

The Minutes of a Meeting of the Edington Parish Council held at the Parish Hall, Edington on Monday 12th January 2026 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Mesdames Greening, Watts, Pike, O'Donoghue, Henning and Dorgan and Messrs King, Forward, Johns and Hardman and Mr Phillips (WC); and one member of the public

1. **The Minutes** of the Meeting held on the 8th December 2025 were adopted as read and signed.
2. There were no **Matters Arising**.
3. **Precept and Finances**
 - a. The PC needed to consider the Precept requirement for 2026/2027. This would be the PC levy under the Council Tax. The Chairman, Vice 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 £44200 but there were other expenses yet to be invoiced to the PC for the current year which were noted in the discussion of the Statement of Finances in (f) below.
 - b. Interest rates had remained at a higher but reducing level during the year and to date £271.38 had been received compared with £547.80 for the whole of the previous year.
 - c. The PC considered Grants and Donations for the current year, and it was agreed that the following be made:-
 - i. £50 to the Independent Living Centre (Carer Support)
 - 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 Edington Brass
 - viii. £50 to Wiltshire Search and Rescue
 - ix. £50 to Wiltshire Air Ambulance
 - d. The PC agreed as Establishment expenses the following grants be made:-
 - i. £100 to Parish News
 - ii. £30 to Three Villages Minibus
 - e. The following invoices had been received:-
 - i. Mr Forward Website Host charges Nov and Dec £32.40
 - ii. Ideal Grounds Maintenance Inv 23 £352.82
 - iii. WC - PC contribution to cost of Lower Road and Tinhead Road SID infrastructure £175
 - iv. Refund Clerk SLCC annual subscription £158
 - v. MossyMeadow Limited Inv 1385 for BG grass cutting £40
 - vi. West Country Tree Services Limited for trees survey £480
 - vii. DTGS Ltd Inv-25715 for Quarterly Report on playfield Equipment £162
 - viii. Parish Hall Room Hire 13th Oct, 10th Nov, 8th Dec £60
 - ix. FirstAid Warehouse for Defibrillator Pads £115.19

- f. The Statement of Finances and Budget as proposed was then considered.
- i. It was noted that, of the balance in hand, £12944 was CIL money and £5000 the Margaret Barker legacy plus other smaller donations received and which remained unspent largely due to the delays in connection with the PF project. The PC was however 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 the completion of the Permissive path from the Car Park 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 with cost of living and inflationary pressures particularly; and there were continuing concerns about traffic calming measures which would be subject to a significant contribution by the PC. In addition, there would be the need to monitor and upgrade, as necessary, PF equipment especially following the anticipated completion of the land swap.
The PC then considered the draft Budget in detail and decided, in the event, not to increase the precept but maintain it at £21000 noting that there were the current reserves. This would give for a Band D property a Council Tax of £61.897pa (£1.19pw) compared with £62.15pa (£1.20) for 2025/2026).
 - 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 it was proposed by Mr King seconded by Mrs Dorgan and carried unanimously that the Precept be made in the sum of £21000 and that the Grants and Donations listed above, and the invoices referred to in paragraph (e) above be paid.

4. Planning

- a. Neighbourhood Plan. It was hoped that a report would be available for the February meeting.
- b. The following applications had been received:-
 - i. PL/2025/07147/FUL C/U of land to form overflow car park and recreational field with associated works. C/U of public house Car Park to pub garden. C/U of Farm Shop Brewery to café and erection of extension. C/U of part of Spa Barn (sui generis) to include learning and non-residential institute (Use class F1) at The Three Daggars and Hillside Cottage Westbury Road for The Three Daggars Ltd. This was the application that the PC had considered at its December meeting. In commenting on this application, the PC acknowledged that, as to the part of the application that related to the Three Daggars, it had an interest in it and was consulted by the Three Daggars prior to the application being lodged. The application was lodged on behalf of both the Three Daggars and the PC. The PC took the view that the proposals would benefit the PC and the Village. In simple terms it enhanced the facilities that would be available for the PC's Playfield, but it

would also alleviate, if not eliminate, the regular problem of the limited parking currently available for patrons of the Three Daggers and the Farm Shop to the point that their vehicles were often parked on the main road. The PC also looked at some of the observations expressed by Mrs Henning specifically relating to the planning application, namely:- clarification as to availability of parking for villagers – there were logistical difficulties that had been considered at length in the negotiations, and no fixed arrangement had been agreed; the Historic assessment suggesting that the proposed car park land as being hardly ever used for agriculture being incorrect.

Other items that she raised in connection with nature of the MUGA surface, and condition and moving of PF equipment would be discussed with the Three Daggers and progressed in the event of Planning Permission being granted.

In its consultation on the proposed application the PC did raise a query as to whether the current access from the B3098 into the Three Daggers complex could be widened to ensure ease of access and exit.

The PC was not consulted in relation to that part of the application that related to Hillside Cottage but had no objection to it. Mrs Henning had sought clarification about the siting of the summerhouse and sauna.

- ii. PL/2026/00004/TCA T2 Nothofagus (Beech) Tree - Fell – the tree had grown too large for the area and was crowding out surrounding trees at the Old Vicarage, Westbury Road for Mr John D'Arcy.
- c. The following decisions had been received:-
- i. PL/2025/08273/FUL Brick built flat roof extension to replace Conservatory at 1 Parsonage Lane for Mrs H Connell – approved.
 - ii. PL2025/09272/TCA Handkerchief tree – raise Crown by 4m. Cypress Tree – remove because fallen apart. Small self-seed Horse Chestnut tree – remove at The Grange 4 Inmead for Mrs Rhona Atterton – approved.

5. Policing

- a. SID. The latest data had been circulated confirming that excessive speed was still a regular issue on both the B3098 and Lower Road despite the traffic calming measures that had been put in place. Several councillors expressed the view that the PC's contribution of £3000 had been a waste of money.
- b. The PCSO was hoping to attend the next drop-in.
- c. Speedwatch. It was understood that Mr Burgess had done the training as a coordinator and was seeking volunteers.

6. Wiltshire Council (WC) Report

Mr Phillips reported on the saga relating St Stephen's car park in Trowbridge.

7. Highway matters/Footpaths/LFHIG

- a. Parish Hall footpath and Crossroads farm junction. There had been no response yet.
- b. Mr Forward had sought clarification of the status of the B3098. He understood it was classified as a Class 3B secondary distributor road. Mr Phillips suggested that under the Local Transport Plan there were provisions to escalate problems if necessary. Sufficient concern was expressed suggesting that, if necessary, the

PC should consider whether to contact our MP or possibly join with other parish councils and seek professional advice.

- c. A suggestion was made that perhaps a kissing gate could be put in at the stile above Ralph's seat.
 - d. Village Litter Pick. This was fixed for 7th March.
- 8. Website.** Mr Forward was anticipating that this would be functioning at the end of March.
- 9. Car Park.**
- a. The car park boundary log edging. It was agreed that the PC should look at possibly removing the northern ones.
- 10. Trees survey.** This had been received and would be considered in detail at a further meeting, but it was suggested that Mrs Greening contact the Wiltshire Council officer responsible for the trees in Parsonage Lane.
- 11. Defibrillators.** An email had been received advising that the systems be checked in the event of extremely cold weather.
- 12. Burial ground/ Coal path field.**
- a. A request had been received for a memorial for Keith and Christopher Smith, and this was agreed.
 - b. Mrs Dorgan reported that a Wassail would be held in the Field on 17th January and was asking if the PC would cover expenses as it had in previous years, and this was agreed.
 - c. Coal path gate. This was in need of attention and Mr King said that he would have a look at it. It was also suggested that Mr Hailstone be asked to look at the gate at the top of the ramp.
- 13. Correspondence**
- a. Clerks and councils direct – January 2026.
 - b. WALC Circular.
 - c. An email had been received from a parishioner on the 10th of January making an FOI request relating to the proposed land swap. The PC was unanimous that it should be referred to its solicitors for advice. The deadline for responding was 6th February 2026.
- 14. News items**
Consideration was given to items to be included.
- 15. Date of next Meeting**
This was fixed for Monday 9th February 2026.