Ellington Parish Council

Minutes of Ellington Parish Council AGM
Held 8th May 2019 at 7.30 at the Village Hall, Ellington

Present:

Councillors:	Cllrs Chapman, Elliott, Lumbers, McCutcheon, Palmer, Porter, and Walters.
Clerk/Dist Cllr:	Darren Tysoe
Public:	4

Open Forum.

A member of the public asked for an update on the Knotweed at the Grafham Road/Spinney Field entrance to the village. In the absence of Cllr Gardener, the Clerk said that he would chase this up, noting that Cllr Gardener had stated the work would be scheduled for May/June.

A member of the public asked whether a combination key padlock could be installed on the Village Playing Field in order to facilitate access when a key holder was not present. Cllr Lumbers stated that he would progress this.

1254. Apologies for Absence were received from County Councillor Ian Gardener.
1255. Election of Chairman for Municipal Year 2019/20. Cllr Walters was elected Chairman for the municipal year 2019/20. Proposed by Cllr Elliott and seconded by Cllr Chapman.
1256. Election of Vice Chairman for Municipal Year 2019/20. Cllr Porter was elected Vice Chairman for the municipal year 2019/20. Proposed by Cllr Walters and seconded by Cllr Lumbers.

1257. Appointment to Outside Bodies: Playing Field Committee – Cllr Lumbers, Village Hall Committee – Cllr Porter (and substitute Cllr Elliott), Neighbourhood Watch – Cllr Chapman, Woolley Hill Wind Farm Community Fund – Cllr McCutcheon.
1258. The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4th March 2019 were approved, subject to the addition of a note relating to a discussion relating to the purchase of a speedwatch camera which could be mounted on a lamppost. Cllr Lumbers has subsequently obtained an approximate cost for supply and fitting. It was agreed that this could be a candidate for future grant funding. The Clerk to discuss further with Cllr Lumbers. Minutes approved – proposed by Cllr Porter and seconded by Cllr Lumbers.
1259. There were no matters arising from Minutes held on 4th March 2019.
1260. There were no declarations of Interest.
1261. Update from District and County Councillors. District Cllr Tysoe updated the Parish Council in respect of the Local Plan which was expected to be adopted at the Full Council meeting on the 15th May. This is an important development as the current Local Plan is now very old, and has been superseded by the Government's National Planning Framework. There have been many applications over the past year that have been approved under a tilted balance in favour of development. Only proposed developments that could cause demonstrable harm would be recommended for refusal. The new Local Plan, which will be in place until 2036 will remove the tilted balance and is expected to be in force for the May Planning Meeting. On other news, the Online Portal has now been launched, which provides residents with personalised access to their council tax and benefits information, with more services coming in the future.

1262. Finances
   a) The Cashbook and Bank Reconciliation for yr ended 31st March 2019 were approved. Proposed by Cllr Elliott and seconded by Cllr Walters.
   b) To confirm insurance arrangements for the 2019/20 Municipal Year. The insurance premium was unchanged from the previous year. Members approved the insurance.
   c) Members approved the in-principle payment of £250 towards costs of producing Ellington Express, but noted that the current editors had signalled that they would no longer be producing the newsletter. The Clerk was asked to liaise with the current editors to agree a plan to advertise for somebody to replace the editor role. Action: Clerk.
   e) Payments due: BEAM Grass Cutting (invoices 2,3,4), £729.60 BHIB Insurance £407.75, CAPALC (including GDPR Protection Membership) £279.08, Function 28 £24.00, SLCC £43.00.

1263. Approval of Asset Register. It was noted that the Asset Register should include the cost of replacing the Village Sign. With this additional item, the Asset Register was approved.

1264. The Exemption from External Audit under the Limited Assurance Regime for smaller Authorities (due to both income and expenditure not exceeding £25,000) was noted. The Clerk and Chairman signed the Exemption. The document will be scanned and emailed to the external auditors, and posted online to the website in accordance with the transparency regulations.

1265. Approval of Section 1, Annual Governance Statement of Annual Return 2018/19. Section 1 was approved and signed by the Clerk and Chairman, and posted online to the website in accordance with the transparency regulations.

1266. Approval of Section 2, Accounting Statements of Annual Return 2018/19. Section 2 was approved and signed by the Clerk and Chairman, and posted online to the website in accordance with the transparency regulations.

1267. Approval of Risk Assessment Register. This was subsumed with the ROSPA Report (Item 1269).

1268. Approval of Policies. The Clerk stated that Policies would be updated during the current financial year. Some existing policies had been updated to conform with the GDPR regulations in 2018.

1269. Noting of Playing Field Equipment ROSPA report, Cllr Lumbers presented two ROSPA Reports, relating to the equipment on the Village Green, and on the Playing Field. Although there were no urgent repairs, there were a number of low and medium risk works that should be considered. Cllr Lumbers stated that the Playing Field Committee will consider the report at its next meeting. In respect of equipment which is wholly the responsibility of the Parish Council, replacement village benches are being applied for under a grant, and the swing on The Green is expected to be replaced once the new equipmemt on the playing field is updated or replaced. The Bus Shelter bench was repaired in the year. The Clerk was asked to remind the contractor to invoice for the work done. **Action: Clerk**.

1270. Planning Matters

a) County Council: Proposal to Divert Footpath 13 Ellington

Members recommend APPROVAL.

b) Barn Hill House Residential Home High Street (ref 18/02231/FUL) and ref 18/02232/LBC. Members recommended APPROVAL for the following reasons: The proposal will ensure that the existing listed building is preserved and safe, the two-bedroom, ensuite rooms will provide additional accommodation which is in-keeping with the existing use at the site and sympathetic to the Listed Building and location. Councillors welcome the views of the Conservation Officer.

c) Land Adjacent The Brambles Thrapston Road Ellington (ref 15/00442/FUL). Members recommended REFUSAL for the following reasons: Tree Report is out of date, there are now 5 trees, rather than 4. Some boundaries are unclear (Public Footpath No 14). Ts not clear why soakaways are suggested, rather than discharge into Anglia Water drainage. The comments made at the previous application still apply: the proposed development is too large for the site, it is too far forward. The size and location will not be in-keeping with the

existing properties on Thrapston Road and it is too close to the adjacent property, Brambles, resulting in loss of privacy to the owners of Brambles. It will appear cramped on the street scene. There is inadequate turning space for vehicles - which will be forced to reverse onto a very busy road. The Parish Council support the principle of development on this site and suggest that an application that is proportionate to the size of the plot, sympathetic to the street scene and existing properties would be more suitable. A shared drive may assist with creating safer access and egress onto Thrapston Road. As a general point, Members also stated that clearer information on the changes between the applications would be helpful as it is not straightforward to identify the differences.

d) Land At College Farm Thrapston Road Ellington (ref 19/00407/S73). Members recommend APPROVAL for the following reasons. The changes appear to be minor, although it was difficult to identify any material changes other than complying with building regulations.

1271. Other Matters to consider/updates
   a) Local Highways Initiative Bid(s) and A14 Legacy Fund. The Clerk and Cllr Porter reported on their attendance at the A14 Legacy Fund Meeting. The Clerk was asked to request that the LHI staff provide a cost for a footpath on the Village Green between Green Lane and The Green, as well as supplying new village gates. Action: Clerk.
   b) Neighbourhood Plan. Grafham Parish Council had agreed to work with Ellington with a view to creating a joint Neighbourhood Plan. The 28th May had been set as a meeting date at the Village Hall in Grafham. The Clerk was asked to publicise the event, and contact two residents who had previously indicated that they would be interested with supporting the initiative. Cllr Porter stated that he would attend on behalf of the Parish Council, and the Clerk stated that he would attend in his capacity as the District Councillor.
   c) Village Hall Update – no update.
   d) Playing Field Committee Update. The Treasure of the Playing Field Committee reported that they had been successful with being awarded £5,000 towards the cost of play equipment from the Woolley Hill Wind Farm fund. Other sources of funding had been applied for, with updated expected over the next few months.
   e) Neighbourhood Watch Update – no update.
1272. Correspondence. In relation to a letter from a resident in respect of access, the Clerk was asked to write back to the resident to state that they obtain legal advice.
1273. Items for discussion at next meeting – grant funding, Neighourhood Plans
1274. Date of next Meetings (subject to confirmation) – 1st July 2019, 2nd Sept 2019, 4th Nov 2019, 6th Jan 2020, 2nd March 2020, Weds 6th May 2020 (AGM and APM).