

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for the Parish of Edington held at the Parish Hall Edington on Monday 25th April 2022 at 7.30pm

Present: Messrs Pollard and Burgess, and Mesdames O'Donoghue, Greening, Dorgan, Watts and Pike and Mrs Wickham (Wiltshire Councillor), and 11 members of the public.

Apologies were received from Messrs Swabey, Johns, Hardman, King and Hailstone and Mrs Swain

The Chairman of the Parish Council (PC) Mr Pollard welcomed all to the meeting.

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 29rd April 2019 were adopted as read and signed. There were no Matter Arising from those Minutes.

The Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on the 13th September were adopted as read and signed. There were no Matters Arising from those Minutes

Chairman's Report

This had been the first APM since April 2019 due to Covid.

He noted the following achievements since the last meeting

Responses to Covid: A Virus hotline had been set up with some 55 volunteers and many phone calls

Village online Newsletter – this had now been running for two years and feedback from villagers was that they would like it to continue. He was always looking for articles and suggestions as to how it could be further developed as an Edington Newsletter. At present there were 123 people who received it online and a number receiving a paper copy.

Highways improvements:-

SID – Flashing away at errant motorists! The original plan had been to move it between the two ends of the village. However due to the weight and bulk of the pole etc. it was decided to keep it at the site near the farm shop but turned around occasionally. It was now planned to have a second pole near the top of Greater Lane and to move the “box” on a regular basis between the two sites.

20mph limits – after delays brought about by Covid the PC was eventually successful in obtaining funding from the Wiltshire Council (WC) Strategic Bids fund and the signage etc. should be appearing when WC was in a position to proceed.

Salisbury Hollow works – eventually, after some set backs the surface of Salisbury Hollow had been regraded and although the PC would have liked more work done budgetary constraints and the legal status of Salisbury Hollow being a byway prevented any further work for the foreseeable future.

HGV signage – the positioning of “Unsuitable for HGV's” signs at various locations around the village and on the approach roads had led to a reduction in the number of unsuitable vehicles trying to negotiate Lower Road and Monastery Road.

Reduction of speed limit to 40mph between Edington and Bratton and road safety on the B3098 - unfortunately not everybody keeps to the speed limits and so a meeting

with the Area Highways Engineer (AHE) had taken place to look at further measures that could be taken to slow traffic. In the first instance it was necessary to have a traffic count undertaken to identify the number of vehicles and the speeds at which they were travelling at and this was awaited.

Other village enhancements:-

Defibrillator(s) –There was one in the car park at the Three Daggers and a second would soon to be in position in the Church car park.

Burial Ground field – work in progress. The field had been tidied and an entrance made from the Coal Path into the field. Later in the coming year the PC was arranging a visit from Wiltshire Wildlife Trust to advise on the best way forward in providing a wild flower meadow but still allow the field to be used for other activities such as the Music Festival and the recently reintroduced Wassailing (thanks to our resident Wassailers – Pauline Dorgan and Liz Pike) and a request for a Boules area.

Playfield – negotiations were ongoing with Three Daggers Operating as to the future developments of the playfield. The PC had set up a sub committee of councillors and they would be working on the plans and in due course feed back to the full council.

Parish Steward – this was continuing on a monthly basis and was managed by Mr Hardman

Finally - Precept for 2022-23 Ordinary expenses were increasing (and this coming year inflationary pressures particularly) and so it had been 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).

Reports from some of the Councillors:-

Mrs Greening gave an update on Neighbourhood Watch. One that had been running many years ago had fizzled out and she was exploring creating another one possibly taking advantage of creating a Whats App group

Mr Burgess reported on the Neighbourhood Plan – evidence was being gathered particularly in identifying possible sites and he was, with the Chairman, in reasonably regular contact with WC officers on the progress of the proposed Plan

Mrs Pike was the PC lead on Climate issues – these had been well publicised: long dry springs, more violent storms and flooding, wild fires etc. The question was: could we do anything? There were moves to perhaps join with other nearby PCs to address villages' carbon footprint. For example Bratton had gas, whereas Edington was reliant on oil, wood (more environment friendly), coal and electricity. There was a need to address future energy needs and sources: heat pumps, heat sensors, solar panels, switching off lights and perhaps lifestyle changes – travel, electric cars, shopping habits, reducing plastic use. At a parish level the PC was pursuing Mrs Wickham's WC initiative for wildflower corridors and some areas had been identified, And to encourage walking by maintaining our footpaths

Wiltshire Council Report

Mrs Wickham mentioned 3 matters:

She represented the WC ward of Ethandune and her brief was offering a link for all residents to WC on matters of concern. She wrote regularly in the Parish News to keep the village informed

Her involvement with the PC. She attended PC meetings practically every time and kept the PC informed of WC business. She supported the PC in its involvement with the Area Board and any initiatives or grants that the PC would seek from time to time

As a WC Councillor she was on the Planning committee for the Western area planning. Her particular portfolio at WC was Special Needs and Disability; and she was promoting the AB initiative on creating pollinator corridors across the AB area which included the villages and Westbury.

Any Other Business. 2 matters were raised:-

Road safety at the junction with Court Lane and Baynton Way. Who had right of way? It was agreed the Chairmen would raise it with the WC AHE

Large lorries on the B3098. There was no easy answer to this is but would again be discussed with the AHE.

There being no other business the Chairman thanked all who had attended and the Meeting was formally closed at 8.17pm.