

The Minutes of a Meeting of the Edington Parish Council held at The Parish Hall, Edington on Monday 9th February 2026 at 7.30 p.m.

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

1. **The Minutes** of the Meeting held on the 13th January 2026 were adopted as read and signed.
2. **Matters Arising.** Mr Johns had made some enquiries in connection with the suggested kissing gate above Ralph's seat and felt that progress was being made to that end.
3. **Planning**
 - a. Neighbourhood Plan (NP). Mrs Pike reported that work was in hand to prepare a revised NP and she anticipated being able to raise it at the APM in April.
 - b. The following application had been received:-
 - i. PL/2026/00392/TCA – 2 Maple trees - crown reduce 2m; 1 Silver Birch - crown reduce 2m; 1 Cherry Plum - crown reduce 2m at The Vines 4A Inmead for Mrs Elizabeth Windo – there was no objection.
 - c. The following decisions had been received:-
 - i. PL/2025/09495/TCA – Self-seeded small Horse Chestnut tree – remove at 6 Inmead for Mrs Lucy Arnold – no objection.
4. **Policing**
 - a. It was understood that the PCSO would be attending one of the April drop ins
 - b. Speedwatch. There was no further update since the January meeting.
5. **Freedom of Information Act (FOI) Request.** The clerk reported that the same resident had issued a second such request on the 31st January. This had been referred to the solicitors appointed by the PC. He also reported that the solicitors had responded to the first request on 6th February and that this had led to the resident requesting that the PC make an Internal Review. This too had been referred to the solicitors. The PC was united in its concern that, although the resident had every right to make an FOI request, the complex and detailed nature of the request meant, as laypeople, the PC had no option but to seek professional advice from their solicitors as to the nature and requirements for a response. This advice of course came at a cost which today amounted to the region of £?? with more costs to come. There were concerns as to the impact such costs would have on PC funds and potential impact on other PC spending given that this activity had not been budgeted for. The PC reiterated that, other than occasional confidential PC meetings required due to commercial reasons etc, PC meetings were open to the public and so given that the FOI requester knew that the PC had been in discussions on this matter since the public meeting on the 13th September 2021 - at which he had attended - then he could have raised his concerns at any of the subsequent PC meetings.

6. Playfield (PF)

- a. Land Swap update. The Planning decision was awaited. Some 21 parishioners had so far responded 20 of whom were supportive .
- b. PF equipment. Mrs Henning reported that following Playdale's investigation of the playfield equipment they had sent a quote for the necessary repairs in the sum of £1835.66. The PC was unanimous in accepting this quote and would have the work done in accordance with Playdale's time scale fitting with the availability of the PF. She would notify Playdale accordingly.
- c. It was also agreed that PF safety checks would be deferred once the PF had been closed until it was reopened.
- d. Mr King reported that the Three Daggars wished to have access to the PF in order to carry out necessary percolation tests. There was no objection to that.

7. Highway matters/footpath/LHFIG

- a. Traffic calming along B3098. The latest SID Data confirmed that vehicles were speeding notwithstanding the "improvements" carried out in 2024. Mr Forward was arranging a meeting with the AHE.
- b. Parish Hall Footpath. The cost of overlaying a high friction surface onto the existing slabbing was £1700 and the PC contribution would be £510. This was agreed.
- c. Steeple Ashton Road flower box. Mrs Hiscock had written on behalf of the Edington and District Gardening Club which had for many years installed and maintained the village's three roadside flower boxes. This one was now in urgent need of replacement and Hiscock engineers had quoted £450 plus VAT and similar to the one they had made early 2025 replacing the Trowbridge Road tub. The PC was happy to make a contribution.
- d. Mr King had been in discussion with Mr and Mrs Atterton to have a permanent fence along the permitted path from the kissing gate just beyond 41 Westbury Road to the gate at the eastern end; and another permanent fence from that gate alongside the public footpath to The Weir in order to ensure protection of pedestrians from any cattle that may be in the field. He was suggesting that mobility friendly kissing gates be installed. The PC welcomed this initiative.

8. Wiltshire Council (WC) Report

- a. The next Area Board meeting would be on the 11th March. It was understood from Mr Phillips that there were ideas to try and involve more members of the public to attend future AB Meetings.
- b. Mr Phillips reported that a resident had complained to him about parking on the double yellow lines at the bus shelter. He confirmed that he had notified the police.
- c. Mrs Wickham had spotted a public notice in the White Horse News of an application for a Goods Vehicle Operation Licence at Ivy Mill Farm. It was noted that some businesses there already had such Licences, and although Steeple Ashton Road was narrow at that point and there were visibility questions, traffic from such vehicles was reasonably light, and had caused no Highway issues. It was noted as an aside that there were many potholes in the Steeple Ashton Road.

- d. Mr Phillips also noted that at the WC budget meeting there had been U turns on the question of withdrawing funding for the Link and on the closing of some recycling centres.
- e. He also spoke about the proposal to have a booking scheme for recycling centres. The PC was concerned that this contained an inherent risk that people wanting to dispose of rubbish when they needed to, and perhaps being unable to book, would run the risk of an increase in fly tipping.
- f. Westbury incinerator. The PC's concern was the real risk of increased traffic of heavy vehicles using the B3098.
- g. Parish steward. Availability was likely to be reduced in the number of hours attending the parish.

9. Finances.

- a. It was proposed by Mr Forward seconded by Mrs Dorgan and carried unanimously that the following invoices be paid or payment confirmed:-
 - i. Mr Hailstone for repairs to Parish Hall Notice Board £15
 - ii. Ideal Grounds Maintenance - Invoice 24 £353.32
- b. In addition, the invoice had been received from Mr Sandoe for his PF swap report in the sum of £513.60. Mr King would pass this to the Three Daggers for payment

10. Correspondence

- a. WALC January Newsletter.

11. News items

Consideration was given to items to be included.

12. Annual Parish Meeting. It was agreed to have this immediately before the April PC Meeting on the 20th April 2026 at 6.45 for 7.15pm.

13. Date of next Meeting

This was fixed for Monday 9th March 2026 at the Parish Hall.