

The Minutes of a Meeting of the Edington Parish Council held at the Parish Hall, Edington on Monday 8th July 2024` at 7.30 p.m.

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

Apologies were received from Mrs Wickham

There were 3 members of the public in attendance

In the absence of the chairman the vice chairman Mrs Greening chaired the meeting

1. **The Minutes** of the meeting held on the 17th June 2024 were adopted as read and signed
2. There were no **Matters Arising**.
3. **Playfield – Land Swap.** The 3 members of the public were the owners of the 2 bungalows at the Village Green and were expressing concern that if the PF Swap went ahead it would potentially have an adverse impact on the quiet enjoyment and privacy of their rear gardens. They were asking the PC to consider their acquiring a strip of the land being acquired by the PC as a buffer. The PC was sympathetic and was happy for them to negotiate with Grassy Creek to acquire a strip 5-8m wide from the existing rear boundary. It was felt that this would obviate their suggested need to have a close boarded fence rather than a simple field boundary with hedge. The request was also made to acquire a strip to the north of number 4A Tinhead road. This was not agreed.
4. The Chairman Mr Pollard was not in attendance but had circulated the PC tendering his resignation. The PC was really sorry to have read his email and acknowledged with regret the decision that he had made. All the Councillors wished him well for the future and asked the Clerk to respond to him with the thanks of the PC. It was clear that he had worked tirelessly for the parish taking on various tasks which would now have to be shared by other Councillors. The PC would also need to consider the appointment of a new Chairman and Vice Chairman. Mr Pollard had indicated that he would be sending the Clerk a series of handover documents detailing the matters that he had been dealing with and so it was agreed that the PC would have an informal meeting on Monday 12th August at the Parish Hall at 7:30 pm to consider the Chairman/Vice Chairman and the sharing out of those matters that he had been dealing with.
5. **Planning**
 - a. Neighbourhood Plan. It was understood that WC officers had indicated that the NP could proceed on the basis of the one aspirational site that had been identified. Mr Burgess had also indicated to the Clerk that now would be the time to relinquish his involvement particularly because he was having computer difficulties with the system that had been installed on his computer. It was agreed that this would all be discussed at the informal meeting in August
 - b. The following applications had been received and there were no objections to any of them:-

- i. PL/2024/05531/FUL Addition of external wall insulation and solar photovoltaic panels at The Laurels 36 Westbury Road for Mr Daniel Lea
- ii. PL/2024/05955/FUL Erection of new front porch at 12 Berry Road for Mr and Mrs Salter
- iii. PL/2024/05995TCA - Proposed Works to Trees T1 – Lime tree – remove lower branches to crown lift to 4m all round. T2 – Weeping Lime tree – remove deadwood and crown lift to 4m. T3 – Lime tree – remove 4 overhanging branches at Edington Priory Church for Mrs Pinson

6. Policing.

- a. Speedwatch. The Speed gun was now back in Bratton and it would remain there until a replacement was found for Mr Pollard
- b. Neighbourhood Watch. Mrs Greening hoped to have an update for the September meeting.

7. Wiltshire Council (WC) Report. In the absence of Mrs Wickham there was no report

8. Grass cutting. The Village Green was not currently part of the contract with Ideal. It was agreed that Miss O'Donoghue would discuss future grass cutting there with Mrs Greening

9. Highway Matters/Footpaths/LHFIG.

- a. Trees opposite 12 Westbury Road. Mr Swabey had had a look at them and raised several concerns about the proposals that had been made by the owners of the house being built above them. He considered that there were 2 points of concern namely:
 - i. Any removal of branches at the top of the tree, crown reduction, would only lead to excessive and denser new growth; and so rather than alleviating the problem it could make things worse.
 - ii. To remove the trees completely risked undermining the stability of the bank and especially in the light of the heavy rains that were now being experienced

The PCs view was to say that the trees were now well established forming a natural, enhanced and attractive entrance to the village; and took the view that the house had been built adjacent to them knowing they were there and the PC was therefore reluctant to see them being pruned back.

- b. Monastery Rd trees. He had also reviewed these. The one on the Monastery Road corner was the consequence of cutting back a balsam tree and it was agreed that this should be put on the Wiltshire app. The other trees had been planted by the owners of the Priory but there was one small leaved lime tree which had been planted by the PC
- c. Speed on western end of B3098. New signs and other works had been completed it would be necessary to review vehicle speeds compared with previously

10. Finances.

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

- i. J P Garden Services Burial Ground Grass cutting 17th and 25th June
£60
- ii. Ideal for Grounds Maintenance for June £318.66

11. Correspondence:-

- a. WALC Newsletter – June 2024
- b. Clerks & Councils Direct – July 2024

12. Date of next Meeting. This was fixed for Monday 9th September 2024 at the Parish Hall