

# **Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Edlesborough Parish Council held on 17 July 2003 at 8pm at the Edlesborough Memorial Hall.**

## **Present**

Mr Spencer, Mr Atherton, Mrs Prys-Jones, Mr Munday, Mr Brown, Mrs Kerr (Clerk) and 3 parishioners, Mrs P Hannelly (District Councillor)

## **Apologies**

Mrs Thompson (Chairman), Mr Wilkinson (Vice Chairman), Mr Cubbage, Mrs Ratheram, Mrs Avril Davies (County Councillor).

## **Chairman**

As the Chairman and Vice Chairman had sent their apologies, the Council unanimously agreed that Mr Munday should take the chair.

## **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting could not be agreed and signed in this instance because the Clerk's computer had broken down. Copies of the minutes had been provided at the start of the meeting to the Councillors but they had not had an opportunity to consider these. It was therefore unanimously agreed that the minutes would be considered at the following meeting on 18 September 2003.

## **Matters arising from the previous minutes**

It was unanimously agreed that this would be considered at the meeting on 18 September 2003

## **Highways/by-ways/footpaths/lighting**

### Dagnall, Northall, Edlesborough, Traffic Calming

The Councillors were referred to a letter sent by the Clerk to Tony Walton at Buckinghamshire County Council following a telephone discussion with him as to the current situation in all three villages.

It was agreed by the Councillors that the Clerk should contact Tony Walton and ask for the following, provided that they were free:

1. Dragons teeth at Dagnall.
2. White lining at the car parking bay on the A4146 at Dagnall opposite the Golden Rule.
3. Count down markers at Dagnall as you enter the village at either end.
4. Dragons teeth at Northall if these were free and available.

The Clerk indicated that the review of the three villages, Dagnall, Northall and Edlesborough, would be in 2005/6. The Clerk suggested the Parish Council we would need to do a check of each of the villages to see if there are any other traffic calming measures or alterations to roads, footways etc that would need to be mentioned to Buckinghamshire County Council.

### Northall, 40mph signs and their position and footpath

The Clerk indicated that Buckinghamshire County Council would consider repositioning the signs and a footpath, and the speed limit in Northall being reduced to 30 mph in the review in 2005/06. It was agreed that the Clerk would prepare a report with drawings and pictures, setting out what was required by parishioners. It was agreed the Clerk would arrange to meet the Northall Councillors and prepare a plan together and meet with local parishioners.

### Northall, new dynamic speed indicator and gates

A car had crashed into the new dynamic speed indicator and the gates at the end of June. Buckinghamshire County Council had been contacted and had removed the gates and were assessing the damage to the new dynamic speed indicator sign. The Clerk has been informed it could be some time before all is rectified due to the summer holidays and staff shortages.

### Pebblemoor, 30mph signs reposition and more 30mph signs and the footpath

Again, the positioning of the 30mph signs would be considered in the review in 2005/06. The Buckinghamshire County Council had indicated that a survey had been carried out as to whether a footpath should be provided along Pebblemoor

and that it had been decided that this would not be provided following a survey of the village, which was split on the issue.

#### Parking outside the shops on Edlesborough High Street

The Clerk was discussing this matter with Nick Cummings and whether anything could be done about people parking their cars on the "No Parking" signs outside the flower shop and the paper shop.

#### Taskers Road – vehicles on the pavement

A parishioner had raised the issue of cars on the pavement in this area where elderly people live. It was making it difficult for wheel chairs etc to get by. It had been suggested that a flyer should be put on the cars'/vans' windscreens to highlight the problem. The Clerk had spoken to the Police who say it is OK and had provided the Clerk with guidelines. The Clerk will liaise with the parishioner who suggested this action on their return from holiday.

#### Abandoned vehicles

Sue Parker had provided a report setting out that cars had been abandoned on the car parks around the green. It was agreed that the Clerk should speak to the Police concerning the abandoned vehicles and send them a report as to the problems with abandoned vehicles in the area.

The Clerk had carried out some research into whether we should be providing sand nearby the car parks to soak up the petrol. Apparently there were various products on the market but most garages that the Clerk had spoken to had suggested that we buy some sand and two buckets and two small light shovels, and use this instead of the more expensive options that were available. It was agreed the Clerk should do this.

The Clerk is also looking for a firm who will remove any abandoned vehicles.

#### Aylesbury Vale Local Committee Report

John Wilkinson had attended the recent meeting and will report at the next Parish Council Meeting.

#### Rural issues in the North Chilterns Consultation

The Clerk and Geoff Spencer had attended a consultation meeting to discuss rural issues in the North Chilterns. This included the village of Dagnall and not the villages of Edlesborough and Northall. This was an initiative set up by Buckinghamshire County Council, Bedfordshire County Council, Hertfordshire County Council, and Chiltern ANOB. The consultation had been useful and had been held in Ivinghoe. The points that arose from the discussion were that a local structure was required to deal with traffic calming issues. It should also be borne in mind that any plan should not just shift the problem from one area to another and therefore an overall scheme was preferable. There was a lack of public transport and a lack of cycle routes. It was also suggested that in the Chilterns Area of Natural Outstanding Beauty there should be a blanket speed limit of say 40mph or 30mph. The state of the consultation was for the firm instructed to obtain initial views from Councillors and interested parties and then go out to the public and ask for their views. The Clerk and Mr Spencer had found the consultation interesting and we would await their report and details of how the consultation would progress.

#### SID

The villages of Dagnall and Northall had SID during the week commencing 23 June and this had proved a great success. A request had been made of Buckinghamshire County Council that we borrow SID again in six months time (the shortest period of time allowed for us to request it again). It was agreed that next time we would request SID for two different weeks because in Dagnall the speed limit was 30mph and in Northall it was 40mph and Buckinghamshire County Council, for various reasons, would only leave the speed indicator at 30mph. This had caused a couple of complaints in Northall. The public had commented on how quiet the road seemed when SID was in operation as cars had definitely slowed down either because their speed limit had been highlighted or were unsure whether SID was a speed camera or not. Parishioners in Northall had commented that SID had meant that the mornings during the rush hour were like a Sunday morning and the noise levels were a lot lower than usual.

#### Safer routes to school

The Chairman would provide a report at the next Parish Council Meeting.

#### Lights Out

The Clerk had instructed our local contractor to fix any lights that were not working. This should be done by a week on Thursday.

#### Leighton Road Light

This light has now been fixed.

#### Fly Tipping litter, dumping of rubbish and AVDC responsibilities

The Clerk had been in contact with George Duguid. The Clerk, George Duguid and Kevin Cabbage will meet up during the August break.

It was agreed that the Clerk should do an article in Focus regarding fly tipping.

#### Road repairs to report

Footpath 14 has become overgrown and details of this have been passed to Buckinghamshire County Council.

The hedges on the right hand side of Pebblemoor as you are leaving the village had overgrown and it was difficult to see the cars coming round the corner. It was agreed that what may help would be for the hedge to be cut. The Clerk to speak to Buckinghamshire County Council and/or the farmer to see if the hedge could be cut.

One of the Councillors indicated that the footpath between the pastures and the green was overgrown and still needed cutting back. The Clerk said she would speak again to Buckinghamshire County Council.

In Pebblemoor there were bollards between the grass area outside people's borders and the edge of the road. It was suggested that the Council should consider this further and decide whether this was a help or hindrance to the traffic problems on Pebblemoor. The Clerk to make a note to consider this at the next meeting.

It was also agreed that the Clerk should write an article for Focus highlighting the issue of cars on the pavement generally and the fact that parishioners with buggies or in wheel chairs could not get through.

#### Footpaths/Parish Paths Partnership – Footpath 15

There had been no further correspondence regarding Footpath 15 since the last meeting.

#### Stoke Hammond – Linslade By-pass

The Clerk had sent a letter to Buckinghamshire County Council regarding the proposed by-pass. A copy had been provided to each Councillor. The Clerk had received an acknowledgement. There was some discussion as to whether we should object to the by-pass. It had been agreed that we would object on the grounds that it would probably still go ahead anyway but at least we could highlight that the traffic would be using the A4146 between Hemel Hempstead and Leighton Buzzard and therefore our traffic calming requests should take priority.

#### Heathermead – no collection of bins

The Clerk had been in contact with AVDC. They have not received any other complaints about bins not being collected. It had been agreed the Clerk and AVDC would monitor the matter.

### **Projects**

#### EPC Website

The Clerk is still behind with inputting the information and is hoping to catch up in August. Mr Cabbage is having a few problems with the transfer of information. Again it is hoped this will be resolved in August. The Parish Council have recently received an offer of help from a parishioner and the Clerk will liaise with Mr Cabbage and the parishioner upon his return from holiday.

### **The Villages**

#### Aylesbury Vale South Sports Council

Mr Brown had attended a meeting of the Council. He found this a very useful meeting. In particular he had found out that small grants were available up to a maximum £2,000. He suggested it would be worth putting together a list of details of all sponsorship for sports and other matters in an article in Focus. With the grant the recipient would have to provide a part payment of up to 50 per cent of the cost.

At the same meeting Mr Brown stated that the Aylesbury Vale District Council had attended and had provided details of grants up to £5,000 for worthy causes. These did not have to be sports related. It was suggested these would be useful for the Parish, local organisations and charities.

It was agreed the Clerk should do an article for the October issue of Focus setting out details of grants that were available to local organisations.

#### EPC Strategic Review/Five Year Plan

A form had been sent to the Countryside Agency and we were awaiting a reply as to our request for help with a five year plan.

#### St Mary's Village Carnival 2003

The carnival had been a success and had raised in excess of £11,000.

### Tennis Club – Floodlighting

A letter had been received from the Chairman of the club, Terry Carlisle, Councillors had been supplied with a copy of this. One of the Councillors had indicated that he was more than happy with the letter that had been received. David Brown indicated that he was a member of the Tennis Club and the Treasurer and therefore declared an interest in this matter. He provided the Councillors with a verbal insight as to the floodlighting that has been requested by the Tennis Club. The lights would be at court level and would be placed on the existing stanchions. The new lights would reduce light pollution and have been recommended by the Lawn Tennis Association. It was agreed that we would ask Mr Carlisle to provide us with more details at the next meeting.

### Northall Village Windows

John Atherton, the Councillor for Northall, stated that if there was money available in the Parish funds then Northall would like a contribution towards their windows. It was agreed that he would provide details as to how much was required at the meeting in September.

### Dagnall Village Hall Roof Repairs

The Chairman, Ann Thompson, was unable to attend the meeting but had requested whether the Parish had any money available to help the Dagnall Village Hall roof repairs. It was decided this would be considered at the next meeting.

### PAFT (Parents as First Teachers (Dagnall))

The Chairman, Ann Thompson, who was not at this meeting would provide details of a request for finance at the meeting in September.

### Parish Council Obligations

None discussed at the present meeting.

### Church and Churchyard

#### Golden Jubilee Floodlighting Project

The Clerk and John Atherton were to liaise on this matter. At present the matter was on hold due to various other commitments.

### Parish Cemetery

#### Burial Regulations

The Clerk had been researching this matter and had come up with the following points. In particular the Parish Council should consider:-

1. Joining a Cemetery Association.
2. Subscribing to a publication.
3. Take no further action regarding checking the Burial Regulations until we had checked the legal position.

It was agreed the Clerk should go ahead and investigate the cost of joining a Cemetery Association and subscribing to a publication.

An application had been received for a memorial B17. The Councillors agreed to the application. The Councillors unanimously agreed that in future the Clerk should not have to refer the matter to the full Parish Council Meeting unless she felt there was a problem.

#### Review of Parish Cemetery Fees

The Clerk recommended that we hold these for a year pending the outcome of research into the Burial Regulations and the fact that we have problems of access onto the cemetery site. It was unanimously agreed by the Councillors that the fees should be held for a further year.

#### Access to Cemetery

There are problems with access onto the cemetery. The Clerk was still trying to contact Mr Wood and would write to the Burghope Trust to see if either of them would be amenable to the Parish Council trying to find an alternative or acceptable route onto the cemetery site.

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## **Open Spaces**

### **Dunstable Road/Dagnall Recreation Field Path**

All the papers should be ready to complete. However the solicitor for the Parish Council had spoken to his opposite number at Aylesbury Vale District Council who said that he would not be in a position to provide the papers until the September meeting. The Clerk would chase this in early September to ensure that we have the paperwork for the September meeting.

### **Playground**

A further inspection of the playground will be taking place for the next couple of weeks.

## **Allotments**

### **Allotment Fees**

The present rate for the allotments was 50p a pole. The allotment expenses for the previous year have been £357.55 and the income has been £482.50.

Any increase would take effect in October 2004 for the year commencing October 2004 – 2005. It was agreed to hold the review until the September meeting.

### **Northall, Land**

The Clerk had provided the Councillors with papers from the solicitor regarding this matter. There are two Councillors at Northall one of whom was on holiday and therefore it was agreed that the Councillor that was present would set out the points he wished raised in any requests for further information from the solicitors and before these were sent to the solicitor the Councillor who was at present on holiday would be given an opportunity to see if he agreed with the points/issues raised and add any further points. This was agreed by all the Councillors.

The points that the Clerk should raise with the solicitors were:-

1. What counted as use of the village green?
2. Would it be possible for changing accommodation to be placed on the Village Green or on a temporary basis to be placed in the allotment field and the "village green" be used as a playing field?

If the Parish Council wanted to keep the allotments would it be possible to split the field so that half was used as allotments and half used as common land for the people of Northall as recreation land.

3. It was agreed that the Council would have to consider car parking access to the site.

## **Pavilion and Edlesborough Memorial Hall**

### **Review of Memorial Hall Charges**

The Clerk stated that she had discussed the annual Memorial Hall charges with the caretaker and bookings secretary. At present local non-profit making organisations paid £5.50 per hour and commercial and private enterprises paid £10.50 per hour. It was suggested that the Parish Council leave the local non-profit making organisations' fees at £5.50 per hour for another year and that commercial and private users increase to £11.00 per hour. The increase would take effect from 1 January 2004

The Councillors considered the income and expenditure over the past few years for the Memorial Hall and agreed to the charges as follows:

Local – non-profit making organisations to remain at £5.50 per hour and commercial/private to be increased to £11.00 per hour from 1 January 2004. The Clerk to inform various organisations and to let the Bookings Secretary/Caretaker now the position.

### **Report on the Pavilion Green and Edlesborough Memorial Hall**

The Clerk referred the Councillors to the report prepared by the Bookings Secretary and Caretaker for the Pavilion and the Edlesborough Memorial Hall. This referred to the wheelie bin disappearing. The wheelie bin had not disappeared; it had merely been put away for a while.

The previous Clerk had split the rubbish at the cemetery between combustible and non-combustible. Unfortunately when people put their rubbish in the bins they did not split it and therefore it had been agreed for this year that the contractor

would empty the bins and take the rubbish away. It was obviously pointless having the wheelie bin there as all the people that use the cemetery were doing was throwing any rubbish in and as this was often wreaths the contractor had the problem of getting these out of the wheelie bin and he was worried that it was going to hurt one of his helpers' hands. It had therefore been agreed that the wheelie bin should be put away for a while and see if the ordinary bins could take the rubbish.

The Clerk confirmed that she had ordered a new rug for the Memorial Hall.

### **Standing Orders**

The Councillors have been provided with a set of standard standing orders for the Councillors to consider and these would be discussed in September.

### **Planning**

#### **Procedure for Reviewing Planning Matters**

The Clerk was to arrange a meeting with Geoff Atherton and John Wilkinson to discuss planning matters and how we would proceed with this.

#### **Applications received**

03/01411/APP 4, Greenacres, Northall Erection of detached garage. No comment

### **Employees**

John Parker, the handyman, had purchased some more tools for the Parish Councils tool kit.

### **P.A.I.N.**

John Wilkinson would provide a report at the next meeting.

### **Finance Issues**

#### **Monthly Financial Statement**

This was provided to the Councillors.

#### **Authorisation of Cheques**

The Councillors authorised the Clerk to issue the cheques as set out in the Financial Statement. The Clerk also requested that she has the authority to issue cheques in August for invoices we had received. It was agreed the Clerk would do this.

### **Audit**

We had been given a clean bill of health by our auditor and the papers had been sent to the external auditor.

### **Correspondence**

A parishioner in Northall had asked for a donation towards a Educational Trip. The Clerk had checked the situation and we cannot give donations to individuals. The Clerk will write and let the parishioner know.

Avril Davies, the County Councillor, had asked if we would like to walk the villages with her on 6/7/13/14/20/21 August and provide a list of any points we wished her to discuss. The Councillors said that they would consider this and come back to the Clerk.

### **Any Other Business**

Mr Munday asked if anybody had any other points they wished to raise. Pauline Hanley (District Councillor) raised the issue of the parishioners in Chiltern Avenue who are having problems with a neighbour and indicated that the problems were ongoing.

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday 18 September 2003 at 8.00 pm at the Edlesborough Memorial Hall.**