

EDINGLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

held on Wednesday 18 November 2015 at 7.30 pm in the Old Schoolroom, Edingley

Present: Mrs Diana Poole (in the Chair), Mr Derek Bradford, Mr Chris Clay, Mr John Hill, Mr Maurice Needoff

In Attendance: Councillor P Rainbow (part of the meeting), J Baily (Clerk)

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Mrs Sue Thornton, Councillor B Laughton and Councillor R Jackson

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 September 2015

The Minutes had been pre-circulated. It was proposed (Mr Clay) and seconded that the Minutes were a true record of the meeting and they were signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes

a) **Use of Phone Box:** it was noted that Mr Nunn and Mr Tebb had volunteered to lead on the book swap project. Mr Hill reported that he would contribute some shelves and Mr Bradford offered to help with fitting. Mr Nunn has also offered to assist with painting and the Chairman will pass on the maintenance schedule provided by BT.

b) **Station Road, Travellers:** it was reported that the travellers had subsequently moved to Home Lane and then left the area. The possibility of providing a 'portaloo' in similar circumstances was discussed. It was noted that if land is owned by the County Council, more can be done.

c) **Drain Covers:** it was noted that the repair work commissioned at the last meeting had been undertaken, however the cover outside the Nursing Home is already beginning to sink again.

ACTION: Mr Needoff and the Clerk to report the problem again.

d) **Use of the Chapel:** Councillor Rainbow noted that discussions regarding the planning process are ongoing and therefore confidential. However, she noted the parking problem.

ACTION: Councillor Rainbow to make further enquiries

4. Declarations of Interest

The Chairman declared an interest in item 12 'Edingley Church Grant'.

The meeting was opened and then closed to the public with no questions arising.

5. Parish Council Vacancy: Election

No nominations had been put forward for consideration at this meeting and the position therefore remains vacant. The process of a future election and co-option at a meeting of the Parish Council was discussed and the Chairman confirmed that this complied with due governance.

ACTION: Clerk to draft a Noticeboard advertisement for approval by the Chair

6. Any Planning Matters

The Chair reported that two results had been received from the Newark and Sherwood District Council: application 15/01565/FUL proposing the installation of ground mounted solar PV panels had been refused; application 15/01824/FUL for a single storey extension to an existing dwelling house had been permitted.

Councillors discussed the problem of re-submitted plans which might contain and accept boundary changes made in the interim. This anomaly was noted and will be considered in the future.

7. Management of Lamb's Field

Wild Flower Meadow: Mr Hill had been leading the project for a wild flower meadow and Councillors were delighted that a photograph celebrating the seeding had recently appeared in the Bramley.

Track: Concern was expressed about the state of the track which is littered with dog faeces despite being a track used by families. It was noted that there were 3 dog bins in the parish but one appears to be missing and needs replacing. Councillors discussed whether to put a bin in the field and organize refuse collections plus a sign. It was **AGREED** in the first instance to write to Lamb's Charity, as the owners of the track (ref. Land Registry), to ask if a sign similar to the 'Dog Poo Fairy' in Farnsfield could be placed on the track.

Community Orchard: the Council wishes to plant 9 fruit trees to celebrate the Queen's Birthday next year. The varieties would need to be selected carefully in order to fruit and also to endure moving when the Council's tenure ceases – although planting around the perimeter of the field might enable the trees to remain in situ. Options to support the costs included the possibility of parishioners sponsoring a tree.

ACTION: Clerk in consultation with the Chair to write formally to Lamb's Charity about the trees and the problems caused by dog defaecation on the track.

8. Chairman's Report

Rent, Lamb's Field: the Chairman reported that Alastair Morrisons had been in contact regarding the rent due to Lamb's Charity in respect of Lamb's Field, (item 11 refers). It was **AGREED** that annual rent payment for the field should be a standing item for September meetings of Council.

ACTION: Clerk

Trent Valley Partnership Project led by Midlands Rural Housing in conjunction with Newark and Sherwood District Council and Nottingham Community Housing Association: the Chair tabled a letter from Miles King, Rural Partnership Officer. Following a discussion, it was **AGREED** to approve the request to undertake a housing needs survey in Edingley.

ACTION: Clerk to reply to Mr King and also request a copy of the results for discussion by the Council.

Speed and flow data, Station Road: the Chair reported Mr Keeling's reply to the Clerk's request to repeat the survey during February 2016. The Council resolved to accept Mr Keeling's offer to visit the site and meet Councillors for further discussion.

ACTION: Clerk to reply to Mr Keeling to arrange a visit and meeting with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Councillor Clay.

Green stakes, Station Road: there was concern about the appearance of stakes outside a garden on Station Road in case they caused a hazard to road users. The Clerk was asked to contact Mr Duckworth but following the meeting, the Chair stated that she would follow up any action required.

9. Clerk's Report and Correspondence

The Clerk reported that she had followed up all the actions requested at the last meeting including: repair of drain covers; allotment water meter readings; commissioned hedge cutting and the Church wall repair; obtained an update regarding the status of the fallen oak tree to be used for the new noticeboard – seasoning is currently incomplete and Mr Turk will be contacted again for an update in Spring 2016; and requested a repeat traffic survey for Station Road (see Matters Arising). In addition, she had also ordered grit for the winter and this had been delivered to the Old Schoolroom.

Correspondence

A wide range of correspondence was circulated in a folder for consideration by all Councillors. In particular, the Clerk highlighted several items:

'Better Broadband for Nottinghamshire Programme' (ref. email from Notts County Council 17.11.15.): it was noted that faster broadband would reach Edingley as part of phase 2 of the programme. Councillor Rainbow **AGREED** to make enquiries with Councillor Laughton to establish whether this would include Greaves Lane.

Audit Procurement Arrangements: correspondence from NALC regarding the procurement of audit services for local councils following the abolition of the Audit Commission, the Clerk reported that if Edingley Parish Council wishes to opt out of the NALC arrangements, the Sector Led Body must be notified by 31st January 2016 otherwise the Council will automatically be included in the arrangements for the next 5 years at an approximate cost of less than £100.00. The Clerk reported that the arrangements link to the Transparency Code which had been circulated by email to all Councillors following the September meeting. The Clerk also reported that NALC maintains a list of Internal Auditors which may be of interest as a new auditor is currently required by the Council.

Valerie Gillespie and other awards: Councillors noted the award for ‘the best community initiative enhancing the environment’ and decided that an application might be considered in future years but not for 2016.

NALC Annual Report: the Clerk reported that this will be circulated by email.

Kirklington PC letter: the letter outlining a Kirklington resident’s concern about an ‘unpleasant smell’ dated 21.9.15. was read out to Council and discussed. Overall, Councillors had noticed an occasional ‘peculiar’ smell but thought that this was no different from previous years and was typical of the experience of living in the countryside. The Clerk was requested to phone the Kirklington PC Clerk to pass on their comments.

ACTION: **Councillor Rainbow re. broadband for Greaves Lane. Clerk re. Audit Procurement Arrangements** (forward documentation to Councillors by email for decision at the January meeting); **forward the NALC Report; telephone Kirklington Clerk.**

10. Councillors’ Reports

Councillor Rainbow noted the Council’s concern about potholes on Greaves Lane and Newhall Lane. Mr Bradford reported that he had enquired about a lockable cover for the allotment’s water meter but they are too expensive. However, a guard can be placed on the tap. Mr Hill reported that salt and sandbags continue to be available. It was noted that the sign for the footpath at the top of Carver’s Hollow has blown down.

ACTION: Chairman to notify the Footpaths Officer that a new sign is required for ‘Carver’s Hollow’.

11. Invoices for payment

The Chair provided further information about the following invoices which were all formally proposed, seconded and **APPROVED for payment**. It was also noted that two invoices had been received from Severn Trent due to the change in Clerk and the charging periods reflected this. The Clerk reported that the Severn Trent account has now been changed to ‘Edingley Parish Council’.

- a) Grant Thornton re. 14/15 Audit, additional fee, invoice 8432096: £30.00
- b) Severn Trent re. allotment water costs incurred from 15.4.15. to 1.8.15.: £31.74
- c) Severn Trent re. allotment water costs incurred from 1.8.15. to 4.11.15.: £19.67
- d) Lamb’s Charity re. rent for Lamb’s Field: £300.00
- e) ‘R N Hoggard’, Brockley Farm, invoice 60 re. wild flower meadow hay: £50.00
- f) J Baily, Clerk re. photocopying and printing costs 2.9.15. – 18.11.15.: £23.90
- g) Monthly standing order for the Clerk’s salary, each payment is monitored and authorized by the Chair: noted.

12. Edingley Church Grant

The Chairman, who had declared an interest in this item as Church Warden, reported that the Parish Council has traditionally contributed towards the upkeep of the Church grounds and £250.00 had been set aside in the 2015/16 budget. It was noted that the cost was directly related to the number of grass cuts and this year the costs to the Church had risen by £150.00 compared with the previous year.

Following a discussion, it was proposed (Mr Bradford) and seconded (Mr Hill) that the Council would increase its contribution to £275.00 for 2015/16 with a further increase to £300.00 for 2016/17 in return for the Pinfold (which is the Parish Council's responsibility) being mowed at the same time as the Church grounds, if required.

ACTION: Chairman to organize the payment of £275.00 to the Church

13. Precept

The Clerk was instructed to produce a budget for 2016/17 for discussion at the January meeting of Council so that a decision regarding the Precept can be taken at that meeting. It was noted that no elections will take place in 2016 but this expense should be borne in mind for future years.

The Clerk reported the balances of the bank accounts noting also that bank statements are reviewed and initialed by the Chairman at meetings of Council. (The Clerk reported that she has not received a statement for the current account during November and will discuss this with the Bank as monthly statements have been requested.)

Business Reserve Account as at 4.11.15.: £229.43

Current Account as at 2.10.15.: £6,828.85

ACTION: Clerk re. draft budget and bank statements

14. Allotment Rents

It was reported that water bills are paid in arrears whilst allotment rents are paid in advance. Rents due in January will be required to be paid by April and this will be managed by the Allotment Co-ordinator.

It was noted that discussions with allotment holders about increasing the rent had been generally acceptable and also that most allotments are worked by people living outside Edingley. Following a discussion, it was proposed (Mr Clay), seconded (Mr Bradford) and **AGREED** to increase the cost of a full plot to £12.00 per year and half a plot to £6.00 per year with rents being billed separately from water costs.

ACTION: Allotment Co-ordinator

15. Benches on the Pinfold

It was noted that both benches are currently broken. There had been an enquiry from a parishioner about the restoration of one bench and Mr Hill said that he would like to repair the other bench. It was **AGREED** that the repairs could be carried out using similar oak planks and suitably sized memorial plaques.

ACTION: Mr Hill to discuss plans with Mrs Thornton

16. Queen's Birthday Celebrations 12 June 2016 – Marquee on Lamb's Field

The Chairman invited ideas to celebrate the Queen's Birthday. The possibility of applying for grant funding for Village celebrations for this occasion was discussed and Councillor Rainbow agreed to make enquiries eg. funding for event toilets etc.

It was noted that the Old Schoolroom Association is currently fundraising for the event and it was hoped that Edingley apple juice would be available.

Following a discussion, it was **AGREED** that the Old Schoolroom Association would lead the arrangements but would invite Parish Councillors to join their meetings and establish a Working Party for this event.

ACTION: Chair / Old Schoolroom Association members

17. Footpaths – Lamb’s and field at side of Methodist Chapel

The Chairman noted that a report is currently unavailable whilst awaiting the appointment of a new officer.

18. Carver’s Hollow

Signage for Carver’s Hollow and Lamb’s Field was discussed as these locations are not obvious to visitors to the Village.

ACTION: Chairman to discuss with Highways

19. Any Business for next meeting

Allotments: consideration of sheds for the allotments, noting that the arrangements currently stipulate that no structures are allowed. It was also reported that there had been some complaints about the speed of cars on the allotment path and the possibility of a sign had been put forward. This was thought to be an internal matters for the allotment holders.

Chapel Noticeboard: the current noticeboard will be left in situ until the new one is ready for installation. New sites were discussed eg. near the telephone box or perhaps next to the Schoolroom noticeboard or a shared board with the Parish Council’s portion being lockable.

20. Date of next meeting: 7.30 pm, Wednesday 13 January 2016

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.