

The Minutes of a Meeting of the Edington Parish Council held at the Parish Hall on Monday 9th September 2024 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Mesdames Watts, Greening, O'Donoghue, Pike and Dorgan and Messrs King, Hardman and Forward and Mrs Wickham (WC); and 20 members of the public

Apologies had been received from Messrs Swabey and Johns

1. **The Minutes** of the Meeting held on the 8th July 2024 were adopted as read and signed
2. There were no **Matters Arising**.
3. **WC Gypsies and Travellers Development Plan.** WC was under a statutory obligation to make provision to meet the accommodation needs of travellers including gypsies and had prepared a plan addressing those needs to 2038 updating core policy 47. It was now in the process of Public consultation. There were two sites at Housecroft farm, one for one pitch and the other for two pitches. The members of the public had attended in order to find out more about the plan expressing in that concern the shortness of time to respond and the various issues to be considered. The Clerk read out an email that had been received from Mrs Sarah Blazier which offered good examples of those issues. Mrs Wickham explained that Submissions should address specific points that were set out In the Representation form which could be downloaded from the WC website. After a general discussion. including the possibility of a group response, it was agreed that those wishing to make submissions would not only submit them to WC but send a copy to the PC to enable it to formulate its own response.
4. **Playfield.**
 - a. Mrs Greening had been able to track down replacement handles for the seesaw and it was agreed would forward the information to Mr Hollburn-Thorburn for him to get them and install them
 - b. Mr and Mrs Albano were in attendance and explained their current position regarding the acquisition of a strip of land as a buffer for their rear gardens. This appeared to have been agreed with Grassy Creek but they were concerned that the PC view had been that it did not agree to a strip to the North of their existing boundary. Messrs King and Hardman had been trying to meet with Grassy Creek to clarify the position and would report back when they had done so
 - c. It was agreed that Mrs Dorgan would investigate the possibility of similar arrangements for a Christmas tree, band and refreshments as for 2023
5. **Resignation of Chairman**
 - a. To appoint a new Chairman. Mrs Greening was proposed by Mrs Dorgan seconded by Mr King and, in the absence of any other nominations, duly elected.
 - b. To appoint a new Vice Chairman. It was proposed by Mrs Watts seconded by Mrs Dorgan that Mr Forward be appointed and, in the absence of any other nominations, was duly elected.
 - c. Further appointments. Following his resignation Mr Pollard had forwarded notes of the work that he had been undertaking. These had been considered by the PC at an informal meeting and the following appointments had been suggested and were agreed:-

- i. Defibrillators – Miss O’Donoghue
- ii. Newsletter – Mrs Dorgan
- iii. LHFIG - Mr Johns as and when; Mr Forward from November
- iv. Community SpeedWatch – To be reviewed at a later date
- v. Village volunteers – Mr Richardson in liaison with Mrs Dorgan
- vi. SID – Mr Forward
- vii. Neighbourhood Plan – Mrs Pike with Mr Forward
- viii. Play Field Project – Mr King and Mr Hardman
- ix. Area Board – Miss O’Donoghue
- x. Website – Mr Forward

6. Planning

- a. Neighbourhood Plan (NP). There was no further news to report but NALC was holding an online seminar on the 25th September on the “Future of Neighbourhood Plans”. It was agreed that Mrs Pike would attend that seminar and, unanimously, that the fee of £39.22 be paid.
- b. The following application had been received:-
 - i. PL/2024/07357/TCA - Juniper, Lower Road - T1 Small sycamore crown reduce below cables. T2 Elder shrub crown reduce T3 Red Maple through prune. The Lodge, Lower Road - Beech side prune and through prune. Edington Cottage, Lower Road, - T1 Walnut through prune . T2 Ginko through prune all for Mr Gary Sims (SSE) – there was no objection
- c. The following decisions had been received:-
 - i. 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 – no objection
 - ii. PL/2024/05955 - Erection of new front porch at 12 Berry Road for Mr & Mrs Salter – approved

7. Policing.

- a. SpeedWatch. There had been no response yet to the invitation in the News for someone to take on the role of co-ordinator
- b. Neighbourhood Watch. There was to be an AGM of the Wiltshire Neighbourhood Watch Association on Saturday 5th October between 9:30 am and 12 noon at Police HQ, Devizes
- c. The local Police Sergeant had contacted the Chairman for details of future meetings of the PC
- d. Notice had been received of a Neighbourhood County Parish Forum at Police HQ, Devizes at 1800 on Wednesday 20th November. No agenda had been sent but it was understood that there was usually a presentation by each Neighbourhood Policing Inspector on issues in their area and a Q&A session

8. Grass Cutting.

- a. The Chairman and Miss O’Donoghue had arranged with Ideal Grounds Maintenance for the grass cutting of the village green, the lower village green and the triangle opposite Beech house
- b. It was also agreed that Mr King would investigate ways to ensure that the posts around the lower village green were more secure

9. Highway Matters/Footpaths/LHFIG.

- a. Speed calming Sandy Lane to Longlands Close. The 30mph roundels had been painted.
- b. Footpath opposite the Three Daggars. It had become heavily overgrown and it was agreed to refer it to Peter Gale.

10. Wiltshire Council (WC) Report. Mrs Wickham reported that:-

- a. The next AB meeting was on the 2nd October and she said that the Chief Constable would be attending the AB meeting on the 4th December and she encouraged councillors to attend that.
- b. She had also been involved in identifying the ownership of a piece of land at the bottom of The Weir just beyond the bungalows as it was in need of maintenance. She had discovered that it was owned by WC. It was suggested that it could perhaps be a wildflower area
- c. Gypsies and Travellers Development Plan consultation. The PC reflected on the discussion that had taken place earlier and it was agreed that, anticipating receiving comments from parishioners, the Clerk would complete the Representation Form taking those comments into account including those already received from Mrs Blazier

11. Finances.

It was proposed by Mrs Watts seconded by Mrs Pike and carried unanimously that the following invoices be paid or confirmed

- i. Parish Hall Room hire April-2 June £80
- ii. Ideal Grounds Maintenance July £342.66
- iii. JP Garden Services BG grass cutting July £60
- iv. S R Hollburn-Thorburn PF inspections January to June £180
- v. Ideal Grounds Maintenance August £318 66
- vi. JP Garden Services BG grass cutting August £60
- vii. Refund Mr Pollard for website host July and August £30
- viii. Refund Mr Richardson £46.35 cost of sealant and bench slats for village bench maintenance and repairs

12. Car Park. Car Park Permissive Footpath. Mr Cochrane had written concerned that there was a risk of visual intrusion by inquisitive people using the path and passing his house. He was asking the PC to consider covering the cost of the provision and installation of net curtains to several windows. Several councillors had walked the path and checked the position and did not consider that there was any risk of such intrusion be it accidental or intentional, that the path was set well back from his boundary and that it was a permissive path the misuse of which would risk that permission being revoked. It was therefore agreed that the PC would not contribute towards the cost of the curtains but that it would keep the situation under review.

13. Trees. The PC reviewed the exchange of correspondence with Mr and Mrs Parmley and was unanimous in its view that the trees should remain as they were. They were clearly well-established trees when the planning application for the new house had been made and they should have taken that into account when deciding to build the new house so close to them.

14. Website. Mr Forward was getting to grips with this and in so doing had noted that the website was the subject of regular and sustained attacks. He advised that protection from attacks could be added to the website at the cost of around £90 per annum. It was agreed unanimously that he explore that further and implement it

15. Correspondence

- a. Clerks & Councils Direct – September 2024
- b. WALC Circular – August 2024
- c. Community First AGM 9th Oct from 6-7.30pm at Devizes Town Hall
- d. CPRE Countryside Voices – Spring/Summer 2024

16. News items

Consideration was given to items to be included.

17. Date of next Meeting

This was fixed for Monday 14th October 2024 at the Parish Hall at 7.30pm