

Edlesborough Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 19th July 2012

Minutes of the meeting of the Edlesborough Parish Council held on Thursday 19th July 2012 at Edlesborough Memorial Hall commencing at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr Cabbage Cllr Wilkinson, Cllr Williams. Cllr Wilson, Cllr Holt, Cllr Nevard, Cllr Mrs Prys-Jones, Cllr Mrs Ratheram, PCSO Jackie Dodson, PCSO Christina Pringle, Clerk-Lin Sargeant, District Cllr Chris Poll and 2 parishioners

Apologies: None

Declarations of Interest – None declared

Open Forum

PCSO Jackie Dodson introduced PCSO Christina Pringle who had taken over from PCSO Christine Baker and was pleased to report that the white line at the top of the High Street and Junction with the A4146 has been installed and the Police will be closely monitoring the parking of cars in the area. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to BCC thanking them for providing the white line. It was also agreed that the Clerk should write to Aylesbury Vale Housing Trust seeking their help in endeavouring to try and get 'off'-street' parking in the fronts of gardens along the A4146 at Church End.

Council agreed to nominate PCSO Jackie Dodson for a Police award.

Minutes of Meeting held on 21st June 2012

Signed as a correct record.

Matters Arising from the previous Minutes

Cllr Holt reported that agreement had been reached for the Luton Airport Monitoring unit to be positioned at Dagnall in September.

Cllr Williams reported on the LAF Delegated Budget spend for 2012/13. Council to raise the question of how many votes Edlesborough were still entitled to at the next LAF meeting.

Finance Reports:

Accounts for the month ended 30th June 2012 were presented. Explanations were given for additional lines having been added to the income categories.

The 2011/12 internal audit has been carried out and the Annual Return is currently with the External Auditors. .

Authorisation of cheques (July including VAT)

The following cheques had been authorised for payment:

Administration & Office expenses (incl: telephone) 52.65

Memorial Hall/Pavilion expenses (incl.) 324.50

Salaries (including PAYE/NIC) 1,315.19

Cemetery expenses 301.30

Churchyard expenses 560.00

The Green expenses (Grass and hedge cutting incl. allotments) 2,583.60

Dagnall Recreation Field grass cutting 360.00

War Memorial & notice board maintenance 82.50

Internal Audit fee 540.00

Northall Village Hall expenses (taken from annual donation) 385.15

Dagnall allotments – repairing and refixing gate 201.89

EDaN – Hire of Toilet for Concert 192.00

£6,898.78

County Councillor's Report (Cllr Avril Davies)

Transport to Cottesloe School

My faith in Bucks County Council hit another low point when, after not only introducing charges for school transport, they failed to apply the policy correctly causing unnecessary additional stress, anxiety and confusion for parents affected.

Having previously negotiated with the cabinet member that, despite the consultation implying Bedfordshire schools would have to be considered 'nearest school', they would not be included when the County came to apply the policy. Instead they went ahead with Tring School as the nearest school to pupils living in not only in Dagnall, Edlesborough, Northall, but also Cheddington, Slapton, Ivinghoe, Pitstone and Marsworth, and therefore the only school to which free transport would be provided.

Letters were sent out to all pupils attending or about to attend the Cottesloe School that, as not the nearest school, payment would be required before being allocated a seat on a bus. After many emails and telephone conversations between myself, the lead officer, and the cabinet member, this was eventually rectified and the letters were reissued with the Cottesloe correctly identified as the nearest school for all villages except Pitstone where Tring is officially still the nearest school attended by 60% of secondary school children. However, when Tring is full, free transport to Cottesloe should be provided. I have been told that a straightforward appeal on the grounds that there was no place at Tring School, should secure free transport to the Cottesloe for those already going there, or going in September. If this has not been happening I need to know as this is a bit of a 'grey' area.

This leaves three matters still unresolved.

Pupils selected for the grammar schools under the Bucks system are having to pay. Not as much as proposed last year, but payment none the less, which as Buckinghamshire has a selective school policy cannot be just.

Worse still, pupils eligible for means tested financial assistance are not eligible for help with travel costs as the Aylesbury grammar schools are more than 6 miles away. This is one of the national regulations and I am appealing in every case for the cabinet member to apply natural justice to those in rural areas subject to the Bucks school system. In the worst case scenario pupils are having to contemplate leaving a school they were selected for by Bucks in mid career because the fares are unaffordable.

Finally charges for sixth form travel remain from between £600 to £900 per pupil per annum to any school, Wing, Tring or Aylesbury. This is a double blow after the removal of the government Educational Maintenance Allowance which helped pupils from families with low incomes. That is an area I continue to challenge as in my opinion I do not believe the charging policy, which subsidises other school travel, is legally based.

Speeding - vehicle activated signs

Reducing Speeding traffic remains a top priority as expressed through the Local Area Forum. I am hoping that by using the budget allocated to the Forum at least three, possibly six, vehicle activated speed signs can be installed in designated danger spots across wider area without too much delay from the technical people. The scheme is that at least three solar powered anchor points are installed and the sign can then be attached to any one of them at a time. This has the benefit of sharing costs, and increasing effectiveness of the sign by being temporary rather than permanent.

Three schemes for specific sites submitted to the priorities budget have been re-allocated to the speeding sub group budget and I have high hopes that something effective is about to happen at last, and that it has been worthwhile waiting for the technology to arrive.

Footpaths and other LAF priorities

This week the sub group delegated by the whole forum met to decide the bids put forward from all parishes for the priorities budget of about £25,000. Two schemes met with the groups agreement. Footpath improvement to Brookmead school in Ivinghoe, and continuation of the Aston Abbots footway to the bus stop on the A418. The costing of some projects was universally challenged, and the lack of feasibility studies made others difficult to consider. Other means of achieving some of the very expensive projects were considered and will be followed through. The group, on behalf of the Forum, thought that it would be

better if the schemes were more complete and worked up by parishes before submission for the fund, even if that involved in some cases bidding for funding for proper feasibility studies. No one would submit a scheme for a share of a £25,000 budget for example if they knew it would cost £250,000. on the other hand, without a feasibility study, the true cost of the scheme cannot be assessed either.

Energy from Waste at Calvert and other developments

My County group and the all political parties on Aylesbury Vale District Council continue to oppose the County Council plans to build and hand over to a private company an incinerator at Calvert far too big for the waste requirements of Bucks, while new incinerators that could be used are being built just over the borders in Bedfordshire and Oxfordshire. Bucks originally chose the Bedfordshire option. It is being challenged on the business case and need, and on how the decision has actually been taken. Groups opposing this say that the final cost will be over £600M

Developers have taken advantage of the sweeping away of planning laws by the government to press forward speculative plans for major developments all around Aylesbury mainly on the grounds that because of the collapse of the planning system, Aylesbury Vale does not have a five year housing land supply. As a district councillor I am involved in decision making on all of these as well as those already agreed in principle at Berryfields and Weedon Hill and am continually dismayed at the low standards of energy efficiency proposed in construction methods, heat and power provision and property design compared to developments in other parts of the country.

The council is required to judge these applications on individual 'merit' regardless of the effect on the town or area as a whole, which cannot be fully judged until a fully consulted plan is in existence. A large development east of Aylesbury of 2,500 houses in three phases has been agreed in principle, but still rests with the Secretary of State, but there are still two major developments under consideration of 3,000 homes each at Bedgrove/Stoke Mandeville/ Weston Turville and Fleet Marston, near Waddesdon.

The County Council is involved in assessing the traffic impact and mitigating measures needed. In the East of Aylesbury it is possible to build relief roads and improve the Tring Road junctions which is already under way as part of the Arla dairy scheme. On the A41 through Waddesdon however traffic impact techniques are very rough and ready, and solutions to traffic congestion hard to design or implement.

District Councillor's Report (Cllr Chris Poll)

My report this month starts with news that from August this year residents will be able to pay any bills to AVDC by the pay point system. This means that post offices will have facilities in place to allow direct payments for council tax and other services. The new refuse bins will be delivered to all houses in Edlesborough parish in the coming weeks. A leaflet is contained within explaining the new system but please DO NOT USE YOUR NEW BINS UNTIL SEPTEMBER 4TH. Brown garden refuse bins will be delivered sometime in September to those that have paid. If you would like to take up the garden refuse collection service then please call AVDC contract services on 01296 585926. The cost is £36 for the year.

I asked a question in the full council meeting regarding the local plan which your parish council may wish to develop. This plan would, after referendum, guide any future development in the parish. Although it must not be in conflict with the Vale wide plan. The fact of the matter is that future housing growth will happen primarily in the larger towns such as Aylesbury and Buckingham. Plans for smaller settlements are to the level of the last 20 years so would only mean infill housing rather than extending village boundaries. Any plan made by Edlesborough can ask for more but not less housing than the Vale wide plan proposes. However within the plan Edlesborough parish could determine community facilities it wishes to protect. Of course all communities wish to retain shops, clubs, post offices and such like so my question to council asked for the presumption that all communities would by default wish to retain these. This proposal if adopted could save parishes tens of thousands of pounds, as most are in agreement with the housing numbers being suggested and would

therefore negate the need for their own very expensive plan. I have gained support from many colleagues of all political parties and have been invited to sit on the panel which will formulate this part of the plan in January next year.

Finally I will be in attendance at the village open day to be held at Edlesborough school on the 15th September from 10.00am until 1.00pm and hope to see many of you there.

Code of Conduct

County, Town and Parish Councils are to adopt a new Code of Conduct which takes effect from 1st July 2012. Recommended model Codes have been received from NALC and AVDC. Cllr Nevard kindly agreed to review these models and to draft a new Code of Practice for the Parish Council.

Planning

The following applications had been received, were discussed by the meeting and the following responses were agreed to be submitted to AVDC

12/01178/APP 23rd May 2012	Southend Farmhouse South End Lane Northall	Demolition of existing attached garage and utility and erection of two storey side extension and replacement one chimney	No Objections	.
12/01251/APP 6th June 2012	Land adjoining 3 & 4 Leighton Road Northall	Erection of two storey detached dwelling with associated garaging	No Objections	.

12/01336/APP 14th June 2012	Land fronting A4146 Main Road North Dagnall	Erection of single below ground dwelling and detached ancillary building with access	The view of the Parish Council is that it is not sufficiently qualified to decide whether or not the scheme is sufficiently innovative to warrant being an exception to the usual presumption that residential development in the green belt should not be allowed. It is therefore prepared to leave that decision to the Local Planning Authority but with the following provisoes if the officers are minded to approve the application. 1. That the site must retain its current green belt designation and not be downgraded as a consequence of this development being permitted. 2. That permitted development rights are removed to avoid any subsequent above ground construction of ancillary structures such as garages, summer houses, sheds etc. 3. That the plans are modified to identify a vehicle turning area to ensure that vehicles can enter and leave the site in a forward gear. There is clearly adequate space to enable this to be achieved so it should not be a problem, but it needs to be identified to ensure that it is incorporated in the final implementation of the scheme.
12/01395/APP 21st June 2012	18 South End Lane Northall	Side conservatory and covered verandah	No objections
11/01315/APP 12th July 2012	Scout Hall 71 High Street, Edlesborough	Single storey front extension and access steps and ramp MINOR AMENDED PLANS	No further comments
12/01361/APP 19th June 2012	Coracles Studham Lane Dagnall	Demolition of existing rear dormers and replacement dormer window	.
12/01493/APP 4th July 2012	Chasselas South End Lane Northall	Demolition of existing bungalow and garage. Replacement with a new two storey dwelling	.

12/01494/APP 4th July 2012	Chasselas South End Lane Northall	Demolition of part of existing bungalow and garage. Erection of two storey extension and conversion of existing loft space	.	.
12/01530/APP 10th July 2012	20 Pebblemoor Edlesborough	Erection of single storey outbuilding (retrospective)	Object	.

There had been no decisions received from AVDC

Application No. 12/00805/APP The Golden Rule Public House

Additional comments have been sent to AVDC and this application is now going before the Development Control Committee. District Cllr Chris Poll will attend the meeting.

EDaN Report

EDaN are considering reserving the Green on Sunday 5th May 2013 for a May Fayre.

Friends of the Church on the Hill Edlesborough

The two recent choir concerts had been successful. There are additional keyholders and a person has agreed to go on a specialist cleaning course.

Karen Fishwick is the new Volunteer Officer for the Churches Conservation Trust who will be following up on the subject of lighting.

Edlesborough Area Open Day, Edlesborough School – 15th September 2012

It was agreed that the Parish would have a stall at this event. Cllr Mrs Prys-Jones and the Clerk volunteered to prepare and run the stall.

The Villages

The Council were delighted to announce that Edlesborough has this year won the DeFraine Cup in the Best Kept Village competition run by Buckinghamshire Association of Local Councils. This will be presented on 8th September by the Vice Lord Lieutenant Alexander Boswell. Clerk was requested to write to Christine Yates to thank her and the Beautification Team of EDaN for their contribution towards winning the award and to invite her to accept the award on behalf of the Parish

Dagnall: Cllr Holt informed the meeting that a Public Consultation will be held in October regarding the opening up of Gaddesden Walk

Dagnall: Parishioner has requested that pot holes etc. in Malting Lane be repaired. Clerk to ascertain from Bucks CC as to whether or not this road has been adopted.

Traffic Calming

Both VAS signs are now working in Dagnall

Clerk to chase up Bucks CC regarding the painting of road roundels and the removal of redundant posts etc. following the implementation of the speed limit review.

Clerk to reply to Bucks CC saying how very disappointed the Parish Council were with the response given regarding extension of the 40mph speed limit from Edlesborough to the Travellers Rest.

New litter bin stickers to be ordered for the new additional recycling bins.

Correspondence:

Bucks CC – Schools being encouraged to 'Go for Gold' by walking or cycling to school.

Bucks CC – 2 friends fined total of £2,430 for illegally dumping rubbish in lay-by off A413 near Winslow

Flight Protection Team, Luton Airport – Luton Airport Anti Terrorism Strategy. Stage 3 involves liaising with communities in and around Luton Airport who are best placed to report any suspicious behaviour or unusual activity. Team are in the process of visiting parishes within the specified area and would welcome the opportunity to discuss the project with the Parish Council. Overall presentation time will take 15-20mins.

Thames Valley Police – Community Policing Awards nominations required.

Items put on Councillors Table)

Eaton Bray Parish Council draft minutes of Annual General Meeting.

General Purpose Committee Report

Copies of the draft Minutes had been circulated and were approved.

Letter to be sent to Under 5's.

Employment issues

An official advertisement has been incorporated into Clerk's Report for the August/September issue of Focus seeking an Assistant Clerk.

Items for the Agenda for the Parish Council meeting to be held on 20th September 2012

Code of Conduct

The meeting closed at 10.05pm

NEXT MEETING THURSDAY 20th September 2012 commencing 7.30pm at Edlesborough Memorial Hall

FOLLOWING MEETING ON THURSDAY 18th October to be held at Northall Village Hall commencing 7.30pm

