



EDLESBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 24th May 2022

Cllr Williams formally opened the meeting at 7.35pm

Present

Cllr Williams (chair), Cllr Wilkinson, Cllr Nevard, Cllr Mrs Booth, Cllr Mrs Wells and Cllr Cubbage, Penny Pataky (Clerk), Buckinghamshire Councillors Chris Poll and 16 parishioners.

Apologies

Cllr Mrs Thomas, Cllr Mrs Owen, Cllr Harpley, Buckinghamshire Cllr Peter Brazier, Thames Valley Police.

Welcome

Cllr Alan Williams welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting. He gave a brief introduction, informing all about the history of Parish Meetings and the order of the evening.

Minutes

There were no minutes of a previous meeting to be signed due to no Annual Parish Meeting being held since before the Covid-19 pandemic.

Edlesborough Pavilion Project

Cllr Kevin Cubbage gave a presentation on the biggest project Edlesborough Parish Council had ever embarked upon, the building of Edlesborough Pavilion.

Parishioners Questions

No questions were raised on this project.

Edlesborough Play Area Project

Cllr Rosie Booth gave a presentation on the Edlesborough Play Area Project.

Parishioners Questions

No questions were raised on this project.

Neighbourhood Plan and Buckinghamshire Plan

Cllr John Wilkinson gave a presentation on the Edlesborough Neighbourhood Plan and the Buckinghamshire Plan.

Parishioners Questions

- *Is the Neighbourhood plan was a waste of time?*

Cllr Wilkinson responded that the Plan was not a waste of time, it had in fact given the Parish protection against additional speculative development, prevented the Swallowfields application from being approved and gave the Parish opportunities for specifying policies on development in the Parish.

- *Does the Neighbourhood Plan focus on preventing development opposed to improving the Parish?*

Cllr Wikinson explained that the new houses in Edlesborough had in fact brought S106 monies and a New Homes Bonus Grant to the village which have been used for building of the new Edlesborough Pavilion. Additionally the village has gained a new Open Space at the High Street development, a zebra crossing and a layby on the High Street.

S106 monies from the Slicketts Lane and Land at end of Good Intent developments are earmarked to pay off the PWLB loan that EPC took out to complete the Pavilion.

- *Does the Neighbourhood Plan prevent specific things such as affordable housing, particularly for teachers, NHS workers etc.? Affordable meaning rented or Housing Association Homes.*

Cllr Wilkinson responded stating that the former Aylesbury Vale had a big a stock of "Council Houses," these were given to the Aylesbury Vale Housing Association to manage. He further explained that "Affordable Housing" is a central Government policy not a Neighbourhood Plan issue.

The Neighbourhood Plan must conform to the local plan, VALP, which in turn must conform to the Governments Policy and Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan focuses on the specific details such as the settlement boundaries, parking provision, road and pavement widths, etc.

The Edlesborough Neighbourhood Plan should undergo its five year review shortly. If there are minor changes to wording this can be carried out without going through the consultation and referendum process. If material changes are needed the Council would need to embark on the consultation process and a referendum.

Cllr Wilkinson is currently working with the Planners at Buckinghamshire Council ensuring that there is consistency in their understanding of Policies EP1 and EP8 in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Traffic Calming

Cllr Alan Williams gave a presentation on the Traffic Calming measures Edlesborough Parish Council is currently undertaking.

He displayed one of the three MVAS devices that the Council has recently purchased and informed everyone that these would shortly be deployed throughout the three villages. He explained that Buckinghamshire Council focuses on educating drivers not punishing them. The MVAS devices collect all sorts of data about the traffic and this can be used to inform decisions about traffic calming.

Parishioners Questions

- *Have any other traffic calming measures such as speed bumps and 20mph limits been considered.*

At this time the focus has been on purchasing the MVAS units. Once these are up and running the attention will turn to resuming the Speedwatch activities.

Edlesborough Parish Council is currently trialling Buckinghamshire Council's new policy/process for the introduction of 20mph limits on one of the roads in Northall. Cllr Williams informed everyone that Thames Valley Police are not interested in enforcing 20mph limits.

Friends of the Church on the Hill, Edlesborough (FOTCOTHE)

Mr Wyn Johns thanked the Parish Council for providing the management of the grass at the churchyard. This allows the FOTCOTHE volunteers time to focus on weeding, tidying graves and looking after the headstones. Over the last 18 months the group have focussed on improving the site lines to the building from the road. They have created wildlife habitats. The wildflower bank is now protected and the group are working towards getting it recognised as a wildlife site.

Before the Covid-19 pandemic The Churches Conservation Trust (The CTT) had devolved the responsibility of looking after the Church and its grounds to the local community. This has in turn affected the group's finances. The group continue to work hard to raise funds to restore the broken stained glass window in the tower. The delays in The CCT getting the stained glass window fixed meant that The CCT lost their grant for this work and now this repair must be funded entirely by local fundraising. FOTCOTHE are in contact with a restoration company and the most recent estimate for the repair is between £5-7 thousand, plus scaffolding and legal costs. The FOTCOTHE currently have approximately £2,000 towards the project.

EdleFest will once again take place in June, this has been cancelled in the past two years due to the Covid-19 pandemic. FOTCOTHE is lucky in that the artists have not raised their fees for this year, but they are expecting an increase for future events. This is a big fund raising event for the group as well as a wonderful event for the Parish. Funds are also raised through the selling of Christmas cards.

ECSC

Mr Ken Holloway gave a presentation on how the ECSC operates and the running of Edlesborough Pavilion. A copy of the presentation can be viewed on the EPC website.

EDaN Beautification Team

Mrs Lorna Cabbage spoke on behalf of the Beatification Team. She explained that through past activities such as car boot sales, fire walking, May Day events they had successfully raised funds for the purchase of the village signs and planters and to floodlight the church. They also continue raise funds through allowing companies to sponsor the village planters.

The Group carry out activities such as litter picking, yarn bombing, decorating Edlesborough Memorial Hall Christmas lights, decorating Christmas Trees in Edlesborough and Northall. The groups recent activities include supplying two benches for under the balcony at Edlesborough Pavilion. Planting three cherry trees on Edlesborough Green for the Jubilee and one in Northall in memory of Katherine Parker an active member of the group who has sadly passed away.

Mrs Cabbage shared pictures (these can be viewed on the EPC website) of the group's activities including the huge pile of black sacks containing some of the enormous amount of litter the volunteers have cleared from Edlesborough and Northall. She explained that parishioners in Dagnall organise their own litter picking activities.

Unfortunately the group is depleted in numbers and would welcome anyone new wishing to join them in their activities. They welcome new members and new ideas.

Buckinghamshire Cllr Chris Poll

Cllr Poll explained that he was initially elected 11 years ago as an AVDC Councillor, under the new unitary authority he is now a Buckinghamshire Councillor.

He commended the enormous amount of work carried out by Edlesborough Parish Council, The Pavilion Team, EDaN and the FOTCOTH. He invited everyone to join in a round of applause for all the hard work that goes on in the Parish.

Any other Business

Cllr Williams invited anyone else who wished to speak to come forward.

There being no other matters raised he went on to recognise and thank everyone in the Parish who do their bit for the community. He stated that it is not just the Parish Council who work hard and have ideas for the Parish.

He reminded everyone about the newly launched Edlesborough Parish Council Small Grant Scheme. He explained how the hope is that those who benefit from the scheme will come to future Annual Parish Meetings and share how the Grant has benefitted their group and the community.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

Copies of all of the above presentations can be viewed on the Edlesborough Parish Council website.