

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF  
ELLESBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON TUESDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER 2017 AT 7.30PM  
IN DUNSMORE VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Councillors:  
D Hayes (Chairman) A White  
D Hares M Glover

Parish Clerk: R Norris

In Attendance: Councillor Clive Harriss, WDC, Bucks CC

**Action**

**Item 5.1 Apologies.** Apologies had been received from Councillors Alexander, McGrail and Panikkar.

**Item 5.2 Open Forum.** Mr Tim Lee of Dunsmore Park, in conjunction with Councillor White informed the meeting about the poor internet access that all the residents of Dunsmore have. Various solutions have been looked at over the past years but with ever increasing amounts of data needing to be transmitted, the problem now needs resolving. BT Open Reach have proposed a solution but it comes with no guarantee of connection speed and an estimated cost of £50k. However, if the fibre optic connection to Clayton House were extended to Dunsmore, this would bring about a very significant increase in broadband speeds in Dunsmore. A company called Village Networks could do this and then provide wi-fi connections to houses. The cost would be about £25k to install the system and then each house with a connection would pay a fee to meet the running costs. To date some 20 households have signed up to the scheme. To meet the installation cost, Dunsmore residents are asking for donations from each of the 5 councils which have a responsibility for Dunsmore. That is Ellesborough and Wendover Parish Councils, Wycombe District Council, Aylesbury Vale District Council and Bucks County Council. Councillor White suggested that if Ellesborough Parish Council were to make a donation then this might shame the other Councils into following suit. A figure of £3k was suggested. The Chairman agreed that the subject would be put on the agenda for the November meeting when a decision could possibly be made or an extraordinary meeting could be held.

Mr Lee also raised the question of replacing stiles with kissing gates and this is covered under item 5.10.

**Item 5.3 Declarations of Interest.** There were no declarations of personal or prejudicial interest from the Councillors present at the meeting for items on the agenda.

**Item 5.4 Minutes.** The minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2017 were unanimously approved and duly signed.

**Item 5.5 Road Safety Issues.** The Clerk reported that since he had raised with the LAT the question of the speed on the advisory sign on the Chequers corner, the limit has now been reduced from 40 mph to 25 mph. Councillor Hares noted that despite the gullies on the drains on the hill to

Chequers having twice been cleaned out, the drains are still not working correctly. The Clerk will raise the matter again with the LAT. Lastly, the meeting noted that the A4010 is to be closed from 19.00 to 06.00 hrs each night for 6 nights starting on 26 September. However, the work might have to be extended if the weather is poor. The Clerk is to include this information in an email to the parish.

RN

**Item 5.6 Clerk's Report.** The Clerk had several things to bring to the notice of the meeting. Firstly, apparently there are a number of people in the parish who are members of the Oil Club and as it makes greater saving with more members they have asked if we would be prepared to advertise their services which are free. The meeting agreed that the Clerk should include this in the next parishioners email. Mazaars have completed our external audit with only a minor comment. The Land Registry have made their decision about access across Dunsmore Common to Well Cottage and have found in favour of Mr Emmerson. However, this only grants access and not parking. Councillor White told the meeting that Mr Emmerson had recently died and it was decided that no further action would be taken at this time. However, in the event that Well Cottage is put up for sale, the Council will ensure that any prospective buyers are made aware of this restriction. Lastly, the Clerk stated that he had finally been given the Russell Arms list of email addresses and was currently updating our records.

RN

**Item 5.7 Recreational Facilities.** In her brief for the meeting, Councillor Panikkar stated that she was still investigating the replacement of the basketball frame on the playing field. Risborough Rangers are going to use the playing field for the Under 15s training and lastly the work on the fencing around the allotments is now complete. The Clerk will ask Steve Webb for a quote to cut the grass on the end allotments and spray them with weed killer.

RN

**Item 5.8 Planning.** There was no discussion under this item.

**Item 5.9 Finance.** The bank statement, the reconciliation statement and the expenditure against budget were all checked and found to be in order. The following payments were approved:

J & S Landscapes (Grass Cutting Jul 17)	800077	£734.10
Ellesborough Parish Hall (Hire 8 & 18 Jul)	800078	£134.00
Chiltern Brewery (Drinks – village party)	800079	£85.32
J & S Landscapes (Grass cutting Aug 17)	800080	£585.47
D Hares (Refund of cost of map and lamination)	800081	£69.69
Sign Wizard (Affordable Housing Banners)	800082	£151.49

The following payments were made:

R Norris (Refund of cost of lock change)	800083	£115.37
J & S Landscapes (Allotment Fencing)	800084	£671.40

The meeting noted that current account balance as at 31 Aug 2017 was £13,612.02 and at 19 Sep 2017 was £22,634.09

**Item 5.10 Footpaths, Stiles and Gates.** Mr Lee asked what was the situation with regards to replacing stiles with kissing gates. Councillor White informed him that the principle of replacing

them had already been agreed and monies allocated. The problem was the formality of obtaining the landowner's permission. After some discussion the meeting agreed to go ahead with the replacement of 7 stiles with kissing gates and 1 stile with offset hurdles. The immediate requirement is for 3 gates and the hurdles. Councillor Hares will endeavour to obtain quotes. With regards to the church path, no further action is required of the Council.

**DH**

**Item 5.11 Field in Trust.** The Clerk reported that he had been in touch with Fields in Trust and that it was possible for us to put land into their general protection programme. However, they had also advised that they are running a programme called Active Spaces for which grants of £5000 are available. The Clerk will pass this information onto Councillor Panikkar for investigation and will start the process for completing the application forms.

**RN**

**Item 5.12 Affordable Housing.** All agreed that the Affordable Housing meeting held on the 11th of September had seemed to have a positive atmosphere but we now had to wait until the result of the survey came through before we could take any further action. The clerk is to include a reminder about completing the survey in the next parish email.

**RN**

**Item 5.13 Matters of Report.** A parishioner had reported that a large branch had fallen down on the track leading up the Ellesborough Lodge. Councillor Hares had been to investigate and the tree is between the track and the field so it was uncertain as to which landowner was responsible. Councillor Hares and the Clerk will investigate. (Clerk's Note: subsequent to the meeting the Chequers Estate arranged for the removal of the branch) A further query had been made and that concerned the pollarding of the trees in Royal Mead. Councillor Harris agreed to investigate this on our behalf. Finally, the question of refuse bins being left obstructing drives after they have been emptied was raised. The Clerk will raise the matter with WDC.

**RN, CH**

**Item 5.14 Next Meeting.** The next Parish Council Meeting will be on 21 November 2017 at 7.30pm in Ellesborough Parish Hall.

The meeting closed at 20.26 hrs.

Signed

Councillor Robert Alexander  
Chairman  
Ellesborough Parish Council