Ellington Parish Council

Minutes of Ellington Parish Council Parish Meeting
on **Monday 1st March 2021 at 7.30 pm**
The meeting was held online via Zoom as per the "*Regulations*" (The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings)(England and Wales) Regulations 2020).

Present:

Councillors:	Cllrs Chapman, Lumbers McCutcheon, Palmer, Porter and Walters
Clerk/Dist Cllr:	Darren Tysoe
County Cllr	Ian Gardener
Public:	7 Members of the public were present

Open Forum

A resident wanted to thank Mr Howell for improving the look of the High Street. Members agreed, and stated that this was on the agenda.

1382 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Elliott.
1383. Cllr Lumbers declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 1388 (a).
1384. The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 11th January 2021 and the Planning Meeting held on 11th February 2021 were declared as an accurate record (prop: Cllr Walters, and seconded by Cllr Lumbers)
1385. Matters arising from Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th January 2021 – none.
1386. Update from District and County Councillors.

Cllr Gardener:
District Cllr Tysoe provided the following updates: Council Tax frozen with no increase at all in 2021/22. This means the average Band D charge will remain at £145.86 per year. HDC was supporting local businesses, including further Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) payments are to be released by the Council at the beginning of March. This additional discretionary assistance is for businesses who fall outside of the business rates system and cannot apply for the Government's ongoing Local Restrictions Support Grants (LRSG). This additional round of ARG payments will provide a further £4,000 grant to each local business that previously received £2,000 of ARG and ARGE funding when the scheme first launched at the end of 2020. Huntingdonshire District Council's Cabinet has agreed to progress Civil Parking Enforcement in Huntingdonshire. This move will see the District Council assume parking enforcement responsibility for on-street (yellow line) offences. This will benefit villages including Ellington, as well as the Market Towns.

1387. Finances
- a) To approve Cashbook and Bank Reconciliation up to 31 January 2021.
- b) Payments made since the last meeting were noted: Chq 000721 Memorial Bench £1352 inc VAT, 000722 Function 28 email and website £48; 000723 Clerk Pay Q3 £670.53, 000724 PAYE £411, 000725 ALAS Sign (50%) £160.43
- c) S137 of the Local Government Act 1972. It was agreed to make a one-off payment to Mr W Howell of £200 for carrying out landscaping improvements

to the whole of the High Street which brings a direct benefit to the majority of residents in Ellington. Proposer: Cllr Chapman, Seconder: Cllr Lumbers.

1388. Planning Applications

a) 21/00224 LBC Brook Cottage, High Street, Ellington and 21/00223/HHFUL

Members recommended Approval for the following reasons:

It was recognised that this was a significant extension, but its design protected the Listed building by creating a glass bridge to separate the historical asset from the new building, as well as making better use of the existing outbuilding. The extension creates additional amenity space which does not adversely impact on the street scene as it is masked by the camber of the road, and the position in the plot.

Prop: Cllr Porter. Seconded: Cllr Walters.

1389. Other Matters to consider/updates

a) County Council: Sliproad from A14 – bollards and verges, flyover repairs including potholes, brick roundabout. It was noted that temporary repairs had been made to the potholes on the junction of the flyover. Cllr Gardener explained that a deeper repair was being negotiated between Highways England and the County Council. The County Engineer had agreed that the PC could place topsoil on the slip road verge.

b) Buffaload Logistics – planning and enforcement status. There was no further update from the planning application. The Parish Council was aware that the County Council and District Council in relation to their investigations at the Grove Parc site.

c) Memorial Bench – Cllrs Lumbers and Chapman stated they would be able to install the bench during the week, subject to weather conditions and work commitments.

d) Digital speed signs - Cllrs Lumbers and Chapman stated they would be able to install the bench during the week, subject to weather conditions and work commitments. There were a total of 4 brackets – 2 for Thrapston Road, and 2 for Grafham Road. The Clerk agreed to assist with downloading the data.

e) Allotments – it was agreed to place an item in the Spring Newsletter asking if residents were interested in allotments.

f) A14 Legacy Fund update – The Clerk reported that he had been in contact with the Director from the A14 Legacy Fund and shared correspondence with Members. The Clerk had contacted the Conservation and the planning teams at HDC to find out whether or not planning consent was needed. If it was likely that there would be further delays, the Parish Council were asked to consider a straightforward alternative scheme so as to not lose the opportunity. It was suggested that the Village Gates could be a viable alternative, though members were keen to pursue the footpath option. The Clerk was asked to also obtain quotes for putting power onto the Village Green and also to purchase bollards for the Village Green. **Action: Clerk.**

g) RES Woolley Hill Fund Application – Village Gates. The Clerk has applied for Village Gates via the RES grant scheme. The meeting was expected in mid-late April, with an announcement in May.

h) Neighbourhood Plan update. Comments had been received from residents and uploaded to the NP website. A meeting was being planned with HDC to go through the Draft Plan. The Community Action Plan will guide Parish Councils over the coming years. The next stage was for the Neighbourhood Plan to go

through the formal consultation, which includes residents, statutory authorities, agencies, and organisations.

i) BT Openreach Community Fibre Partnerships. The initial quotation from BT to obtain high-speed fibre for each household in the parish of Ellington amounted to £2241 per home, which was much higher than the government grant (£1500). A new quote which excluded Ellington Thorpe and included some homes in Alconbury had been received, which was expected to be much less than the original quote. Residents will be informed via the Newsletter and social media to sign-up to the scheme. A second quote to cover Ellington Thorpe has been requested.

j) Cycle Paths. The Clerk had written to the County Council to ask that resource be allocated to conduct a feasibility study for a cycle route from Ellington to Brampton Hut. The County Councillor was also applying pressure to seek funds.

k) Community Groups – no update.

l) Village Hall – no update.

m) Playing Field Committee. Cllr Lumbers reported that funds were low. The next big project was to revamp the MUGA/Play area. There had been a request for some small-scale skate park equipment. A Covid-friendly Treasure Hunt was being planned for May. It was recognised that there were some risks with a skate park, including creating a parking bottleneck at Windmill Close, if it was too large and attracted visitors from outside the village, as well as noise. The tennis court would be opened from March 29th, subject to any Covid rule changes.

1390. Correspondence and items for the Spring 2021 Newsletter. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr and Mrs Swainston and Mr Ovenden and Mrs Butler to thank them for litter picking. Suggested items for the Spring Newsletter were: Neighbourhood Plan update, bench, speed signs, A14 legacy fund, playing field. BT Open reach, Allotments, road works, Village Gala (speak to the Gala Committee), Village gates, thank the litter pickers, and Mr Howell

1391. Items for discussion at next meeting – standing items from the March Meeting and AGM.

1392. Date of next Meeting: 10 May 2021