

The Minutes of a Meeting of the Edington Parish Council held at the Parish Hall on Monday 11th December 2023 at 7.30 p.m.

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

Apologies were received from Mr Burgess

1. The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 13th November 2023 were adopted as read and signed

2. Matters Arising.

The Grounds Maintenance Contract had been received and the Clerk would be checking that it was in order. It was likely that another cut of the PF would be needed soon

3. Planning

a. Neighbourhood Plan (NP). Further information was still awaited from WC.

b. The following planning application had been received :-

PL/2023/09769/FUL Use of building as a garage for the storage of motor vehicles and associated equipment, and associated works to reconstruct the garage at Former Garages at Little Court Lane for Ms Julia Dorsett. The PC opposed this application: it was built, or partly built on Highway verge and should be referred to Highways for consideration; it was out of character and did not fit the existing street scene; it would further narrow an already narrow road: and it was not believed there had actually been a garage on the site in the past. It was also believed that there was a large drain underneath

4. Policing

a. The Chairman reported that there had been yet further changes the recent in Inspector having been transferred elsewhere

b. Neighbourhood Watch. Mrs Greening confirmed that this was still in hand

c. Speed Watch. The Chairman had circulated recent statistics. Checks would resume in March 2024

d. SID. It was intended to move the SID shortly to Long Hollow

5. Playfield (PF)

a. Land Swap. A meeting had taken place with the Three Daggers and new ideas were going to be presented to the PC sub committee in January 2024

b. New Play equipment. It was agreed to investigate grants.

6. Highway Matters/Footpaths/LHFIG

a. The New AHE for this area was a Mr Mark Bunce

b. Parish Steward. Various issues had been mentioned to Mr Hardman

- c. Speed Calming Sandy Lane to Longlands Close. The Chairman presented a powerpoint of WC proposals. These included a Gateway, refreshing white lines, additional roundels, buff coloured high friction surface, repainting rumble strips and an additional enhanced 30mph sign. The cost to the PC would be in the region of £4500. The suggestion had been made by WC that it could be reviewed if in fact it was not having the desired effect on traffic speeding in and out of the village. The PC was not impressed. The proposals were nothing short of simply cosmetic. Experience showed that they would not have a deterrent effect and that what was needed was a physical barrier such as a build out or even provision of a proper footpath (such as recently installed in Westbury on the B3098 there) with priority signage. The PC was sceptical that having spent £4500 of PC money and £9000 of WC Highways funding the possibility of further money being spent was unlikely. The issue needed to be addressed properly now for the long term. Mr Johns reminded the PC that Mr Wickham had been very supportive of the B3098 strategy and this should be seen as a part of that.
- d. Lower Road. WC had also submitted proposals for speed calming: white lines, rumble strips and white broken lines with a pedestrian walk way
- e. LHFIG. It was understood that Town Councils were suggesting that Villages should pay a higher percentage towards highways improvements. The PC did not agree
- f. Accidents at Crossroads Farm junction. The PC was asked to consider what measures might be available to alleviate the problem

7. Wiltshire Council (WC) Report. Mrs Wickham mention several matters:-

- a. That she had had a successful result over an issue of fly tipping – both reported and dealt with the same day
- b. The recent AB meeting looking at Highways issues had considered bids for the provision and signing of a walkway from Bratton via Lower Westbury Road at Home Farm Westbury to Westbury Station and from Bratton to Lavington
- c. The provision of a Westbury Bypass was going to be the subject of a report to be published sometime in the New Year. Mr Johns raised the question of the Freight Strategy which could presumably upgrade the A350 to a trunk road

8. Finances.

It was proposed by Mrs Pike seconded by Miss O'Donoghue and carried unanimously that the following invoices be paid or confirmed:-

- i. Refund the Clerk £40 for ICO renewal
- ii. J P Garden Services for Burial Ground Grass cutting 16th October £26.25
- iii. Andy Pople for PF Grass cutting £54
- iv. Peter Hailstone for Finger post repairs and replacements £282

9. Village Calendar. The Chairman reported on a suggestion that had been made to have a Calendar of events to try and avoid clashes of events in the village. This was agreed

10. Correspondence

a. WALC circular emailed

11. Date of next Meeting

This was fixed for Monday 8th January 2024 at 7.30pm and would be the Budget meeting