



EDLESBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes for Meeting of Edlesborough Parish Council held on 15th April 2021 via the social media platform Zoom

Agenda Item

Open Forum

Mr Chris Beer attended the meeting and requested that Council object to the planning application 21/00996/APP. Mr Beer had submitted a comprehensive letter to the Council prior to the meeting outlining his objections to the application and asking for the Council's support. He reiterated to the Council that he and his wife believe that if the application is approved it will be a substantial over development of the property and will have a detrimental effect on their property and life in the village. He stated that the application:

- Is not in line with Buckinghamshire Council's guidelines
- Will have a huge impact on the neighbouring buildings, the AAL and AOL.
- Is not in keeping with other properties in the village.
- Will set a precedent for the development of properties on the village boundary.
- Extensions should be subordinate to the original building.

Prior to the meeting Cllr Wilkinson had analysed the application and circulated his proposed response to the application.

Cllr Wilkinson had also shared this with Mr Beer and had informed him of the Council's approach to planning applications:

- When commenting on an application Council has three options; 'Support', 'Oppose' or 'No Objections'.
- If Council considers that a proposal is contrary to any of the relevant planning policies it will usually oppose the application.
- If Council considers that the proposal conforms to the relevant policies and is for the benefit of the general community as a whole, it will usually support the application.
- For most other proposals (which are the majority), Council sends in a no objections response.
- Council represent the Parish as a whole, it has to view applications on their impact on the general community and not individual parishioners. Where parishioners have differing views over planning matters, Council cannot take 'sides' because it represents both parties.
- Council must also confine its comments to issues that are material planning matters and not such things as, loss of views, effect on the value of neighbouring properties, the possible intentions or reputation of an applicant etc.
- Some planning policies are quite definitive and it's relatively clear cut whether or not a proposal complies. Other policies however are somewhat general and it's very subjective whether or not a proposal complies. Where a judgment is subjective, Council usually draws attention to the possibility that a proposal might not comply, but leaves it to the planning officers to make the final decision.

Mr Beer thanked Cllr Wilkinson for sharing his proposed response and advice in advance of the meeting. He also thanks Cllr Chris Poll for visiting his home and discussing the application with him. He expressed his disappointment in Cllr Wilkinson recommending the Council respond with no objections and asked the Council to reconsider objecting to the application.

Dorothy Ferguson asked who is responsible for the streetlights along the High Street in Edlesborough and expressed that people have mentioned that there are some long stretches without lights that are very dark at night, particularly between ~~Good Intent~~ the shops and Cow Lane. Cllr Williams explained that the lights are the responsibility of Edlesborough Parish Council.

Dorothy Ferguson also asked who is responsible for the litter bins and whether they can be emptied more often. The Clerk explained that Edlesborough has six bins located on the grass verges/pavement outside the Green plus an additional seven bins inside the Green. Edlesborough Parish Council empties the bins weekly inside the Green and the Council contractor is very responsive if the Clerk requests additional empties. The bins outside the Green are emptied by Buckinghamshire Council once a week; if the Clerk sees that any are overflowing these are reported to Buckinghamshire Council.

Cllr Williams formally opened the meeting at 20.13

Present

Cllr Williams (chair), Cllr Cabbage (vice chair), Cllr Mrs Booth, Cllr Miss Wells, Cllr Wilkinson, Cllr Nevard, Cllr Mrs Thomas, Cllr Mrs Owen, Cllr Harpley, Penny Pataky (Clerk), and Buckinghamshire Councillor Chris Poll and Mrs Wight and five parishioners.

Apologies

None were received.

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Miss Wells declared that she is a tenant at Northall Allotments.

Minutes

Council agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 15th April 2021 with no amendments.

Matters Arising

Council agreed to the Employment Working Party's recommendation to progress the Clerk from SCP21 to SCP22 on the national scale and to an increase of 3% for the Manager's pay. Both increases will take effect from 1st April 2021. If the JNC negotiate a pay increase for 2021/22 the Clerk will accordingly receive any back-dated pay.

Buckinghamshire Council Report

Buckinghamshire Cllr Anne Wight

Cllr Williams thanked Cllr Anne Wight for all her help and support during her time as a Councillor initially for Bucks County Council and then for Buckinghamshire Council for the last year. He stated that Cllr Wight had been an extremely proactive Councillor during her tenure and that she will be greatly missed. On behalf of the Council he wished her well for the future.

Cllr Wight thanked the Council and informed then that she had enjoyed working with Edlesborough Parish Council over the past four years. She stated that Greg Smith MP and Martin Tett are talking to MP's about changing legislation to allow virtual meetings to continue. She believes that virtual meetings have enabled more people to be able to attend Council meetings and that this is vital in getting more people involved in local government.

She advised all that the Ivinghoe and Wing Freight Strategy Consultation will proceed after the elections and she welcomed the fact the Edlesborough Parish Council will be encouraging their Parishioners to respond to this consultation.

She asked the Council to remind their parishioners that the Wing and Ivinghoe Community Board are very active and is open to all residents. Any parishioner wanting to know more or become involved in a specific topic should contact Katrina Kelly via email at wingandivinghoecb@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Buckinghamshire Cllr Chris Poll

Cllr Chris Poll congratulated the Edlesborough Parish Council councillors on their uncontested election. He thanked the Chairman and all the Cllrs for all their kindness and courtesy throughout his term as an AVDC and Buckinghamshire Councillor. He hopes to see everyone again next month.

With regards to virtual Council meeting Cllr Poll clarified that Councils must formally convene to discuss finance matters. He is however in favour of hybrid meetings, particularly to increase public participation. He informed the Council that 226 representations to VALP have been accepted and put the inspector. The inspector in turn will make recommendations that will be binding to the Council.

He said that Cllr Anne Wight will not be forgotten as a councillor and that her tenacity has not gone unnoticed.

Community Board for Ivinghoe and Wing Ward

Buckinghamshire Council and BMKALC invited Councillors to attend a Community Board Reflection Meeting on 7th or 13th April.

Planning

Council discussed planning application 21/00996/APP at length. Cllr Wilkinson explained that the house would be approximately 25% wider than it currently is if permission is granted. Councillors Mrs Owen, Miss Wells and Nevard stated that Council should object to the application. Councillors Williams, Cubbage, Harpley, Booth and Thomas agreed to Cllr Wilkinson's recommendation to submit the response of "No Objections Subject to officer approval regarding the additional massing of the building and its impact on the immediate surroundings."

Cllr Wilkinson reminded councillors that they can comment on the application independently if they wish to. The following applications will be considered and the agreed responses submitted to Buckinghamshire Council Local Planning Authority

Application No.	Address	Description	Parish Council Response
21/00996/APP 1 st April 2021	Church End House Church End Edlesborough	Part two, part single storey rear, side and front extensions with gable ended roof extensions to front and rear elevations. Two Juliet balconies to side elevation, bay window to front elevation and repositioning of front door.	No objections Subject to officer approval regarding the additional massing of the building and its impact on the immediate surroundings.
21/00852/APP 7 th April 2021	6 Chiltern Avenue Edlesborough	Covered entrance porch.	No objections
21/01318/APP 15 th April 2021	Main House Hall Farm Main Road South Dagnall	Installation of photovoltaic solar panels on the front roof slope of a car port	No objections

The following decisions have been notified by Buckinghamshire Council Local Planning Authority

Application No.	Address	Description	Parish Council Response	LPA Decision
20/04090/APP 2 nd Dec 2020	Krippa Ringshall Road Dagnall	Demolition of existing dwelling and outbuilding and replacement with a new two storey dwelling with outbuilding.	No objections	Permitted

21/00504/APP 10 th Feb 2021	3 The Pastures Edlesborough	Single garage conversion into habitable accommodation.	No objections.	Permitted
20/04395/APP 4 th January 2021	5 Greenacres Leighton Road Northall	Single storey side extension.	No objections.	Permitted

Central Beds application CB/21/01017/FUL

Prior to the meeting Cllr Williams had been advised by the Chair of Studham PC about an application to build 30 houses on a farm site just south of Dagnall. The site has been used for commercial purposes for a number of years and they are now claiming that it's a brownfield site as a consequence. It's in the Green Belt and the ANOB, but the applicant's argument is that the proposed housing development would look better than what is there at the moment. Cllr Wilkinson recommended that whilst the application is not in the Council's planning authority area Edlesborough Parish Council should submit the following response to the application. All agreed.

“Edlesborough Parish Council, as a neighbouring parish, strongly OPPOSE this application to permit a housing development in this relatively isolated and inappropriate location in the Green Belt and the Chilterns ANOB. It would appear that the site has been used for various commercial purposes over the years, far in excess of the very limited usage permitted under the 1995 and 1998 consents. By the applicant's own admission, this has allowed the site to become something of an eyesore. Instead of rewarding such a flagrant breach of planning policy by allowing this application, the LPA should enforce the prohibition of those non-conforming activities. The recent refusal to award a Certificate of Lawfulness must present a very strong case for enforcement, if those activities are still ongoing.

If it can be demonstrated that a small part of the site could be classified as brownfield due to the 1995 and 1998 consents, any development must be restricted to that defined area and be commensurate with this very sensitive Green Belt and ANOB location. Residential development would not be appropriate.”

Action: Clerk to submit response to Central Bedfordshire.

Land off High Street – Bus Shelter & Pavement

Following the lack of success in Buckinghamshire Council addressing the issues with the dip in the High Street outside the Bellway development the Clerk made contact with Bellway who have asked ECL to address the dip in the High Street.

The work has been carried out on the High Street dip, pavement and road junctions, and the children's play area is currently being installed.

Action: In the next Focus report Clerk to inform parishioners that the open space and new play area is available for all parishioners to use once it is opened.

Pre App Consultation Letter re Installation of Mobile Phone Mast

Edlesborough Parish Council's response to the Pre Application has been shared on the Council website and Facebook page and hard copies have been delivered to the neighbouring properties. To date no response has been received from Clarke Telecom.

Elections

All Edlesborough Parish Council councillors have retained their position on the Council. Details of this uncontested election, the Buckinghamshire Council and Thames Valley Police Crime Commissioner Elections can be found on the Council website <https://www.edlesborough-pc.gov.uk/news-campaigns/>

Villages

Parish Path Maps

The Clerk has chased Buckinghamshire Council again about obtaining replacement maps for the three villages – the Definitive Map Officer sent the Clerk an electronic copy of the definitive map. The Clerk has

responded giving more information about the maps required. The Parish Liaison Officer Hazrat Hussain has now redirected the request to another department.

Edlesborough

Burst water main in The Pastures Alleyway

The Clerk has contacted Anglian Water regarding the condition of the pavement/alleyway. An engineer has advised the Clerk that he will visit and assess the site.

Cow Lane Hedge

The falling tree has been removed by Transport for Buckinghamshire.

Carnival 2021

The committee are pushing forward with plans for the first Saturday in July.

Dagnall

Nothing to report.

Northall

Nothing to report.

New Pavilion

The Clerk and Chairman have responded to a complaint about inappropriate conduct at the site. The Site Foreman has spoken to all staff onsite about the report.

A purchase order has been placed for the new gym equipment.

A brief site meeting took place Thursday 15th April to address the football goal storage issues. Ken Holloway, Cllrs Nevard, Cabbage, Williams, Rob Benton, Adrian Bush and the Clerk attended. It was agreed that a fenced area would be created for the purpose of storing the football goals. Ken Holloway will now obtain costings for this. EB Lions will make a contribution towards the provision of this storage area.

The works to improve the car park will commence on 19th April, the Clerk has delivered letters to all the neighbouring homes informing them of this work.

Cllr Nevard and the Clerk are currently looking into a reduction on the Business Rates Buckinghamshire Council wishes to apply to the building as the building is still under construction at this time.

Projects

Outdoor Gym Equipment

– led by Cllr Mrs Owen

It is hoped this will be installed on the Dagnall Recreation Ground in the next few weeks.

Edlesborough Green Children's Play Area

– led by Cllr Mrs Booth

Cllrs Mrs Booth has held site meetings with three companies and to date the response/quotes from the companies has been disappointing. The working party met on the 14th April and agreed to a new approach. They will be compiling photos and a list of equipment they think would be suitable for the 7-12 age range and once this is agreed Cllr Booth will approach play equipment companies again requesting they create a design and provide a quote in keeping with the proposed requirements.

It was reiterated that this project is in the very early stages and that once the working party has established what they would like to achieve on the Green, a proposal will be put to Council which if agreed will then be followed by a public consultation. At this stage no location has been agreed upon for the new equipment as the location is dependent other uses of the Green, public consultation, design and funding.

Cllr Williams explained to the parishioners in attendance that Cllr Booth had previously provided the Council with a comprehensive document from Buckinghamshire Council showing that the village of Edlesborough is very deficient in its current provision of children's play equipment.

EMH Redecoration

– led by Cllr Mrs Thomas

The new blinds for the windows have been ordered.

Edlesborough WI Framed Banner

Prior to the meeting Council had received a request from Edlesborough WI asking Council to retain the WI's Framed Banner in the hall. The WI state that they believe it to be a valuable reminder of the history of Edlesborough and surrounding villages. The picture depicts a woman plaiting straw which was an important occupation for the women of the Parish in times past. Completed plaits were collected and then used by the hat industry in Luton. The bullace plum blossom makes reference to the plums which were an important source of vitamin C during the First World War. The fruit was made into jam and sent to the army to supplement their meagre diet.

The WI are concerned that if this historical artefact is not hung again, it may be lost for the future.

The WI would like to suggest that suitable wording is agreed for a plaque, which the WI would be willing to pay for, to be hung with the banner explaining the significance to Edlesborough and the surrounding area. Reference could be made to information drawn from a census early last century.

Cllr Wilkinson stated that whilst it is a historical item displaying it in the hall may not be the best location for it, he asked if it could be displayed in the Church instead or if the Church in Edlesborough is not conducive or too damp could it be displayed in the Parish Church in Eaton Bray?

Cllr Cabbage informed the Council that it is understood that the Eaton Bray WI banner is displayed in the church in Eaton Bray.

Action: Cllr Williams will speak to the Friends of the Church on the Hill about the feasibility of it being displayed in the Church.

EMH Toilet Refurbishment

– led by Cllr Mrs Thomas

The Clerk is working to set up a meeting between Cllrs Williams, Wilkinson, Harpley and representatives of the PCC to discuss the lease and proposed hall improvements.

Conservation Project

- led by Cllr Mrs Owen and Cllr Miss Wells.

Cllr Mrs Owen informed the Council about an idea to supply all local children with a sunflower seed, pot and compost to help encourage more rewilding. She will be looking into whether this could be run as a “who can grow the tallest sunflower” competition and other ideas in more detail.

EDaN & Traffic Management Team Updates

Litter Picking

More litter pickers have been ordered for the volunteers. Mrs Cabbage has registered her group with the Keep Britain Tidy campaign. Many parishioners continue to litter pick individually in the Parish.

Traffic Calming

Information about Thames Valley Police Relaunching Speedwatch has been shared on Facebook and is included in the May Focus report.

Cllr Williams has made contact with the Buckinghamshire Council Local Area Technician, Matthew Whincup who has offered to make a site visit with Cllr Williams helping to select and assess suitable locations for MVAS equipment in the three villages.

FOTCOTH

FOTCOTH have requested specific advice for setting up bug hotels in the Churchyard.

Action: Cllr Mrs Owen to share information with Cllr Williams.

EDaN Beautification Team

Nothing to report.

Parish Amenities

Reports on all Amenities including Buckinghamshire Council Devolved Services

AED's

Nicola Lack has advised the Council that she will cover Edlesborough as the Community First Responder working around her shifts for the ambulance service.

The failed heaters in the AED cabinets have been repaired and the electrician has installed new thermostats in two of the cabinets.

EMH

Bookings will resume on 12th April as per the Governments Covid-19 roadmap.

The Green

Football has resumed on the Green.

Cricket is expected to resume from 1st May onwards.

Council considered a quote and agreed to the repainting of the metal fence along the edge of the Green between the junctions of Good Intent and Cow Lane.

Action: Clerk to raise a purchase order for this work.

Sports Clubs

ETC have been invoiced for their floodlight energy usage from 27.03.2020 to 31.03.2021 and the 2021/22 ground rent.

Play Area

Nothing to report.

Allotments

The water supply has been reinstated at all sites. One tap at Cow Lane had broken, this has been replaced by a tenant.

Information from Buckinghamshire Council about the Grow to Give Scheme has been circulated to the allotment wardens. www.growtogive.co.uk

Dagnall Allotments

Following issues with children riding bikes in allotments and climbing on the Dagnall Trading Hut stock the Clerk contacted the school and the head has spoken to all the pupils about appropriate behaviour in the allotments. Cllr Mrs Owen has additionally put out a message to the Dagnall villagers reminding them to keep to the right-of-way through the allotments, keep dogs on leads and not to ride bikes in the allotments. The Clerk has refused requests for a children's trampoline and skate board ramp to be kept on an allotment plot in Dagnall. The Clerk has explained to the tenant that this is not permitted use of an allotment and that both items would create insurance implications for the Council. The tenant has also been advised that it is not possible to buy allotment land.

Dagnall Forest School

To date the school have not returned the completed agreement or paid the invoice. Work on clearing the area is on hold until the agreement has been signed by the school.

Northall Allotments

The Clerk, warden and Council contractor held a site meeting to assess what improvements were needed to the allotment parking area. The contractor submitted a quote to the Council for consideration which the Council approved. Council additionally agreed that the work would be funded from Special Projects not the allotment monies.

Action: Clerk to raise purchase order and inform tenants when the work will commence.

Use of Hosepipes: Following the Clerk contacting the tenants to advise them of the water surcharge and to offer them the opportunity to continue to be permitted to use hosepipes only four tenants agreed to the terms for continued use of hosepipes at the site. As a result of this the Clerk has informed all tenants that the use of hosepipes is no longer permitted. Invoices have been sent to all tenants for the additional water surcharge.

To date 6 tenants have paid the water surcharge. The invoices for five tenants are still outstanding.

Action: Clerk to chase outstanding payments.

Cow Lane Allotments

Nothing to report.

The Green Allotments

Nothing to report.

Waiting List

Most people on the waiting list would like a plot at The Green or Cow Lane, all sites are currently full.

Cemetery

Two Interments will take place on 15th April and 16th April.

Bridle Path

Nothing to report.

War Memorial

The Council contractor has been asked not to cut the grass bank until the EDaN Beautification Team inform the Clerk it is ready for cutting following the die-back of the flowers.

Bus Shelters

Nothing to report.

Litter Bins, Dog Bins, Car Parks

Streetscene have confirmed that the additional dog waste bin on Cow Lane is due to be installed in April.

Streetlights

Nothing to report.

Website, Facebook and GDPR

Facebook

Posts and discussions have focused on:

- Litter & fly tipping

Website

- The Website Accessibility will be tested on 16th April 2021.
- Covid-19 – the Clerk will update the website accordingly as and when information is received from Buckinghamshire Council.
- In line with guidance a black border has been added to the website and a short statement has been made about the passing of HRH Prince Philip. A link has been provided to Buckingham Palaces Book of Condolence.

GDPR

- No reported breaches

Buckinghamshire Council Devolved Services

The invoice for the Pastures hedge is still outstanding.

Action: Clerk to chase again.

Finance

End of Year/March 2021 Accounts

Council approved the accounts for month ending 31st March which had been circulated to the full Council prior to the meeting.

Cllr Cabbage highlighted that the accounts currently show a higher than anticipated surplus, this is due to the delay in the completion of the New Pavilion and other monies being allocated to Special Projects.

Cllr Wilkinson has once again prepared a simplified version of the accounts, this will be added to the website once the Annual Return is complete.

Action: Clerk to hand all relevant documents to the Internal Auditor for audit.

EMH	£512
Pavilion	£62
Green	£676
Open Spaces	£767
Bucks CC Devolved Services	£1,080
Allotments	£146
Street Lights	£104
Cemetery	£96
Churchyard	£393
Dagnall Recreation Ground	£173
Special Projects	£23,850
Subscriptions	£90
Office Costs	£1,261
Other	£14
Total	£29,224

April Payments

Council agreed the April 2021 payment run.

Sport England Grant

All the invoices etc. have been submitted for this grant. Funds will not be released until Council is able to provide Sport England with a copy of the lease and confirmation that all the works have been completed.

Correspondence

Items circulated to Full Council prior to the meeting:

- Mr. David Horner - Edlesborough Green Teenage Play Area
- Sally Butler - Proposed play area for teens
- OSS - April Update | Your Outdoors | Campaigning Success

AOB

Nothing was raised.

Items for the May EPC Meeting

The meeting closed at 21.55