

Edlesborough Parish Council Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting

18 March 2004

Meeting of the Ordinary Meeting of the Edlesborough Parish Council held on Thursday 18 March 2004 at 8pm at the Edlesborough Memorial Hall.

Present

Mrs A Thompson (Chairman), Mr Wilkinson (Vice Chairman), Mr Spencer, Mr Cubbage, Mrs Ratheram, Mrs Prys-Jones, Mr Brown, Mrs Kerr (the Clerk), and four parishioners.

Apologies

Mr Atherton, Mr Munday

Declarations of Interest

Noted. None stated at this point in the meeting.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 19 February 2004 were agreed and signed with the following amendments:-

Page 4 – Northall Traffic Calming: second paragraph reference to "The Crown Public House" to be amended to "The Swan Public House".

First paragraph, second from last line; change "could" to "would".

Second paragraph: "agreed Clerk to write to BCC regarding the speed comment made by the Police . . .".

Dagnall Traffic Calming: the reference and paragraph to the new dynamic speed indicator and gates to be deleted and replaced under Northall Traffic Calming.

Matters arising from the previous minutes

The Clerk confirmed that if a matter was discussed by the Parish Council under the heading "Matters arising from the previous minutes", then a discussion could take place but no decision could be made.

Finance Issues

Monthly Statement for February

The Clerk provided the Councillors with a financial statement for the month of February. No issues were raised.

Authorisation of cheques

The Clerk produced a list of cheques and asked if these could be authorised. This was agreed by all.

Request for photocopier/fax machine/scanner

The Parish Council unanimously agreed that the Clerk could purchase a photocopier/fax machine/scanner. The previous machine had broken and had been looked at by one of the Councillors and it did not work.

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End of Financial Year

It was agreed the Clerk could instruct Deirdre Hansen to complete the audit this year.

Quotes

It was noted that some quotes were still awaited for extra work to be carried out around the green and allotments.

Planning

Procedure for reviewing planning matters

The planning representatives for each parish would be meeting on Saturday 21st February.

Applications received

The following planning applications have been received:

Application No:	Address	Proposal	Parish Councils response
04/00221/APP	33, Main Road North, Dagnall	Single Storey rear extension and conversion of loft space to living accommodation	no comment

Planning applications granted or refused

These are as follows:

Application No:	Address	Proposal	Parish Councils response	AVDC Decision
03/03164/APP	100, High Street, Edlesborough	single storey side extension	no comment	Permitted
03/03169/APP	1, Ashton Cottages, Leighton Road, Northall	Change of use of strip of land to residential use	no comment	Permitted
04/00055/APP	37, The Pastures, Edlesborough	rear conservatory	no comment	Permitted
03/02248/APP	14-16 High Street, Edlesborough	Change of use from A1 (Retail) TO a3 (Hot food and drink)	Approve	Permitted subject to conditions

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Planning issues

1. *Hazeldene*

AVDC have written to the owners of Hazeldene and asked them to make an official application for planning permission. This was still awaited.

2. *Peppiatts Farm*

AVDC have written to the owners and asked them to make an official application for planning permission. No application has been received to date. AVDC are chasing this.

3. Mr Wilkinson commented on the granting of the planning application for 12 – 14 High Street for the Tea Room. It was agreed that parishioners that had contacted the Parish Council would be provided with a copy of the decision. Clerk to action. Noted.

The following points were noted:-

1. There was a restriction in that no hot food could be taken away.
2. The hours were restricted to 9.00 – 5.30 Monday to Friday, and 9.00 – 5.00 Saturday, and 9.00 – 4.30 Sunday.
3. The permission related to Mrs Karen Mead only and the use shall cease if she ceases to run the business.

The Chairman noted that Karen Mead had asked for a restriction that the Tea Shop should close at 5.30 and AVDC had, in their notes to the Development Committee, recommended the premises be open until 7.00 pm.

Reorganisation

The recent proposal for reorganisation would not happen as Sue Parker had indicated that she was not happy with what had been proposed. It was agreed that the Parish Council Working Party would meet to discuss the Clerk's workload. The Chairman asked for it to be noted that this was an issue that must be resolved.

General Purposes Committee

Report

The Councillors had been provided with a copy of the draft minutes of the meeting on 3 March 2004.

Mr Wilkinson provided a summary of the General Purposes Committee meeting in March.

— There had been a discussion as to how often electrical inspections of the Memorial Hall etc should take place. The Parish Council agreed that this should be left to the General Purposes Committee.

— Litter bins. A correction would be made to the minutes that the Clerk had indicated that AVDC would not collect rubbish from litter bins that were far away from the road – in this case, the tennis courts and the playground bins.

— The rota for the three volunteers, Sue Parker, Gill Woodhouse and Julie Morgan was working well. (Mr Wilkinson asked the Clerk why, when it had been agreed at the January meeting the Clerk should do a letter to Focus thanking Tessa Williams, this has not been done. The Clerk said that she was not prepared to comment on this in an open meeting.)

— The Edlesborough Memorial Hall car park posts. It had been proposed to add posts along the car park strip and there had been no provision for this in the budget. The Clerk was obtaining a quote to give to the GPC.

— The General Purposes Committee were requesting if a further dog bin could be added to the list at the edge of the green on the Pebblemoor side, next to the litter bin. The Parish Council unanimously agreed this.

— FOEs usually were allowed the use of the Memorial Hall for the toilets, free of charge, when they held a car boot sale. Was this to be still allowed? Unanimously agreed that FOEs could use the Edlesborough Memorial Hall free of charge for this event.

Summer maintenance

It was agreed that the barriers and allotment gates could be included in the summer maintenance to be repaired and painted as necessary in the summer. All agreed.

Mr Wilkinson asked if the Councillors could have a copy of the summer maintenance schedule. Clerk to provide.

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Highways/by-ways/footpaths/lighting

Inspection of roads and footpaths

The Clerk and the Chairman were to carry this out on Friday 2nd April 2004. The report would then be forwarded to the appropriate authorities.

Repair of lights

At present the lights that needed repair were 5 Jackson Close, 10 Jackson Close, 51 The Green, the light on the A4146 near Sparrowhall Cottages. The Clerk noted that this would need a hoist at a cost of around £200 to hire. The Parish Council agreed that as this had been outstanding for three months, we would agree to have the light repaired. Added to the list were also the light outside number 98 (near to the school), the light opposite the junction with St Mary's Glebe, and the light near the Moat House.

Fly tipping litter, dumping of rubbish

The Clerk reported that she had asked AVDC for details as to the number of times per year they collected litter and cut the verge and the dates when collections had been made over the past six months. She was informed that she would be provided with a list within the next couple of months. The Chairman noted that AVDC had carried out litter picking in Dagnall on the 15 March.

Road repairs to report

The Clerk had provided the Councillors with a list of road repairs etc. The Clerk was liaising with BCC regarding these.

SID

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that it was available at any time and that we did not have to wait six months, so it had been provisionally booked for three weeks from Wednesday to Wednesday, 7, 14 and 21 July, so that each village could use it for a full week and over weekends.

It was agreed that each village would have the following dates:

7 July – Dagnall. Ivor Thorn /Geoff Spencer to organise.

14 July – Edlesborough. Gill Woodhouse to organise, although she would be on holiday that week.

21 July – Northall. Kevin Cabbage to organise.

Gill Woodhouse said that she would like to use the SID on the High Street at the top end near the A4146, and at Peblemoor near Ashridge Cottage. It was agreed the Clerk would liaise with BCC for them to carry out the risk assessment.

It had previously been agreed the Parish Council would look at buying a SID. The cost of this would be in the region of £3,000. The Clerk stated that BCC said they were intending buying some more SIDs and there would no longer have to be a waiting period of six months from borrowing the SID until the next time it could be borrowed. The Parish Council unanimously agreed that they would no longer be considering buying SID.

Dagnall Traffic Calming

The next traffic count was February/March and a camera will be considered again then. The Clerk stated she understood she should receive the data within the next three weeks.

Northall Traffic Calming

The review of the speed limit would be 2005/6. Northall traffic measures had been installed, ie the 40 mph signs etc.

Bus Stop – Knolls View

The Clerk had received a positive response from BCC and the Senior Passenger Transport Officer who are looking at the suggestion. Avril Davies is supporting the measure. A parishioner noted that if the bus stop was at Knolls View there was nowhere for cars dropping off children to stop. This was noted.

Mr Cabbage noted that he had been asked by various parishioners if the 40 mph signs or the new dynamic speed indicator could be moved. The problem that parishioners had raised was that as they drove towards the 40 mph sign this set off the dynamic speed indicator, telling them to slow down. The Councillors agreed that they were not prepared to ask for either sign to be moved as the signs in the place where they were, were achieving the objective of people being slowed down.

Edlesborough Traffic Calming:

Tring Road accident

The Clerk indicated that roundels were wanted they would cost approximately £200 for each one. Mr Wilkinson made the point that there was no speed limit there other than 60 mph, and was unsure why we were looking at roundels. It was agreed that as the speed limit there is 60 mph and that it is coming up to a junction, it was unlikely that BCC would reduce the speed to 30 mph and therefore there was no further action we could take, other than monitor the position.

A4146 on the hill by The Bell public house

The Clerk indicated that previously she had been told by BCC verbally that they would be happy to consider moving the Edlesborough sign and the 30 mph sign if the Parish Council felt this would help traffic calming. It had been previously agreed that the Parish Council would pay for roundels to be placed here. BCC had now indicated that they would not be considering moving the Edlesborough sign or the 30 mph sign until the 2005/6 review. Therefore if roundels were put in and the Parish Council paid for them and the signs were moved, then the roundels would have to be redone. The Parish Council considered the matter and it was proposed by John Wilkinson and seconded by David Brown that we should still proceed to purchase the roundels as there was at least 18 months before the review took place and if the signs were moved BCC may be willing to pay for new roundels.

The Clerk made the point that at a recent meeting she had attended BCC had said that parishes could instruct a consultant like BABTIE to look at traffic calming measures and provide a report and if BCC are happy and the parish wishes to purchase the suggestions and have them installed, they can. The Councillors noted this to be the position.

Parking outside the Memorial Hall

AVDC have a review of parking restrictions and we have been put on the list. At the end of this month, ie March, they will be considering all requests. The Clerk had been told that we should have a report by May and suggested that anything they recommend we have a consultation via a local magazine.

Parking outside the shops in Edlesborough High Street

AVDC have a review of parking restrictions and we have been put on the list. This will be reviewed at the end of March and a report should be forthcoming by the May meeting.

Traffic measures for Summerleys

The 15 mph sign and improving visibility at the junction of Summerleys and High Street

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that BCC had informed her that the lowest speed limit would be 20 mph and they would only consider this if we are willing to say that traffic goes at 30 mph frequently down Summerleys. The Parish Council agreed but they did not see how cars could go at 30 mph down Summerleys and therefore we were not in a position to inform BCC that that was the case. Agreed the Clerk would write to the parishioner informing him of the present position.

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Projects

Edlesborough Parish Council Website

Kevin indicated that this was now up to date apart from some papers he was wishing to receive from the Clerk. The Clerk said she would forward these to him.

Parish Plan

In the last few months there had been no progress due to the reorganisation and other commitments. The Clerk asked if the Parish Council wished to consider a stall at Dagnall (a request had been received from Karen Coppen) and the Carnival. It was agreed the Parish Council would have stalls at both events. Please note: Dagnall Fete is on 22 May and the Carnival is on 3 July.

Dog bins

These will be installed in Northall and Dagnall and in Edlesborough. The dog bins in Dagnall are to be installed outside the allotments if possible and at the end of the allotments on Studham Lane, and at Northall outside the Village Hall and at the allotments. The new dog bin at Edlesborough would be at the Pebblemoor end of the green, next to the yellow litter bin on the edge of The Pastures.

The Villages

Northall – Leighton Road – bollards and ditch

The Clerk was awaiting a response as to whether bollards would be installed along the Leighton Road opposite the telephone box. BCC had indicated that the ditch was the responsibility of the owners along the Leighton Road. The Clerk had asked for a written response and was awaiting this.

Northall land/allotments

The Clerk had been unable to deal with this matter due to pressure of other work.

Hay from the Northall allotment

The Parish Council confirmed that they are happy for Mr Fleet to cut the hay and take it away from Northall allotment this year.

Restharrow

The Clerk reported that she was still awaiting a reply from the Environmental Health regarding the smells at Rest harrow.

Footpath Nine Northall

Footpath Nine runs from Slapton Lane (far end of Leighton Road) to nearby South End Lane. It is part of the Two Ridges Link Path. There is a lot of rubbish in the ditch along Slapton Lane. The Clerk was contacting various authorities to see if the rubbish could be removed.

Dagnall

Dunstable Road/Dagnall Recreation Field/Path

The paperwork had been agreed and had been signed by the Chairman and Mr Spencer and will be sent to the solicitors for AVDC to complete and then the work on the footpath could go ahead.

Dagnall footpath linking Dagnall and Edlesborough

This was to be part of the overall traffic review and will be considered in 2005/6.

Edlesborough

Taskers Row – removal of the triangle Elderly sign

Following on from the February meeting when a parishioner stated that it had been moved and that everything was fine, the Clerk had received an e-mail from the Warden asking when the sign was going to be removed. The Parish Council unanimously agreed that if the residents of Taskers Row wanted the sign removed they could and the Clerk was to action asking for this sign to be removed.

Basketball stand

Steve Munday had agreed to help the Clerk with this and sift through the papers and meet with the companies etc.

Carnival

The request for a further skip on the green in the Memorial Hall car park was agreed, provided that all the skips were removed on the day of the Carnival. The Clerk indicated that she understood it was not usually moved until the next day and was told that this was not the case, they had always been removed that day. It was unanimously agreed that no caravans would be allowed at the Carnival.

Church and Churchyard

Remembrance Service

The Parish Council had considered the letter from Malcolm Grant, the Vicar. Agreed that we had some time as the next Memorial Service at the Edlesborough War Memorial would not be until November 2005. It was agreed the Clerk would write to the Local Authority and ask them if they would agree to the road being closed during the Remembrance Service. Clerk to action. If the Local Authority would not agree to this then we would consider an alternative. The Clerk to inform the Vicar of the present position.

Parish Cemetery

Access to cemetery

The Clerk had spoken to the Burghope Charity and they were happy to support the access issue by looking at available land etc, and working with the Parish Council. There were various other issues that the Clerk was looking at. A working party needs to be set up. Geoff Leary, a local resident and previously a Councillor, had agreed to be on the working party. The Parish Council agreed that Ann Thompson (Chairman) and Marilyn Prys-Jones would also be on the working party.

AVDC/BCC Responsibility

None.

Parish Council Obligations

None.

Health Service Consultation

David Brown agreed to consider the Health Service consultation papers that we had received. He noted that there were specifically two models that were on offer and he would need to consider the material he had just been handed in more depth. It was agreed that he would prepare a report for the Parish Council for the next meeting and keep a watching brief.

Allotments

Nothing further to report.

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Procedures

Standing Orders

Clerk still to action.

P.A.I.N.

John Wilkinson again asked to be provided with any papers that were received.

Annual Parish Meeting date

This had been set for Thursday 15 April 2004. It was agreed that as the Chairman was not going to be available the meeting should be moved to Thursday 20 May to start at 7.30 pm.

Correspondence

John Wilkinson noted that he would like to attend the AVLC meeting on 29 April 2004 and he wished to raise the issue of the lack of white lining in Buckinghamshire on the roads. It was noted that John Atherton had said that he felt the cats eyes on the A4146 in Buckinghamshire were dimmer than those in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire and could this be noted to BCC. Clerk to action.

The Chairman asked if there were any other issues that people wished to raise. The parishioners present raised the following issues:

Pastures hedge

A parishioner said she understood this was not going to be cut. She was told this would be cut.

Football on the green

A parishioner indicated that there were too many football teams playing on the green and maybe these could be reduced, and that one of the football pitches went over the public footpath that went across the green from the Pavilion to roughly Cow Lane. There were too many games both on Saturday and Sunday and the green was being ruined as a result of this. The Parish Council noted this. David Brown suggested that it was near the end of the season and that maybe we could ask for the junior football team to be more organised and suggested marking where the public footpath is and ensuring that there was still the right of way across the green. He also suggested that maybe clubs could be asked to train in an area other than the area they were actually playing in.

Sue Parker noted that The Swan would not be using the pitch as they could not get a team together and therefore there would only be The Bell playing football, and therefore it might be useful not to allow any other football team to play.

Minutes more widely available

A parishioner asked that the minutes of the Parish Council and information as to what was happening with the Parish Council could be more readily available. The Councillors indicated that the minutes were available on the Website and an article usually appeared in Focus although one had not appeared for the past three months. The Parish Council offered to place maybe minutes on the notice board but the parishioner stated that she never read the notice boards. There was a general discussion about where the minutes should be readily available. It was agreed an article would appear in Focus more regularly.

Next meeting Thursday 15 April 2004 starting at 8.00 pm

at the Memorial Hall, Edlesborough