and CP
- b. The AB Defibrillator grant had been received in the sum of £1100 and the £500 from Edington Station Yard for the Bus Shelter

10. Correspondence

- a. Clerks & Councils Direct – January 2020
- b. WALC Circular – December 2019
- c. Ash Die Back -letter from Defence Infrastructure Organisation re proposed work

to deal with trees affected on SPTA

11. News items.

Consideration was given to items to be included

12. Annual Parish Meeting.

This was fixed for the 27th April 2020 with the April PC Meeting on the 6th April

13. Date of next Meeting

This was fixed for Monday 10th February 2020 at the Parish Hall at 7.30pm.