

# **Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Edlesborough Parish Council held on Thursday 18 September 2003 at 8pm at the Edlesborough Memorial Hall.**

## **Present**

Mrs Thompson (Chairman), Mr Wilkinson (Vice Chairman), Mr Spencer, Mr Cabbage, Mr Atherton, Mrs Prys-Jones, Mrs Ratheram, Mr Brown, Mrs Kerr (The Clerk) and 4 parishioners.

## **Apologies**

Mr Munday, Mrs P Hannelly, Mrs Avril Davies.

## **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meetings on the 19 June and 17 July were agreed and signed with the following amendment: In the minutes for the 19 June 2003 on page 2, under heading Northall, 40mph signs, re-position, the second paragraph which starts "It was proposed by Councillor Cabbage . . . was pasted" should be deleted.

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

None.

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

### Lights Out

The Clerk was given details of a light out at Eaton Bray Road and a light out on the Leighton Road, Northall, beyond the old notice board and Bake House. The Clerk has a list of other lights and will be contacting the contractor in the next couple of days.

### Cost and timescale of repair of lights

It was agreed the Clerk would investigate the cost, timescale of repair and maintenance of lights.

### Fly tipping, litter, dumping of rubbish

Kevin Cabbage had provided a note for the Parish Council. He stated that the meeting with the Clerk and George Dugiud, the Litter Enforcement Officer from BCC, was very useful but Parish Council did feel that he was probably inundated with work because he is the only Litter Enforcement Officer in the Aylesbury Vale District Council. The Clerk reported that he had responded to some of the points raised and the Clerk was chasing him on the remainder of the points. The Clerk said that she was still preparing the report as to the litter bins, dog fouling bins, and large Euro bins for all the villages. It was agreed that this matter would be carried forward to the next meeting.

### Road repairs to report

Pebblemoor sign needed replacing.

### Footpaths/PPP – Footpath 15

Nothing further received. It was agreed the Clerk would monitor the position.

-

-

### Footpath Number 3 – Installation of kissing gate

This footpath starts/ends where Northall Road and Eaton Bray Road meet (Eaton Bridge) on the Edlesborough side of the road. Buckinghamshire County Council had written to the Parish Council asking if they had any objection to the placing of a kissing gate to prevent unauthorised vehicles, especially motorcycles, using it. The Clerk had informed BCC that the Parish Council did not have a meeting until September. BCC had responded by saying that they re installing the kissing gate as a matter of urgency. The Clerk was asked to write to BCC and thank them for installing the gate so promptly when it was required but ask if BCC could fill in the sides to the kissing gate as these were left open and it was still possible to get vehicles through onto the land.

### Countryside Act

Mr Wilkinson produced maps of each village and stated his concern as the allotments are marked as common land therefore anybody may have the right to walk onto the allotments. A discussion took place as to the effect this would have. The Clerk had been speaking to CPRE and was awaiting their response to the question whether allotments were included in the Rights of Way and the Act and was now to ask a second question whether this was affecting other allotments which were registered as common land in other parts of the country.

Various Councillors made the point that a lot of allotments have a public footpath through them and that there should be no bar to people walking round the allotments provided they didn't damage them. David Brown noted that on the gates of the green allotments there was a sign saying "Allotment holders only" and it was agreed that this sign should be taken down. The Clerk to action.

### Overhanging Willow on the corner of Eaton Gate Close and Moor End

A parishioner had asked if the Parish Council would ask the owner of the overhanging Willow if it could be cut back in order that people could use the pavement. The Councillors had visited the overhanging Willow and agreed with the parishioner. It was agreed the Clerk would write to BCC and ask them to contact the owners of the tree and ask them to cut it back.

The Chairman asked if at the same time the Clerk could speak to BCC about the overhanging trees on Dunstable Road and if they could be cut back to the edge of the pavement.

### Ash Tree outside 3 Pebblemoor

The parishioner who lived at number 3 Pebblemoor had asked if the Ash tree could be removed. BCC had written to the Parish Council enclosing the parishioner's letter and a report which stated the tree was healthy. The Councillors discussed the matter in some depth and it was agreed that the Parish Council should ask BCC to remove the tree as it was a potential health and safety hazard. The roots had raised the pavement and this was being used as a skateboard ramp by children and also people were tripping over it. Also the tree appeared to be causing damage to the parishioner's garden. It was agreed that the Parish Council should ask for a small tree to be planted in its place but further towards the road or nearby.

### Ash Tree outside 2 Moor End Close

The parishioner who lived at number 2 Moor End Close had telephoned the Clerk because he had written to BCC about an Ash Tree outside his house that he felt should be removed as it was damaging his garden. The Clerk understood that BCC were awaiting a report and then would make a decision. There was a discussion and it was stated that concrete slabs were being lifted. It was proposed by Mr Wilkinson that BCC be asked to remove the Ash tree. This was seconded by David Brown. There were two votes in favour and one vote against (the Chairman). The proposal that the tree should be removed and again the Parish Council should ask for a replacement tree nearby or within the village was passed.

### SID

The Clerk was chasing BCC for some more dates which would possibly be in January/ February next year.

### Dagnall traffic calming gates/dragon's teeth/roundels

The gates have now been put up at Dagnall. The dragon's teeth and marker count down signs should be in position fairly soon. BCC had also stated that they would be highlighting the bay area where cars park opposite the Golden Rule pub. The project may also include roundels for free. However BCC were still discussing this.

### Northall traffic calming

It was reported that John Atherton, Kevin Cubbage, the Clerk and two parishioners, plus a further two had joined en route to look at the traffic calming ideas for the Leighton Buzzard end of Northall. The Clerk was preparing a report. The Clerk had found out that roundels were available at £150 to go alongside the speed limit signs and understood that if BCC agree to them being placed they can be placed fairly promptly. After some discussion John Atherton proposed, and Julie Ratheram seconded, that Northall, Dagnall and Edlesborough should have roundels. The Clerk to contact BCC as to the installation of these.

### Edlesborough traffic calming

A parishioner had raised directly with BCC whether the 30 mph signs on the hill could be moved to better positions and roundels made available. It was agreed that the Parish Council would support this measure and therefore Edlesborough had been included in the roundels proposal by John Atherton.

### New dynamic speed indicator and gates

The dynamic warning light is back and working and BCC are monitoring it. The gates are still being repaired and it is not expected that these will be returned in the near future.

### Aylesbury Vale Local Committee Report

John Wilkinson had attended the local committee in July but had been unable to attend the meeting in July and was therefore reporting now. He raised the following six points:

1. Aylesbury Vale growth planning. There was a South East Regional Authority Report which set out the amount of housing in Milton Keynes and Aylesbury. It had no direct impact on Edlesborough, Dagnall or Northall.
2. At the meeting a member had stated there were areas in the Chilterns where Broadband, produced by BT, could not be obtained and therefore a new Broadband system was being set up.
3. Mark Oldfield, the Safer Roads Officer, had stated that the county was setting up details of accident hot spots and listing casualties.
4. Aylesbury Vale were setting up local priority schemes with a view to Parish Councils being given funding and Aylesbury Vale matching that funding.
5. Steve Orchard, from BCC Highways Department, stated that the control of parking areas was being taken over by Aylesbury Vale District Council and not by Thames Valley Police. As the Clerk was to speak to Nick Cummings on this point she would check the situation.
6. The next meeting of the Aylesbury Vale Local Committee was Thursday 16 October, the same date as the Parish Council Meeting, therefore John Wilkinson would not be attending the Aylesbury Vale Local Committee meeting.

## Rural issues in the North Chilterns Consultation

JMP Consultants had produced a report following a meeting in Ivinghoe earlier in the summer. This had useful information and ideas on traffic calming. The Clerk and Mr Spencer to check and see if the points they raised had been dealt with. The next stage was for the Consultation to be with the public. The Clerk noted that the Consultation Paper only included Dagnall as it was in the Chilterns Area of Natural Outstanding Beauty.

### Stoke Hammond-Linslade Bypass

The Clerk had received rebuttal evidence from BCC and the Parish Council were awaiting the outcome of the enquiry.

### Tennis Club - Floodlighting

At this point Mr Carlisle from the Tennis Club arrived as it had been agreed that he would speak to the Parish Council at 9.00 pm on the issue of the new floodlights for the Tennis Club. David Brown declared an interest as he is a member of the Tennis Club and the Treasurer.

Mr Carlisle stated that he had already provided the Council with a letter and provided the Council with a brochure from RLS. He explained the floodlighting was being upgraded and the light spill across the green would be less than the current system. He emphasised that the same posts would be used and there would be very little light spill outside the court. He stated that they hoped the maintenance costs would decrease. The system had been agreed by the Lawn Tennis Association, the Sports Council and AVDC Planning had agreed to the floodlighting, but a planning application was not required, and a grant from Aylesbury Vale was imminent. John Wilkinson asked for an undertaking or guarantee that if the lights cause a nuisance the Tennis Club would resolve any problems. Mr Carlisle said he didn't anticipate any problems but yes he would agree to give that guarantee/undertaking. There was a vote with John Atherton proposing agreement to the floodlights being put in place, Marilyn Prys-Jones seconded the proposal. All in favour.

The Parish Council returned to the agenda.

### Pebblemoor 30mph signs, re-position and more 30mph signs

Over the past months Councillors have requested that Pebblemoor should be considered in the traffic calming measures. The Clerk suggested that in the near future she carry out a similar exercise to that which had been done in Northall in that she would meet with Councillors and parishioners to discuss traffic calming measures that were required from which she would prepare a report with the idea of building up evidence for the 2005/6 Review. It was agreed that the Clerk would meet with Edlesborough Councillors in November and Dagnall Councillors in December. It was suggested that the Parish Council ask if it would be possible to narrow the road coming into Pebblemoor so that cars had to slow down with chicanes

### Taskers Row – vehicles on the pavement

The persons placing vehicles on the pavement had left and therefore there were no problems at present and the Parish Council should monitor the position.

### Parking outside the shops on Edlesborough High Street

The Clerk was to discuss this with Nick Cummings. However following John Wilkinson's earlier report with the Aylesbury Vale Local Committee the Clerk would also check with Aylesbury Vale whether they were now dealing with parking.

## **Projects**

### EPC Website

Kevin Cabbage provided a note for the Council stating that after many hours of work he had rectified the problems. This left 13 points where the Clerk and some Councillors needed to take action to provide Kevin with further information.

It was unanimously agreed that the Clerk could purchase Front Page 2000 for the computer. It was estimated the cost would be £140. It was also agreed that the Parish Council would review the Website to ensure it was meeting our obligations under the "Freedom of Information Act". It was also proposed that moves would be made to resolve the problems with some Councillors receiving attachments and that Councillors would arrange for our ISP (Internet Service Provider) to "point" e-mails from each Councillor's Edlesborough.gov.uk e-mail address to their personal e-mail addresses. Mrs Ratheram stated that she did not wish to have an e-mail address or receive e-mails.

Kevin Cabbage stated the plan was for the Clerk to take over the inputting of information onto the Website. The Clerk to arrange to forward to Kevin Cabbage the 11 documents requested.

## **The Villages**

### **Focus**

The report for October is Funding and Grants and more details will be available on the Website.

### **PEC Strategic Review/Five Year Plan**

We were awaiting paperwork from the Countryside Commission. Kevin Cabbage had been in touch with Buckinghamshire Community Action who offered a service whereby they helped parishes wishing to set up five year plans.

### **St Mary's Village Carnival 2003/4**

The Parish Council had received a letter of thanks from the committee for all their help over the year and asked if they could use the Green Memorial Hall and Pavilion the following year. It was unanimously agreed that the Carnival Committee could have the use of these facilities.

### **Taskers Row, vandalism and smells**

There had been two incidents of stolen cars. The Clerk had been contacted by a parishioner who would like the Parish Council to see if there is anything they can do to help, for example by asking the Police to patrol more frequently and see if there are any deterrents. A parishioner who had attended the meeting also noted that she would like us to ask the Police for more patrols and it would be sensible if the Police attended at the times when there have been incidents before. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the Police and ask if they could patrol the villages more frequently and patrol the villages at times when there were known problems. The Clerk would supply the Police with these details.

The Chairman suggested that any parishioner or Councillor who heard any noise or was aware of any problems should ring the Police immediately so that a file of information would be built up concerning the village. The parishioner stated that the Police had suggested the same thing. It was noted that the Wing telephone number is rarely answered and if you ring Aylesbury you may get put through to Kidlington or somewhere else who do not even know where Edlesborough is.

The Chairman stated that Aylesbury Vale District Council had taken measures internally to protect the tenants in Taskers Row. It was agreed that David Brown and Marilyn Prys-Jones would attend at a Taskers Row coffee morning one Tuesday to discuss with the parishioners their problems and fears generally. It was agreed that we would also ask Nick Cummings, the Policeman, to attend.

It was also unanimously agreed that the Clerk would ask the Police to provide her with costings for the items they had suggested to help with security to see if these were feasible. Obviously for reasons of security these cannot be listed in the minutes.

The Clerk reported that the smells from muck-spreading appeared to have gone away and therefore there was no further action at present.

### Proposed Pavilion Extension

Previously the Cricket Club had asked if they could put a storage area onto the end of the Pavilion. David Brown had suggested the sports clubs get together and consider a possibly larger extension incorporating the wishes of all the various sports clubs. The Parish Council unanimously agreed that David Brown should set up a working party and prepare a report as to the good points and practical problems. The Councillors would like it noted that David Brown will set up the working party initially. However the matter would have to be reviewed in future to see if there was any conflict of interest as David is a member of the Tennis Club and is also a Councillor.

### Footpath link in Dagnall and Edlesborough

Mr Spencer reported to the Parish Council his proposal for an extension to a footpath in Dagnall. The footpath at present finishes at number 49 Main Road North and needs extending for another 100 yards to join with footpath number 16 at Hog Hall Lane. It was discussed whether this should be a pavement or a footpath. It was agreed that the Parish Council should request BCC to provide us with a pavement.

Mr Spencer also suggested that from Dagnall towards Edlesborough there is a wide grass verge but this becomes too narrow and uneven. It was suggested that this should be levelled to provide a footpath from Dagnall to footpath 13 which goes up over Gallows Hills and onto Ivinghoe Beacon and improves the walkway from Dagnall to Edlesborough. The Councillors considered this and suggested that maybe we should ask for a pavement/cycleway instead and then we may gain more support at the present time bearing in mind the safety to school routes initiative. It was agreed the Clerk would liaise with Geoff Spencer and write to BCC.

### Chiltern Avenue

Nothing further to report.

### Rest Harrow

The Clerk had reported the further smells to the Environmental Health Officer. He had contacted the Clerk stating that he had seen the people and they were discharging sewage into the ditch and they had been requested to stop. The Clerk had again informed the Environmental Health Officer that this was continuing and had not ceased. The Environmental Health Officer is looking into the matter further and may be serving notices.

### Northall Village Hall windows

Northall Village Hall will receive £8,275 towards their windows at the Village Hall. The actual cost was £11,500 and therefore they were £3,225 short and wondered if the Parish Council had funds and was amenable to them being given some money. The Chairman asked if grants had been applied for. It was stated they hadn't and therefore the Chairman suggested that this be done first, then the Parish Council could consider maybe providing a smaller sum for the halls. It was unanimously agreed that this is the action that will be taken.

### Dagnall Village Hall roof repairs

The Chairman stated that Dagnall Village Hall had carried out its roof repairs and had applied for grants and had roughly a shortfall of £2,000. It was suggested that the Council at a later date should decide whether to give both villages a sum of money towards their village halls.

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

The Chairman just wished to highlight this charity which was based in Dagnall but which provided a service for all the villages. The intention was to go in and help parents who were having problems knowing what to teach their children as they were growing up. The Clerk said that she would see if she had any funding details that she could forward to the organisers.

### County Councillors Report

Avril Davies would like to meet up with Councillors one Saturday for a walk around the villages. It was agreed that it would be too much to walk round all the villages in one morning and therefore we should ask her if she will be prepared to split the visit into two visits, having one on Saturday 11 October at 9.00 am and a second visit on Saturday 18 October from 9.00 to 9.30 am in Dagnall, and from 9.45 to 10.45 in Northall. The Clerk to speak to Avril Davies.

### **Parish Councils Obligations**

None.

### **Church and Churchyard**

#### Golden Jubilee Floodlighting Project

Due to other commitments John Atherton could not continue with the role as Chairman of this project. It was agreed that the Parish Council would put the matter on hold for a couple of months while it was decided who felt they would have the time to put to this project.

#### Notice Board

Stephen Janes had made a notice board for the church at Edlesborough. The Churches Conservation Trust say it is still being painted at present and they would let us know when it was ready.

#### Parish Cemetery Burial Regulations

The Clerk is still looking into this matter and the annual check of the cemetery which was due to take place on Friday 12 September had to be delayed due to other commitments of the Clerk.

#### Access to the Cemetery

The Clerk was still trying to contact Mr Wood. It was suggested that the Clerk may be able to obtain a contact number through a few other sources and the Clerk would try these. The Clerk has contacted the Burghope Trust.

### **Open Spaces**

#### Dunstable Road/Dagnall recreation field/footpath

The Councillors had been given a copy of the agreement and after a discussion it was agreed the Parish Council should raise the following issues:-

1. It was unclear who should build the fence from B to C. Originally it had been agreed that the Parish Councils would meet the cost of this but this wasn't reflected in the document.
2. The Clerk was to clarify what was meant by "boundary feature".
3. What was to happen if a council tenant destroyed the fence?
4. Confirmation as to the width of the path – was this 1.5 metres?

It was agreed the Clerk would speak to the solicitors and if they confirmed that boundary feature meant fence, then this was to be amended. If they confirmed that Aylesbury Vale would be responsible if the Council tenants destroyed the fence and if they confirmed the path was to be 1.5 metres, then we should ask them to prepare the documents ready for signing and then the Chairman, Ann Thompson, and Mr Geoff Spencer had authority to sign the document.

### Playground

The Clerk stated that the further inspection that she had sought had not taken place as she had originally been quoted a figure of £59 and was then quoted a figure of £180 and therefore this had been cancelled. The Clerk was trying to arrange for somebody to put the bark down for us although this was quite difficult task. She was speaking to several different people. We had asked if the leisure company Wickstead who provided the equipment would put down the bark but this would cost us £3,000.

### The Green, perimeter fence, trees

The Clerk reported that there were a lot of spikes sticking out of the perimeter fence and various bars were broken. Peter Cavendish had agreed to do the work for approximately £300. This was agreed by the Council.

Dycol Limited had checked the trees on the green and had quoted a figure of £200 to tidy up the trees and cut back the low level branches. This was agreed by the Council.

Dycol Limited had looked at the tree with the seat around it and the one past the roundabout back towards the village and they think that they should be left to see if they improve on their own as the trees had had quite a difficult summer.

## **Allotments**

### Review of allotment fees

It was agreed at the last meeting to wait until the September meeting to make a decision whether to increase the fees. At present they were 50p a pole. Allotment expenses £357.55 and income £482.50. Any new figure will be for the October 2004 onwards. It was agreed to keep the allotment fees the same.

The following Councillors declared an interest: Ann Thompson, Geoff Spencer, Julie Ratheram, John Atherton, and David Brown. (John Wilkinson declared his wife had an allotment.)

It was noted that Parish Councils are not allowed to make a profit from allotments.

### Collection of fees

The Clerk will be collecting rent from the allotments on the following dates:-

Saturday 11 October, Edlesborough allotments at the Memorial Hall.

Sunday 12 October, Dagnall allotments at the Trading Hut.

## **Pavilion and EMH**

### Reports

During the summer spring clean the caretaker/secretary had exceeded the financial limit available. The Council agreed that the work done had been of a high standard. It was proposed by John Wilkinson and seconded by Geoff Spencer that the Council approve payment to the handyman and the caretaker. All in favour.



It was agreed that the Clerk could have authority to use contractors if she felt it was necessary rather than approaching the handyman in the first instance due to the handyman's bad shoulder. The caretaker/secretary had sought clarification as to whether she and the handyman could repair the floor in the Memorial Hall and the Council acknowledged that they could.

John Wilkinson had received a September report from the caretaker/bookings secretary for the Memorial Hall and the Pavilion. For various reasons there had been insufficient time to arrange for this report to be photocopied. The Council considered the report and asked that this be made available earlier so that Councillors would have an opportunity to read it before the meeting.

### Village Hall Forum Report

The Clerk stated she had attended the Village Hall Forum and health and safety issues and fire issues had been discussed and she was going to provide a report on this to give to the other villages and to the Councillors. The Clerk had only attended the forum the day before. The Clerk had also attended a talk on precepts and asked if the Councillors could be considering their wish list for the coming year for the October meeting in order that the Clerk could get quotes in so that our budget would be realistic.

## **Procedures**

### Standing Orders

It was agreed the Council would consider the standing orders at the next meeting.

-

### General Purposes Committee

There was a general discussion as to whether a General Purposes Committee would work and whether it would be feasible. It was decided to hold over a decision until the following meeting.

### Planning

It was agreed to hold over the procedure for review and planning matters until the October meeting.

A list of applications received and the Councillors comments are attached.

## **Employees**

It was noted that John Parker had purchased some more small tools for the Parish Council tool box.

## **PAIN**

John Wilkinson will be attending the PAIN AGM in the coming week and would report back to the Council.

## **Finance issues**

### Monthly Financial Statement

The Council considered this and authorised the signing of cheques.

### Precept and projects for the next financial year

The Clerk had already asked if Councillors could prepare any ideas in order that the Clerk could cost these for the next financial year. One suggestion had been that as the Memorial Hall would be 100 years old maybe the Parish Council would consider having the floor re-done.

## Audit

It was noted that we had our accounts signed by Hacker Young. The Clerk will put up the notices stating the accounts were available for inspection on her return from holiday.

## **Other matters**

The Cubs had requested if they could place bulbs under the trees on the green and it was agreed that they could do so.

A parishioner had asked if the Council would consider various matters. As it was now quarter past midnight it was agreed that all these matters would be held over to the next meeting but the Clerk asked if the Councils could have a look at the tree and light in Taskers Row as the tree was covering the light and we would discuss this at the next meeting.

There was various other correspondence that was non-urgent and non-urgent questions, it was unanimously agreed these should be held over to the next meeting.

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday 16 October 2003 starting at 8.00 pm**