



EDLESBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes for the Meeting of Edlesborough Parish Council held on 21st July 2022 in Edlesborough Memorial Hall

Open Forum

Mrs Elizabeth Braiden –representing Edlesborough WI

Mrs Braiden gave the Council a brief synopsis of the history of the WI Banner that was previously hung in Edlesborough Memorial Hall. At the end of her presentation she requested that the Council reconsider their decision not to rehang the banner following the redecoration of the hall.

Cllr Wilkinson asked if the banner could go in the Church as it was a historic building.

Mrs Cabbage stated that given the age (90 years plus) that the Church may not be the best place as it may not be warm/dry enough and the banner could become damaged.

Cllr Williams thanked Mrs Braiden for attending, the information and the request and informed her that Council would discuss the matter later in the meeting.

Mrs Braiden thanked the Council for listening and left the meeting.

Mr and Mrs Porter re Swallowfields

Mr and Mrs Porter attended the meeting to ask Buckinghamshire Councillor (BC) Chris Poll to support them in pressing Buckinghamshire Council to take action about the uncontrolled dry grassland at Swallowfields, Edlesborough. They stated that they do not feel it is their responsibility to take this up with the Environmental Health team and that the Council should now be taking this matter seriously as a matter of national risk in the changing climate conditions. They invited Cllr Poll to their home to see the site in person. BC Cllr Chris Poll accepted their invitation to visit the site and stated that he would contact Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire department to raise their concerns on the matter. He explained that their situation was not unique to them in Buckinghamshire. He also stated that as a point of interest Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Department had declared an emergency incident as a result of the extremely high temperatures this week.

Cllr Wilkinson advised Mr and Mrs Porter that in the past he had created a “fire break” at the rear of his property when it was bordered by a similar field.

Cllr Wilkinson explained that the land is privately owned and it would take a change in the law to make the landowners responsible.

Cllr Williams thanked Mr & Mrs Porter for attending closed the Open Forum and formally opened the meeting at 19.45

Present

Cllr Williams, Cllr Cabbage, Cllr Wilkinson, Cllr Nevard, Cllr Booth, Cllr Harpley, Cllr Wells, Cllr Thomas, Buckinghamshire Councillor Chris Poll, Penny Pataky (the Clerk) and three parishioners.

Apologies

Cllr Owen

Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

Minutes

Council agreed the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Edlesborough Parish Council held on 16th June 2022 with no amendments.

Matters Arising

Nothing was raised.

Buckinghamshire Council Report

Buckinghamshire Cllr Chris Poll

Cllr Poll drew the Council's attention to the Community Board Small Grant Funding (Grants up to £1000 are available). More information can be viewed at <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/community-and-safety/improving-your-local-community/apply-community-board-funding/apply-for-community-board-small-grant-funding/>

Parish & Town Charter

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had shared the following information with the Council about the All Councils' Charter;

- New one-sided commitment from Buckinghamshire Council
- Commitment to effective communication and partnership working
- Cabinet decision due on 12 July 2022
- Shared with all town and parish councils and local associations
- Published on Buckinghamshire Council website
- Shared widely across Buckinghamshire Council
- Action Plan developed to implement charter
- Accountable to Communities & Localism Select Committee
- Annual Review

More info on this is available here under agenda point 10 https://buckinghamshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/681953/start_time/172000

Cllr Williams asked BC Cllr Poll about the continued lack of activity from the Wing and Ivinghoe Community Board. He stated that Council was led to believe that there would be more effective communication and partnership between Buckinghamshire Council and Parish. Currently this is not the case. Community Board Meetings are not being scheduled and the most recent Parish Liaison Meeting was cancelled.

BC Cllr Poll expressed his concern at the lack of Community Board activity.

The Clerk informed the Council that she had received a brief report from Katrina Holyoake the Community Board Manager which would be circulated to the full Council. The report can be viewed on the EPC website along with the minutes of this meeting.

Cllr Cabbage proposed that the Council write to the Cabinet Minister, Steve Bowles commending the Wing and Ivinghoe Community Boards good start but expressing frustration at the lack of communication and activity this year.

Action: Clerk and Cllr Williams to draft letter.

Cllr Wilkinson asked Cllr Poll for support in getting Buckinghamshire Council Planning department to properly engage in a meeting regarding the inconsistent interpretation of the wording of policies EP1 and EP8 in the Edlesborough Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Wilkinson explained that he has been trying to arrange a meeting to discuss and finalise the wording to prevent any future misinterpretations since January this year.

Action: Cllrs Wilkinson and Cllr Poll to work together to progress this issue.

BC Cllr Chris Poll and Mr & Mrs Porter left the meeting at this point.

Planning

The following applications were considered and it was agreed to submit the following responses to Buckinghamshire Council Local Planning Authority:

| Application No. | Address | Description | Parish Council Response |
|--|--|--|-------------------------|
| 22/01998/APP 23 rd June 2022 | April Cottage Leighton Road Northall | Two storey rear extension and new fenestration to single storey link | No objections |
| 22/01804/APP 27 th June 2022 | Arkleigh Tring Road Edlesborough | Extend width of existing double garage to create a triple unit comprising two open car ports and a single enclosed garage. Width of existing adjacent building to be reduced such that combined footprint of the two buildings would be unchanged. Increase ridge height of both buildings | No objections |
| 22/02226/COUAR 29 th June 2022 | Deans Poultry Farm South End Lane Northall | Determination as to whether prior approval is required for the conversion of 2 agricultural barns into four dwelling houses | OPPOSE |
| 22/02005/APP 5 th July 2022 | 18 Leighton Road Northall | Sub-division of the existing plot to provide a new detached dwelling including new vehicle access | No objections |

The following decisions had been notified by Buckinghamshire Council Local Planning Authority:

| Application No. | Address | Description | Parish Council Response | LPA Decision |
|---|---|--|--|----------------|
| 20/01973/APP (amended) 6 th August 2021 | Collyers Main Road North Dagnall | Demolition of outbuildings and erection of a detached dwelling with access and entrance gates. | OPPOSE Fails to comply with AVDLP policies | Permitted |
| 21/03895/ACL 1 st October 2021 | Westmead Cow Lane Edlesborough | Certificate of Lawfulness for existing greyhound kennels and associated training facilities. | No objections | Permitted |
| 22/01270/COU AF 22 nd April 2022 | Land at Ivinghoe Way Edlesborough | Change of use of agricultural buildings to B8 storage use | OPPOSE | Deemed consent |
| 22/01732/APP 16 th May 2022 | Hop Cottage Malting Lane Dagnall | Single storey rear extension | No objections Certificate of Lawfulness already issued. | Permitted |
| 22/01743/APP 27 th May 2022 | 1 The Willows Edlesborough | Erection of shed | No objections | Permitted |

Villages

Edlesborough

Taskers Row Trees

BC have confirmed that following a site visit they will be taking no action at this time.

Fallen Tree in Brook Street

A tree has fallen from the garden of 23 Brook Street across the river and onto the island. The island is the responsibility of EBPC. EBPC asked the Clerk to contact the resident to request that they make arrangements to clear the tree as both the river and island must be kept clear. The resident has informed the Clerk that he is seeking quotes for the work to be carried out. The resident is now in contact with the EBPC Clerk.

Dagnall

Residents of Dagnall experienced water issues on 18/07/2022.

Northall

The Clerk has written to the new Amazon Logistics (DL2) near Thorn Road, Houghton Regis about the increase in traffic travelling up and down Eaton Bray Road. This road now forms part of the Satnav route from Tring to the Leighton Buzzard bypass. Concern has been expressed at the speed of many of the vehicles who do not slow down as they enter the residential part of the road.

The letter was copied to EBPC who responded saying they would also contact Amazon as this was raised at their July Council meeting.

The Clerk has asked Transport for Buckinghamshire to install pedestrian warning triangles on Eaton Bray Road to highlight to vehicles that there may be pedestrians in the road.

Increasing EPC Visibility

The Clerk is awaiting updated photos from Councillors for the noticeboard poster.

Action: Cllrs to submit new photos to Clerk by end of August. Poster to be published on noticeboards in September and the October edition of Focus. Photos on website to be updated accordingly.

Cllr Williams and the Clerk will look to holding the first EPC Surgery in September.

Cllr Williams and the Clerk will meet with Paula Ellison about making more use of Social Media.

Projects

Edlesborough Green Children's Play Area

– led by Cllr Mrs Booth

The following response was received from the Planning Inspectorate in response to EPC's latest statement; *"Thank you for your email attaching your further comments on the points raised. Your statement will be sent for information.*

Having considered the application and all the correspondence relating to it we have decided that an Inspector should visit the site before determining the application. You (or your representative) will be invited to attend. If you wish to attend we will ask those who have made representations on your application whether they also wish to attend. The Inspector will not accept any representations on the merits of the application at the site visit, although he/she may ask factual questions to confirm his/her understanding of the physical features of the site.

I will write to you again in due course with details of the arrangements. Once the visit has taken place the Inspector will determine the application and his/her decision will be sent to you in due course."

The Clerk has informed the Planning Inspectorate that representatives of the Council will be present for the site visit.

Action: Clerk to ask Planning Inspectorate for an update on the planned visit.

EMH Redecoration

– led by Cllr Mrs Thomas

Council discussed and agreed to Edlesborough WI's request to re-hang their banner in Edlesborough Memorial Hall. This is subject to the WI providing an agreed suitable description to be hung alongside the banner and to the frame being refurbished.

Cllr Thomas will carry out some research on the history of the hall and prepare a display for the empty inset arched area in the hall.

Action: Cllr Williams and Clerk to liaise with WI about the decision. Cllrs Thomas to research and provide information about the history of the hall for display.

EMH Status

– led by Cllr Wilkinson

Nothing to report.

Re-Wilding

– Led by Cllrs Owen and Wells

Nothing to report.

EPC Small Grant Scheme

– Led by Cllr Harpley

Dagnall Choir have been awarded £500 towards the purchase of a new organ.

The EBE Scout Group have been awarded £500 to improve their grounds. The Scout Group sends their thanks to the Parish Council.

The Council awaits the return of Stage 2 of the application from Dagnall Church for £500 for a bench to be placed in the Church grounds.

EDaN & Traffic Management Team Updates

Traffic Calming & MVAS

Prior to the meeting Cllr Williams had provided a written update on the MVAS Units to the full Council. Two of the MVAS Units are now operational on High Street, Edlesborough. There are a further 11 approved locations across the villages of Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall.

Cllr Cabbage had requested modifications to two of the locations in Northall plus an additional further location. The Clerk confirmed that the BC Local Area Technician had now approved the additional location and proposed modifications provided the required minimum headroom of 2.1 m is achievable and that the side of the sign is at least 450mm from the road edge to avoid possible clashes with mirrors.

Cllr Williams proposed that Council accept Truvelo's quote to install ten poles across the three villages for the MVAS units. The eleventh pole can be installed by the council's own contractor.

Council agreed that the Clerk should request a revised quote for the installation of 12 poles across the Parish, to include the additional post in Northall and the post on the edge of Edlesborough Green.

Action: Clerk to request updated quote and to circulate to Council upon receipt.

South End Lane 20mph

The speed survey on South End Lane has been carried out and Council awaits the results.

FOTCOTH

Prior to the meeting Cllr Williams had provided a report informing the Council that Fiona Everingham from the Bucks and MK Wildlife Site Project had visited the site. She offered advice on removing the mowings from the wildflower bank as well as identifying lots of plants indicative of a healthy chalk grassland. She made three suggestions that the group think are achievable:

- 1) Rake the mowings from the wildflower banks after their autumn trim, to reduce nourishment going into the ground.
- 2) Remove the few small saplings from the banks before they have time to take hold.
- 3) Pay attention to the plants growing along the boundary wall, nettles, ivy, brambles etc.

Fiona also advised the group of three organisations that might be able to help, either with a grant or with manpower.

- 1) Chiltern Rangers www.chilternrangers.co.uk
- 2) God's Little Acre www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk
- 3) Buckinghamshire County Community Board.

The group plan to explore the grants for the very necessary repairs to the wooden steps down from the north porch.

EDaN Beautification Team

Nothing to report.

Parish Amenities

Reports on all Amenities including Buckinghamshire Council Devolved Services.

AED's

Nothing to report.

EMH

The Clerk has asked the contractor to repair the cement around a drain near the planter outside.

SSE wish to install smart meters in the hall – the Clerk will arrange an appointment for this.

A new one hour exercise class is scheduled to start in September.

Green

St Mary's Village Carnival

The Carnival took place and the Council is aware of no issues with the event. The committee are meeting on 27th July to discuss the event and allocate funding.

Residents of The Green who live behind where the EB Lions "Beat the Goalie" stand is sited have requested that this stall is sited elsewhere in the future as their cars are hit repeatedly by footballs throughout the carnival. This request has been passed to the Carnival committee along with a request that the stall is not sited along the allotment hedge to avoid unsuspecting allotment tenants being hit by a football.

Bench Sponsorship

In June relatives of a deceased parishioner requested permission to put a bench on Edlesborough Green in memory of their relative. The Clerk responded with information offering them the opportunity to sponsor an existing bench. To date no response has been received from the family.

There are currently seven unsponsored benches on the Green.

Damaged Bench

The damaged bench between the pavilion and cricket nets has been repaired.

Fly-tipping

The Council contractor removed the bed frame that was fly-tipped on Edlesborough Green at some point between 20th and 21st July.

Sports Clubs

Council agreed to ask ECC to secure the new "sight screen" along the edge of the allotment hedge/behind the cricket nets when not in use.

Play Area

Rocker Elephant

The parts have been delivered this week. MW Agri will carry out the repair shortly.

Swing Seats

The new seat and parts have been received and will be installed shortly.

Rights of Way

The Clerk has communicated with one landowner requesting that they ensure the rights of way across their land are kept cut.

Edlesborough Pavilion

Footpath to join Pavilion path to pavement.

MW Agri will quote for the path but has informed the Clerk that if his quote is successful he will not be able to carry out the work until the autumn.

Allotments

Dagnall Allotments

Council considered and agreed a quote to make safe the deceased trees at Dagnall allotments.

Action: Clerk to raise a purchase order for the work and to inform the warden and neighbouring property.

The Clerk has written to all tenants to ensure taps are turned following one being left running on one site.

Cow Lane Allotments

The one available plot has been offered to a prospective tenant.

The Green Allotments

The gate post had to be reset as the gate was challenging to open. The contractor believes the gate/post had been hit by a vehicle.

Northall Allotments

The plumber has quoted between £600-£1000 to supply and install two extra taps. He would require the trench to be dug and filled in. The Clerk has asked the Council contractor for a quote for digging the trench and is liaising with the site warden about the tenants digging the trench.

The warden has advised the tenants of the trench requirements and is awaiting their response.

The Clerk is seeking a further quote for the tap work.

Cemetery

One burial took place on 19th July.

The damaged cemetery gate is to be replaced in the next few days. The contractor quoted to supply and fit a new wooden gate to the entrance to the cemetery at a cost of £329.00 plus VAT. The Clerk authorised this to ensure security of the cemetery.

A new sign for the gate has been ordered at a cost of £25.

Churchyard

The handyman has been asked to clean and re-stain the benches in the churchyard and cemetery.

Bridle Path

Nothing to report.

War Memorial

Nothing to report.

Bus Shelters

The residents at 1 Eatongate Close have been asked to cut back the foliage that is obstructing the bus stop and ducks crossing signs on Moor End.

Litter Bins, Dog Bins, Car Parks

The blue recycling bin is now installed. Information has been attached to the bin about what it can be used for. Within the first two days the Clerk removed various crisp packets and a broken tennis racket from the bin.

Notices have been attached to all the green bins asking people to consider using the recycling bin.

Information about the bin has been put on Facebook, the website and in Focus reports. The Council hopes users will start to use the bin correctly.

It was noted that since the Council increased the number of times the bins are being emptied there is less litter on the Green.

The handyman has been asked to reinstate the litter bin at the entrance to the Green opposite Kingsmead. The supporting post is broken.

Streetlights

Bellway Homes have still not supplied the required information for the new High Street lights.

Streetlights Energy Costs

The Clerk is monitoring the energy costs.

Website, Facebook and GDPR

Facebook

Posts and discussions have focused on:

- Blue recycling Bin
- MVAS Units
- Melting road surfaces
- Stolen horse box
- Inconsiderate bonfires – the Clerk was contacted by two residents about a bonfire on Cow Lane. He Clerk provided bonfire advice to the residents.
- Carnival road closures
- Weather/Heat related posts, in particular walking dogs
- Lost parcels

Website

- The Website Accessibility was tested on 19th July 2022

GDPR

- No reported breaches

Buckinghamshire Council Devolved Services

Contracts due to be reviewed in September when BC appoints new contractor. Clerks have asked to be consulted on many parts. To date there is no confirmation of monies for the next financial year.

Finance

June 2022 Accounts

The accounts for June 2022 having been circulated to the full council prior to the meeting were approved. A copy of the June payments can be viewed on the Council website.

July Payments

Council agreed the July 2022 payment run.

Annual Return 2021/22

The External Auditor has asked for an explanation of the following:

- Why some boxes are not the same as last year's AGAR – the Clerk responded explaining Council had restated the figures to follow the local government accounting rules which required Council to change from reporting on a Receipts and Payments basis to reporting on an Income and Expenditure basis. This change resulted from our receipts exceeding a threshold of £200k for three consecutive years.
- For an explanation as to why Box 9 has a Variance of over their threshold of £100,000 (£150,354). We were asked to provide a numerical and written explanation to explain this.

The Clerk and Cllr Nevard have responded with information from the fixed assets and explained that the majority of the increase was due to the completion of the new Pavilion.

Budget Implications of Current Inflationary Pressures

The Council reviewed the pressures on budgets as a result of inflation especially energy and fuel costs. At the moment no increases, apart from gas and electric, have had a significant effect on the budget and no other supplier or contractor has sought to pass on any increases. Council will continue to review the situation monthly.

Cllr Cabbage clarified that the streetlight energy usage is calculated on a daily rate that is spread out over the year. The Clerk is trying to secure a better rate for this supply however most companies will not quote due to the supply being unmetered.

Correspondence

Items circulated to Full Council prior to the meeting:

- Response from Mr Haynes re tree at 44 The Pastures.

Items for the September EPC Meeting

- Update on Hedgehog Surrounds

Items for future:

- Parish Paths Maps
- Rialtas Training

The meeting closed at 10pm

Key to abbreviations:

EPC – Edlesborough Parish Council

BC – Buckinghamshire Council

Cllr – Councillor

EBPC – Eaton Bray Parish Council

WI – Women's Institute

ECC – Edlesborough Cricket Club