

Edlesborough Parish Council
Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting

17 June 2004

Meeting of the Ordinary Meeting of the Edlesborough Parish Council held on Thursday 17 June 2004 at 8.00pm at the Edlesborough Memorial Hall.

Present

Mrs Thompson, Mr Wilkinson, Mrs Ratheram, Mr Spencer, Mrs Prys-Jones, Mr Brown, Maggie Kerr (Clerk) and four Parishioners.

Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Mr Munday and Mr Cabbage

Declarations of Interest

Noted. None stated at this point in the meeting.

Minutes of Previous Ordinary Meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 20 May 2004 were agreed and signed with the following amendments:-

1. Present (page 1) add 'Mr Munday'.
2. Apologies (page 1) delete 'Mr Munday'.
3. General Purposes Committee (page 3) delete "summary to be provided by JW". Add

'Mr Wilkinson referred the Parish Council to a copy of the draft minutes from the meeting on 7 April 2004.

Mr Wilkinson asked the Parish Council if they could agree to accept the quote from Reyven for the following items:

The Green: Re seed the practice goal areas £75

The Green: Re- seed the goal mouths £75 x 2 = £150

The Green: Selective weed killing £75

The Green; Re –turf at front and side of the Pavilion £255

Dagnall Recreation Field: Goal mouth £115

It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would accept the quote.

The Chairman then raised the issue that the Clerk had requested that the General Purposes Committee revert to the items that were previously within its ambit, these being:-

Edlesborough Memorial Hall

Edlesborough Green (including the play equipment, car parks etc)

Edlesborough Green Pavilion

Edlesborough, Dagnall & Northall Allotments

Edlesborough Cemetery

Edlesborough, Dagnall & Northall Street Lighting

Grass & hedge cutting for which the Parish Council is responsible

Any other facilities or services as delegated by the Parish Council

Highways/by-ways/footpaths/ (including Parish Paths Partnership).

AVDC and BCC responsibilities

It was unanimously agreed that the role of the General Purposes Committee should revert to the role that established it on the 16 October and the 20 November 2003.'

4. Parish Council Obligations (page 5) "The advantages were as follows:- " (Point 2) amend to "It would bring Edlesborough into an advantageous planning position in that in the past Aylesbury Vale District Council had not looked at placing more houses in a village if the population was under 2,000.

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Minutes of the Annual Meeting 20 May 2004

The minutes of the Annual Meeting on 20 May 2004 were agreed and signed with the following amendments:-

1. Heading on page 1 and page 2, delete "Ordinary" add "Annual".
2. Present (Page 1) add Mr Munday.
3. Apologies (Page 1) delete Mr Munday.
 4. To Appoint Committees and Sub Committees and Officers: General Purposes Committee, add in the second sentence after "it was agreed by all that", "Mr Brown".
 5. The Parish Clerk Limit (page 2) delete after "The Parish Clerk Limit to be £750" – "if previously recorded in the budget".
 6. Add after "The Parish Clerk Limit to be £750". "The General Purposes Committee limit to remain at £1,000".
 7. To inspect any deeds and the Assets Register in the custody of the Council (page 2) delete the word "had".
 8. Under Annual Review of the Memorial Hall Car Park Licence – take out Mr Wright, add in Edlesborough Autos. After "could use" delete "the Pebblemoor side of the car park" and add in "either side of the car park to a maximum of ten vehicles".

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

The Parish Meeting minutes dated 20 May 2004 were placed before the Parish Council. These could not be signed as this must be done at the Parish Meeting in 2005. However as the Clerk is leaving it was agreed that the Council would check that they were happy with the contents of the minutes. The Chairman signed a copy to say it was a true record. The Clerk emphasised that the actual minutes would be signed at the meeting in 2005.

Matters arising from the previous minutes

None.

Report on applications for new Parish Clerk and vacancy at Northall for a Councillor

The Chairman reported that a lot of very good candidates had applied for the job of Parish Clerk and the working party were in the process of interviewing and deciding which applicant would be successful. The Chairman stated that they hoped to make a decision by the following week.

The Clerk reported that notices would be going up on the notice boards around the villages advertising the fact that there was a vacancy for a Councillor to represent Northall. The Clerk said that if 12 electors wrote to AVDC requesting an election, an election would have to be held. If this did not happen then even if there were two people wishing to be a Councillor for Northall, then it would be for the Parish Council to decide which person to co-opt. The Clerk was awaiting the paperwork from AVDC and would report at the next meeting.

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Finance Issues

Monthly Statement for April and May Report and update

The Clerk had provided the Councillors with a copy of the financial statements for April and May. Mr Wilkinson asked that in future it could be on landscape rather than on portrait.

The Parish Council unanimously decided to add into the budget a Parish Councillors' Fund of £500 (five hundred pounds). This fund would be available for the Parish Council to use on items that cannot be allotted under any other category provided by the financial regulations, for example, if the Council wished to purchase a gift to thank a voluntary member of the parish who had given service to the Parish Council. The full Parish Council would decide when it was appropriate to use this fund and it would be minuted.

Authorisation of cheques

The Chairman referred the Councillors to the Clerk's list of cheques to be authorised. The Councillors unanimously authorised the cheques, details of which are set out below:-

No.	Name on Cheque	£
104563	Land Registry	4.00
104568	Reyven (Sportsfields) Ltd	1,327.76
104564	Mary Sheridan	21.35
104565	Dagnall Village Hall	1,350.00
104566	Signs of The Times Limited	243.23
104567	Playground Management Limited (RoSPA)	153.34
104569	Lloyd Barnard	1,699.79
104570	Mary Sheridan	47.25
104571	J W Parker Salary	53.22
104572	S Parker Salary	244.07
104573	M E Kerr - Clerk Salary	215.15
104574	M E Kerr - Expenses	52.20
104575	S Parker - Cost incurred on behalf of EPC	6.50
104576	Powergen Electricity Income Account	230.37
104577	Staples 697 8707 56	257.26
104578	M E Kerr - Cost incurred on behalf of EPC	365.60
104579	Cornhill Insurance	1,219.32
104580	Inland Revenue	32.11
104581	P J Thompson Ltd	52.88
Total		7,575.40

Signing of accounts and annual audit

The Parish Council unanimously agreed to sign the accounts and the annual return for the year ended 31 March 2004. It was agreed that the Clerk and Mr Cabbage would prepare a report clarifying exactly what the historical discrepancy of £1,143.00 from previous years was. The Clerk would in the meantime file the paperwork with the external auditors and inform them that the Parish Council was looking into the historical discrepancy.

Mr Wilkinson asked if the Parish Councillors could have details as to why the staff costs at year ending 31 March 2003 were £10,993.00 and the year ending 31 March 2004 had risen to £14,375.00. The Clerk explained that some of this may have been down to different accounting procedures but she would do a note to clarify the position. Mr Wilkinson was concerned that this may be an issue that parishioners would raise.

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Planning

Applications received

The following planning applications have been received:

Application No:	Address	Proposal	Parish Councils response
04/00919/APP	20, Studham Lane Dagnall	Erection of shed (retrospective)	No comment
04/01111/APP	Southend Farmhouse, South End Lane Northall	Detached garage/store	No comment
04/01305/AOP	Greenacres Studham Lane Dagnall	Site for one dwelling and re-positioning of dwelling approved by 02/00619/APP	The Parish Council voted to oppose the application. The Application does not comply with AVDC policies where the site is within the Metropolitan Green Belt where the site is within the existing built up area of settlement and where it constitutes residential infilling of small gaps in developed frontages. Could be a traffic hazard
04/01372/APP	Keepers Cottage, Hillwood, Studham Lane Dagnall	Single Storey rear extension	No comment

Planning applications granted or refused

The following planning applications had been refused or granted by AVDC:

Application No:	Address	Proposal	Parish Councils response	Decision AVDC
04/00515/APP	2, Knolls View, Leighton Road, Northall	Change of use from landscaped area to hard standing for car parking	no comment	permission refused
04/00590/APP	4, Pine Road, Edlesborough	Two storey rear extension (incorporating loft conversion) with roof heightening, dormer windows and balcony. New porch to front	Support the Application subject to complaints from neighbours being received by AVDC	permitted
04/00593/APP	20, Dunstable Road, Dagnall	Two storey side extension including front porch	no comment	permitted
04/00646/APP	Orchard Cottage, Chapel Lane, Northall see: 03/02666/APP	Two storey and single storey front extension	object to the two storey extension it is outside the village boundary where further residential development is not supported requests to develop the garden in the nearby property " Home Farm Cottage" have in the past consistently been refused the position is not appropriate to the setting.	permitted
04/00686/APP	Stonycroft Studham Lane, Dagnall HP4 1RH see:03/00482/ACL	change of use from agricultural land to domestic garden	No objection provided the change of use from agricultural land to domestic garden does not lead to a situation where planning application is made for a new house.	permitted

Application No:	Address	Proposal	Parish Councils response	Decision AVDC
04/00695/APP	Rest Harrow South End Lane, Northall see:03/02745/APP 03.11.03	Erection of two storey coach house comprising garaging for three cars at ground level, living accommodation above and creation of new access	Objection. It is a rural location surrounded on three sides by rural land. The two storey coach house is a significant distance from the house and therefore impractical as a garage. It is the Parish Councils understanding that a granny annexe has to be part of the existing building which is not the case here.	permission refused
04/00720/APP	The Vines, Eaton Bray Road Northall	single storey rear extension	no comment	permitted
04/00894/APP	Beacon View South End Lane, Northall	Erection of 4 detached dwellings	Object on the grounds that the original planning Application was for 5 houses and this was accepted but to now not build the fifth house in one acre but build four houses in that acre was not acceptable and was contrary to the Local Plan.	Permission refused
04/01037/APP	Edlesborough Post Office, Summerleys Edlesborough	Single Storey rear extension	Support the Application	permitted
04/00919/APP	20, Studham Lane Dagnall	Erection of shed (retrospective)	No comment	permitted
04/01111/APP	Southend Farmhouse, South End Lane Northall	Detached garage/store	No comment	permission refused

Planning issues, including payment under Section 106 Agreement

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that the Beacon View development was near completion and the Clerk had contacted First Move Developments Ltd to remind them that the Parish Council were due a payment of £8,275.00 under the Section 106 Agreement. The Clerk understood that the first buyer would occupy in July. The money had to be used for Northall Village Hall towards replacing the windows. The Clerk said she was monitoring the matter.

Clerk's Report and correspondence received

Dunstable Rd./Dagnall RF/Path	Paper work is with AVDC for sealing.
Dagnall Footpath linking Dagnall and Edlesborough	Acknowledgement received
Northall	Roving Refuge: Northall Village Hall Car Park Monday 13 July 7.30 am to 11.00 am
Leighton Road Bollards and ditch	Mr DANIELS lives opposite the telephone box on the Leighton Road would like some bollards to stop lorries/cars parking on his side. This is because the water pipes are being disturbed and the Water Authority has advised that to stop this happening and collapsing bollards would be suitable. I will check whose responsibility it is and if it is ours or we can have a say it maybe they are not allowed anyway, we will need to discuss. I have been told it is not BCC responsibility it is the owners. I have asked for a written reply Awaiting response still
Northall Land /Allotment	On hold due to work load
Rest Harrow	Environmental Health is in discussion with owners.
Focus Article	The July issue is an abbreviated Chairman's Report from the Parish Meeting in May.
Remembrance Service	Contacted AVDC re road closure. Awaiting reply

Report from the General Purposes Committee (GPC)

Mr Brown, the Chairman, provided a report from the General Purposes Committee. The General Purposes Committee draft minutes had not been provided to the Councillors due to pressure of work. Mr Brown made the following points:

1. Mrs Prys-Jones was elected Vice Chairman.
2. The General Purposes Committee re-confirmed the parameters as set by the Parish Council at the meeting on 20 May 2004.
3. Mr Brown was contacting a contractor/consultant to recommend action to repair the Memorial Hall floor and the woodwork outside. After discussions with the contractor/consultant the General Purposes Committee would probably refer the matter to the Parish Council to discuss costs involved if appropriate.
4. The committee had discussed the payment of rates. AVDC had requested the Parish Council to pay business rates in the region of £1,600.00. The General Purposes Committee felt this should be challenged and if not successful they would need to refer the matter to the full Parish Council to obtain authorisation to pay the invoice. At this point Mr Wilkinson stated that he had spoken to a Parish Clerk in Buckinghamshire whose village hall was run on exactly the same basis as Edlesborough Village Hall i.e. the Parish Council ran the village Hall and received the income and they were receiving the rebate. Mr Wilkinson wanted the MP Mr Bercow to be contacted at an early stage in the negotiations with AVDC. The matter was put to a vote and it was agreed by all to ask the Mr Bercow to help the Parish Council in asking for full business rate relief for the Village Hall.
5. Mr Brown stated that the set up for the minutes had been altered and he was noting against any items whether approval of the Parish Council was required.

The Chairman thanked Mr Brown for his report.

SID

It was noted that SID (Signal Indicating Device) would be in the parish in July on the following dates:-

- Dagnall – from Wednesday 7 July 2004
- Edlesborough – from Wednesday 14 July 2004
- Northall – from Wednesday 21 July 2004

The Chairman, Mrs Thompson, stated that she was liaising with a parishioner, Mrs Gill Woodhouse, who was organising volunteers for Edlesborough. Mr Spencer was in charge of Dagnall and Mr Cabbage was in charge of Northall.

Traffic calming report

Dagnall traffic calming

School flashing lights

The Parish Council was awaiting details from Safer Routes to School who are in turn awaiting the information from BCC as to the costings for the proposed school flashing lights.

Ann Thompson stated that the Parish Council would be responsible for the cost of the electricity for the street lights. The cost of maintenance would be included in the total costings or be the responsibility of the Parish Council.

Edlesborough traffic calming: shops in the High Street, Summerleys, Memorial Hall

The Clerk stated she had been told she would receive a report by the end of May/June and this was still awaited. She had chased this report but had been told it was still not available.

Northall traffic calming – Bus Stop Knolls View

The Parish Clerk stated that she had now received a positive response from BCC and the Senior Passenger Transport Officer. They had suggested a meeting with Northall Councillors on 9 July 2004. The Clerk is liaising with Kevin Cabbage.

The Villages – issues other than traffic calming and matters delegated to the General Purposes Committee

Mr Brown clarified that if there were any matters connected with the villages that were delegated to the General Purposes Committee then the Clerk should have notice of these at least ten days before to be placed on the agenda.

Dagnall

Survey at Fete Report and actions following

The Chairman explained that the Clerk had organised a questionnaire for villagers to complete with their names and comments as to what they wanted in their village. Each comment received a number and there was a draw at the end of the day with a box of biscuits and a clock radio being the incentive to complete the questionnaire. The Chairman made it clear that these prizes were free gifts that the Clerk had obtained with a stationery order. The Chairman thanked Geoff Spencer, David Brown, John Atherton and the Clerk for attending. John Bercow, the MP, had been present and had thought that the Parish Council going out to the public was a marvellous idea. The issues that were raised by parishioners were mainly transport for children, teenagers and elderly.

There had been some negative comments regarding the traffic calming but a lot of positive comments.

Edlesborough

Carnival

The Clerk confirmed that she had received insurance details and the Road Closure Order and had visited the Green with the Chairman of the Carnival, Peter Bennett, and he had no concerns regarding the entrances etc to the Carnival. It was stated that the Clerk would be away on that day.

Parish Council Stall

It was agreed that the Parish Council would still have a stall at the Carnival and the Councillors were to discuss after the meeting how they would run this. Those who offered to attend were Ann Thompson, Julie Ratheram, David Brown and John Wilkinson. Mrs Prys-Jones had a prior engagement.

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Duck Race

The Clerk produced a letter from Mr Gordon Gray regarding a proposed duck race on the River Ouzel. The Parish Council had no objections to this.

Northall

Nothing to report this month.

P.A.I.N.

Mr Wilkinson said he had not received any further information regarding this. The P.A.I.N. meeting was being held that evening. The Clerk informed him that she had just received documentation and it was agreed the Clerk would give this to Mr Wilkinson and he would consider it and make a report for the next meeting.

Parish Cemetery Access Report

The Chairman stated that the working party had met. This would be run as a working party and the following people would be invited to join the working party. Mr Geoff Leary, Reverend Malcolm Grant, a representative from the Burghope Charity, and Parish Council representatives would be Ann Thompson and Marilyn Prys-Jones.

The next meeting would be a site meeting where the working party would look at the problem. Prior to this it was hoped to obtain the documents from the bank in order that these can be sent to a solicitor so that he can assess them.

Matters to report to the Police – Police Monthly Report

The Clerk referred to the last meeting when she had produced the Police monthly report that we had been asked to complete by the Police. This would merely state any incidents that had been reported to the Parish Council. It was noted by one Councillor that there had been a white van in the Pavilion car park on the previous Tuesday (15 June) at around 9.00 pm. There was loud music being played. A Police van had driven around the area but had not done anything. It was agreed that it may have been either Thames Valley Police or Dunstable Police, but it should be reported. Clerk to action.

Parish Review

Mr Wilkinson had been asked to prepare a report on this issue. Mr Wilkinson stated that the Parish Council had been asked to consider whether the parish needed to be enlarged, split, or if there were any other matters regarding the parish boundary that Aylesbury Vale District Council should consider. Mr Wilkinson reiterated points from the previous meeting. Mr Wilkinson stated his personal view was that the parish should be split into three Parish Councils for the following reasons:

1. He felt that they would represent the community more efficiently than at present as each Councillor (he felt) fought for their own community at the Parish Council meetings and if it was split each Parish Council would focus on their own community. He gave a recent example of a planning application in Edlesborough that the Parish Council had passed but which Edlesborough Councillors had indicated that they were not happy with. Mr Wilkinson felt that this was a good example of a situation where the representatives from one village felt one action was appropriate, but the Parish Council as a whole had voted against that. Mrs Thompson pointed out that not all Edlesborough Parish Councillors had been present at that meeting and that as it happened the planning application that was permitted by Aylesbury Vale District Council has been very popular in all three villages.

Mr Wilkinson stated that he appreciated that there would be a greater administration cost because there would be three separate parishes and three separate Clerks.

Mrs Thompson suggested that although Councillors could discuss the matter, it was really for the community to decide as the Councillors merely represented the Electorate. She strongly felt that the people of the parish should have the final decision.

Mrs Thompson went on to state that if that was the view of Edlesborough Councillors Northall and Dagnall Councillors were interested in the proposal of splitting and they would probably ask to be combined as they have an interest in the A4146 which affects both villages.

Mr Spencer said that there were lots of issues to be discussed including what would happen with the parish cemetery and who would take over the running of that as it was a parish cemetery.

Mr Brown felt that there were more issues that united the three parishes and that splitting the parish into three parishes would mean more Councillors. He felt that there were sufficient issues in common for the three parishes to remain together and that the A4146 united all three villages. He felt that there were characteristics in respect of all three villages because of the fact that Edlesborough parish is on the periphery, for example the situation with the Thames Valley Police/ Dunstable Police, and the fact that with Aylesbury Vale District Council and Buckinghamshire County Council we needed the three parishes together to argue our case. Mr Brown summed up that he felt there was more to unite the various villages than to disunite.

Mr Brown suggested it was too short a time (any suggestions must be sent to AVDC by 30 July). There was insufficient time to gauge opinion in the villages or for the Councillors to decide what they wanted.

Mrs Ratheram felt that the three villages together made it interesting to see the different diversity and to consider what all three villages wanted.

Mrs Prys-Jones said that she felt that to make a decision for July was far too soon.

Mr Spencer stated that although he felt it would be better if the villages separated, he agreed that it was too short a time scale for sounding out parishioners.

The overall feeling was that the Clerk should check various points set out below and the matter should be discussed again at the next meeting:-

The Clerk to check how many Councillors would be the minimum in each parish, whether it would be possible for Dagnall and Northall to join together and try to obtain some idea (the Clerk indicated she was already doing this) as to what the precept could be for each village. The Clerk would also report on the procedure. The Clerk was also to find out when the next parish review was likely to be. Agreed more time to be set aside at the next meeting.

Consideration of letter to go to BCC re footpaths in the area

The Clerk said that she and Mr Spencer had met to discuss the various footpaths to be included in the letter but the Clerk had been unable to type the letter before the meeting. Mr Spencer took the Parish Councillors through the various footpaths that he felt should be looked after and more notice given. (Clerk to add in here).

Items for the next Agenda

Luton Airport Consultation

Safer Routes – a path through the allotments at Dagnall

Parish Review

Audit

Next meeting Thursday 15 July 2004 starting at 8.00 pm at the Memorial Hall, Edlesborough