

The Minutes of a Meeting of the Edington Parish Council held at the Parish Hall on Monday 10th January 2022 at 7.30 p.m.

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

1. The PC was pleased to welcome PCSO Alice Moore. She explained that since the 1 October 2021 there had been some 9 incidents, 7 of which were crimes, plus a spate of car thefts – Warminster had also been targeted - and there had been the discovery of a cannabis factory in Westbury Leigh. On the 2 January there had been a theft of batteries from Station Yard. She was concerned that villagers should be security conscious and promoted the Bobby Van whose members could offer advice in that respect. She supported SpeedWatch and tried to get out to sessions in her area. Mrs Greening raised the question of Neighbourhood Watch and how to refer to the Police for example linking it to Whats App groups and she agreed to make enquiries. The Chairman thanked her for her attendance and expressed the hope that she would be able to attend future meetings of the PC. She hoped to do so and also hoped to be able to attend the Tuesday Drop-ins.
2. **The Minutes** of the Meeting held on the 13th December 2021 were adopted as read and signed
3. **Matters Arising from the November Meeting** (None from December's meeting)
 - a. Monks Well railings. Mr Hardman would contact the Parish Steward
 - b. Finger Post at Cowleaze Lane. A donation of £700 had been gratefully received from Edington Station Yard and Mrs Dorgan would investigate who might be able to carry out the work needed.
 - c. Smelly Lane tree. Mr Johns confirmed that it had been removed
 - d. Tubbs Charity sign. It was agreed to discuss this at the February meeting
 - e. Defibrillator. A grant application to AB had been successful. Mr Pollard had spoken to a Churchwarden and there appeared to be agreement that it could be sited on the Toilet block. The Clerk would make enquiries seeking a further grant from the Church
4. **Precept and Finances**
 - a. The PC needed to consider the Precept requirement for 2022/2023. 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 to date was £24176 but there were other significant expenses yet to be invoiced to the PC for the current year which were noted in the consideration of the Statement of Finances in (f) below.
 - b. Once again, low Bank interest rates meant that interest on the Deposit Account would only be in the region of £2
 - c. The PC considered Grants and Donations for the current year. It's longstanding policy of making grants and donations out of interest received had not been possible in recent years due to the low interest received but as in previous years it was considered right to maintain its usual list of recipients on the basis that they would be of potential relevance to parishioners and their needs. 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 Bratton Youth Band
- d. The PC agreed as Establishment expenses the following grants be made:-
 - i. £100 to Parish News
 - ii. £50 to Four Villages Link
 - iii. £30 to Three Villages Minibus
- e. The following invoices had been received:-
 - i. Mr S R Hollburn-Thorburn £180 for PF Maintenance July to December 2021
- f. 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 levels 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 Dagers. It was noted that the PC had been fortunate in the past for many projects to be assisted by grants and donations received but these could never be guaranteed. Nevertheless ordinary expenses were increasing (and this coming year inflationary pressures particularly) and so it was suggested that the Precept be increased to £16000. This would give for a Band D property a Council Tax of £48.40 compared with £46.91 for 2021/2022).
 - ii. The Clerk's Salary would continue to be in accordance with NALC guidelines and Local Government scales, but was this year subject to a pay freeze due to the costs incurred by Government regarding the Pandemic.
 - iii. After further discussion especially of the issue of inflation it was proposed by Miss O'Donoghue seconded by Mrs Dorgan and carried unanimously that the Precept be made in the sum of £16000 and that the Grants and Donations listed above and the invoice referred to in paragraph (e) above be paid.

5. Coronavirus arrangements.

The situation was under constant review and there was nothing further that the PC needed to cover

6. Planning

- a. Neighbourhood Plan.
Mr Burgess was re-engaging with the site owners for more detail as required by WC.
- b. No new planning applications had been received but the PC was still awaiting the further detail requested for the proposals at Merrilea, Westbury Road
- c. The following decisions had been received:-
 - i. PL/2021/10853/FUL Proposed dwelling at 46A Westbury Road for Anna Klonowski – approved
 - ii. PL/2021/09773/FUL Alterations to existing timber decking and provision of timber Garden Room at Box Cottage 5 Tinhead Road for Mr Theo Taylor - approved

7. Policing

- a. Police Report. The PC was appreciative of the attendance of the PCSO and the Chairman would notify her of the date of the next meeting
- b. Speedwatch (SW). The new Police and Crime Commissioner was wanting to promote SW. A group had been set up to meet monthly to consider

improvements to cascade down to SW teams e.g communication with, and reporting back from, the police. There were some problems with speed guns that were not working properly

- c. Neighbourhood Watch (NW). Mrs Greening was suggesting that a NW be restarted for the village, and that it could be launched at the APM. Not everyone had Whats App and so she suggested that one be trialled with Parish Councillors

8. Playfield.

- a. Mrs Dorgan reported that the Christmas tree had been successfully erected and good comments had been received of the lighting event with the Bratton Junior Silver Band. New lights would be needed for next year.
- b. Land Swap. A response was still awaited from The Three Daggers

9. Wiltshire Council (WC) Report

- a. The next AB meeting was scheduled for the 17th February with the Police and Crime Commissioner and it would be looking at Safeguarding

10. Highway matters/Footpaths/CATG

- a. 20mph limits. Mr Pollard showed slides of the proposals which would include posts, repeater signs, roundels and rumble strips with gateways for Monastery Road and Lower Road. Also the 30mph sign in Monastery Road would be moved north. Mrs Wickham said that due to a huge backlog it would probably be late summer before anything was done
- b. Parking at Tinhead. Mr Pollard had met the AHE and colleague to review the situation re parking on the corner of Tinhead Road with the B3098. The AHE said parking there was dangerous and unsuitable and consideration should be given to yellow lines being put down
- c. Footpath from the PC Car Park to the Kissing gate just beyond 44 Westbury Road. Mr King reported that the landowners had indicated a willingness to, in principle, grant a “permissive path” along the southern end of their land to avoid the need to walk on the main road. It would be subject to satisfactory documentation and the provision of appropriate fencing and gating. The PC was pleased at that offer and arrangements would be made to discuss the detail with the landowners and the costs that would be incurred
- d. Parish Steward. A number of matters would be referred to the PS including the verges at the Plough, Pond House, and the tree in Monastery Road

11. Three Villages Minibus. Future management. It was agreed to defer this to the next meeting

12. Burial Ground Paddock update. It was agreed to defer this to the February meeting

13. Correspondence

- a. Clerks & Councils Direct - January 2022.
- b. WALC January 2022 Circular
- c. RSPCA Cat Neutering campaign 2022
- d. CPRE Countryside Voices and Fieldwork – both Winter 2021 – being circulated

14. News items

Consideration was given to items to be included.

15. Date of next Meeting

This was fixed for Monday 14th February 2022