

# **The Minutes of a Meeting of the Edington Parish Council held at the Parish Hall on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 7.30 p.m.**

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

Apologies were received from Mr Burgess and Mrs Wickham (WC)

1. **The Minutes** of the Meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022 were adopted as read and signed

## **2. Matters Arising from the November Meeting**

The Clerk reminded the Meeting of the WALC concerns regarding the lack of involvement by Parish Councils and of the Zoom meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> January to try and address that

## **3. Precept and Finances**

- a. The PC needed to consider the Precept requirement for 2023/2024. 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 £31683 but there were other 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, although there had been recent increases, low Bank interest rates meant that interest on the Deposit Account would only be in the region of £40
- c. The PC considered Grants and Donations for the current year. Its 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. £50 to the Independent Living Centre
  - ii. £50 to Dorothy House
  - iii. £50 to Bobby Van
  - iv. £50 to Splash
  - v. £50 to Youth Action
  - vi. £50 to CAB
  - vii. £50 to Bratton Youth Band
- d. The PC agreed as Establishment expenses the following grants be made:-
  - i. £50 to Parish News
  - ii. £100 to Four Villages Link
  - iii. £30 to Three Villages Minibus
- e. The following invoices had been received:-
  - i. J P Garden Services for BG Grass cutting November 2022 £35
- 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 but other unplanned matters. 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. Ordinary expenses were increasing (and this coming year cost of living and inflationary pressures particularly) but it was nevertheless suggested that the Precept be capped at last years figure of £16000. This would give for a Band D property a Council Tax of £47.99 compared with £48.40 for 2021/2022).
- ii. The Clerk's Salary would continue to be in accordance with NALC guidelines and Local Government scales which had been agreed for this current year
  - iii. After further discussion especially, about the Establishment Expenses, it was proposed by Mrs Watts seconded by Mr Hardman 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.

#### **4. Planning**

- a. Neighbourhood Plan. There was nothing further to report since the last meeting
- b. The following applications had been received:-
  - i. PL/2023/00046/TCA reduce width of Scots Pine, lower branches are rubbing against the property and significantly overhanging the road at 67 Westbury Road for Jennifer Hoskins. There was no objection to this
  - ii. PL/2023/00119/FUL Erection of building for Agricultural use (retrospective) at 14 Westbury Road for Bate. Mr Hardman and the Clerk both declared an interest as neighbours to the application site. In the light of the decision noted below at c.iii, and that the reasons had not yet been published, it was agreed to defer considering the application, beyond making the same objection the PC had made to the previous application, until those reasons had been received. The Chairman would then consider how the PC would deal with the application
- c. The following decisions had been received:-
  - i. PL/2021/10853/ PL/2022/08547 Fell variegated Maple. The tree is growing up to the shed and will eventually push it over the tree is close to the edge of the deck. Beech - reduce crown by 2.5 meters. the tree is overhanging the guttering at the front of the house at 1 / 2 Charlton Hill for Mrs Anne Ilsley – no objection
  - ii. PL/2022/07631/FUL Erection of new detached dwelling house and detached garage. Resubmission of approved application 19/00222/FUL and approved Non-Material Amendment at Land off Court lane, for Mr Elliott – approve
  - iii. PL/2022/08751/FUL Change of use of land to residential garden and erection of outbuilding (part retrospective) at 14 Westbury Road for Whiteacre Planning Ltd use – Refuse
  - iv. PL/2022/09499/TCA Prunus – reduce by 15% all over at 54 Westbury Road for Mrs Dorgan (who declared her interest as the applicant and took no part in the discussion) - no objection

#### **5. Policing**

There was nothing to report since the last meeting

#### **6. 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 had been purchased. The only hiccup had been over the refreshments not being circulated among those attending (more than 50) the lighting up.

b. Land Swap. A response was still awaited from The Three Daggers

## **7. Wiltshire Council (WC) Report**

In the absence of Mrs Wickham there was no report

## **8. Highway matters/Footpaths/CATG**

a. 20mph limits. The signs were being installed

b. Mr Pollard had met the AHE on site to discuss various issues:-

i. Protection for the edge of the garden of 6 Tinhead Road by rubber kerbing and a white line

ii. Roundels at the Telephone Exchange to be made more visible

iii. Traffic calming between Longlands Close and Sandy Lane. Her report was awaited

c. The provision of stiles at the **northern** end of Lambourne Lane were also awaited

d. Footpath from the PC Car Park. Mr King had spoken to the landowners who were prepared to assist in part with Mr Cochrane's observations. Mr King offered to have a meeting with Mr Cochrane to see what might be achievable. This was agreed

e. Parish Steward. A number of matters would be referred to the PS including filling in potholes

f. Village Litter Pick. This was fixed for 18<sup>th</sup> March

## **9. Car Park.**

a. Broken Gate post. It was agreed to get a couple of quotes for its repair

b. Use by Bratton School. The school had held its Christmas concert at the Church in mid December. It appeared that someone at the church had said that they could but no request had been received. It was agreed to mention it to the Churchwarden that requests must be made if the Parish Hall is not being used for the event

**10. Burial Ground Paddock** update. There was no real consensus as to the provision of a wildflower area especially with the apple tree and the need for part to be kept free for the Festival and potentially a Boules, or similar, area. A bench could be provided and the steepness of the path alleviated, It was agreed to continue to reflect on its otherwise being a quiet area.

## **11. Correspondence**

a. Clerks & Councils Direct - January 2023.

b. WALC November 2022 Circular

## **12. News items**

Consideration was given to items to be included.

## **13. Date of next Meeting**

This was fixed for Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023. The March meeting would be on **te** 13<sup>th</sup>, April on the 17<sup>th</sup> after the APM that evening and May on the 15<sup>th</sup>