

## EDINGALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> February 2012 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

**Members present:**

Mrs J Stonehouse  
Mrs N Mason MBE  
Mr J Startin  
Mr H Dhillon  
Mrs M Cliffe  
Mr C Wesley  
Mr S Sprawson

Chairman

**In Attendance:**

B. Delderfield  
Parish Clerk

**1 Apologies received**

All Councillors were present

**2 Absence noted and approved**

All Councillors were present

**3 Approval of minutes of Parish Council held on 9th January 2012.**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2012 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**4 Declaration of interests**

No Councillor declared an interest

The Chairman adjourned the meeting

**5 Public session**

There being no members of the public present the Chairman reconvened the meeting.

**6 Clerk's report**

The Clerk reported that Derryford Electricals confirmed that the broken Christmas bulbs are unable to be mended and that new ones are needed for Christmas 2012.

Having been in touch with SPCA, they confirmed that the Precept monies can be used for the purchase of a commemorative coin for each child in Edingale in celebration of the Queens Diamond Jubilee. It was pointed out, however, that the Precept monies should only be used to benefit Edingale children and consideration should be made as to how the coins could be bought and distributed so that all children of Edingale would be presented with one.

Cllr Mason agreed to establish how many children there are in the village.

**Cllr Mason**

Contact has been made with Janet Hodson who successfully acted for EPC in fighting a planning proposal. Enquiries were made as to whether she has had specific experience in fighting wind farm proposals. The clerk was awaiting contact back from Ms Hodson. A letter had been sent to the Garlands family asking whether the EPC would be able to carry out some cosmetic improvements to the wall behind the village pump. Contact from them is still awaited.

Greenlands Garden Maintenance has been contacted to request that they remove the cuttings and branches on Croxall Road under the Lengthman's Agreement.

As a result of the Harlaston Parish Council meeting Cllr Stonehouse attended, the clerk requested information relating to the Harlaston Conservation plan that is currently being reviewed from Lichfield District Council.

Also, the Clerk requested the River Mease consultation report for the restoration plan.

The forms were signed and witnessed to enable the Clerk to change the bank information from the previous Clerk to the current one.

Having investigated further with the SPCA concerning the proposed investment of £80,000 in Santander bank, it was agreed that a British bank would be preferable in view of the uncertainties in the current economic climate with European banks. The Nationwide and Britannia were both suggested as possibilities from SPCA. The Clerk confirmed that further investigation would go ahead.

Clerk

### 7 Correspondence

Letter from Mr Wilson at 8 Rowley Close  
Grounds Maintenance letter from ACME offering a quotation  
Appointment of new clerk letter from SPCA  
Harlaston Conservation Area Appraisal plan  
River Mease Restoration plan from the Environment Agency  
EON reminder of £44.44 dating back to 18 March 2010. (payment was made and cashed)

### 8 Rowley Close hedge

It was confirmed by one or two Cllrs that part of the hedge has been cut but not all of it. The letter received by the Clerk from Mr Wilson at 8 Rowley Close, requests that the queries he made at the end of December should be addressed. It was agreed that Cllr Dhillon would look at all the correspondence about the hedge and would contact Mr Wilson directly at an attempt to address the issues raised. The Clerk will let him have the copies of the correspondence as soon as possible.

Cllr Dhillon

### 9 District and County Councillors' Comments

Cllr Sue Arnold attended the meeting to explain the Localism Bill which is due to be passed in November 2012. This will require each village to have a Village Plan to assist in shaping the future of the village. It is entirely up to each village to have a plan in place but Cllr Arnold has offered some training to Cllrs so that the best plans that have already been put forward can be discussed to assist Parish Councils in preparing their own. It was discussed that work had been done on a plan in the past but had never been adopted. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Mr P Elverson as he had previously held the copy of the previous plan.

Clerk

### 10 Wind Farms

It was confirmed that Edingale Parish Council would like to be involved in any collective meetings with Harlaston and other local parishes. Cllr Stonehouse recently attended a meeting in Harlaston to discuss the wind farms and the Clerk of Clifton Campville (Helen Elliot) asked what sort of contribution EPC were able to make in fighting the application. It was felt that EPC are unable to commit financially to the objection but verbally the PC is willing to support the case.

Cllr Arnold suggested a donation of around £100 would be a token towards the costs that Harlaston will have to pay for the Consultants costs. This payment can be justified as the wind farms are going to affect parishioners of Edingale. However, with a limited amount of money spare, no higher amount can be considered. It was proposed and seconded that £100 should be offered to Harlaston Parish Council to show Edingale's level of commitment.

Cllr Arnold was thanked for attending the meeting.

### **11. Councillor's Business**

**Best Kept Village competition.** There hasn't yet been any application form sent. The Clerk agreed to chase this up. **Clerk**

Cllr Dhillon reported that he had attended the last Village Hall committee meeting on 16 January 2012. There are currently five people on the Committee but three wish to stand down. The finances are good but not as strong as last year. The AGM takes place on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2012.

The Open Gardens date has been set for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> July 2012.

Cllr Cliffe enquired as to whether anyone has reported the new holes in the road that have appeared on the bend in the direction of Harlaston. She will report it.

Cllr Mason suggested that a tree should be planted in commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee. She will investigate this. **Cllr Mason**

Cllr Stonehouse reported that Cllr Ellis had a conversation with Roy Catmur to say that he was still keen for the repairs to go ahead locally and that Cllr Ellis believes this agreement could work.

All Cllrs agreed that it was down to the County Council to spend the money on the full repairs when the funding is available.

Cllr Stonehouse has received some complimentary feedback on the village website. The Clerk was asked to contact Mr P Elverson to compliment him on keeping it updated.

**Clerk**

### **12 Precept Application 2012**

It was agreed that the Precept application should remain the same as last year in view of the County Council not increasing Council Tax for parishioners. The Precept has remained the same for the past three years.

The percentage donated to the Village Hall and the Church, however, will need to be considered.

Cllr Wesley proposed that no donation is given to the Church or the Village Hall until the end of the financial year so that the EPC can see what finances are like then.

The Clerk will write to the Church and the Village Hall to inform them of this. **Clerk**

### **13 Smartwater**

The Smartwater evening was deemed a success as forty people attended and 27 packs were sold on the night. Cllr Stonehouse will write something in the Mease Valley about the project. It also seems that one or two others have signed up since the meeting which means the numbers should be high enough for the village to be given a Smartwater sign. It was agreed that the signs should be located on the roads to Croxall, Lullington and Harlaston.

The Clerk will contact Robert Nunn to see if EPC are able to purchase any additional signs for the village and what the cost of the signs will be. Clerk

#### 14 Schofield Lane hedge

The hedge is in need of cutting. The Chairman will speak to the owner to get authority for it to be cut. Chairman

#### 15 Financial Report

The Clerk reported that the forms for the bank are to be witnessed at the meeting tonight and once that is done an update on the accounts will be possible.

It was agreed, however, that the investment into a British bank should go ahead and forms should be given out to the Councillors.

If there is any further delay, the monies should be transferred into the Money Market once again to ensure the highest rate of interest. Clerk

#### 16 Clerk's Contract of Employment

Cllr Stonehouse suggested that the Clerk should go through the Contract of Employment and check that she is happy with the contents. Clerk

#### 17 Planning Applications

None

#### 18 Any Other Business

The wall behind the Village Pump needs some cosmetic improvements carrying out. It was suggested that this could be done under the Lengthsman's Agreement. This will be investigated by the Clerk. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Roy Catmur to find out who he would contact about discussing the annual price increase of the Lengthsman's Agreement. Clerk

Cllr Stonehouse reminded the PC that she had agreed last year to stand as Chairman for another year until last year's changes settled down. She is still planning to stand down in the near future.

It seems that the Mease Valley doesn't have the details of the new Clerk. This will be resolved shortly.

The dates for the meetings for 2012 will be put up on the Notice board. Clerk

#### 19 Date and venue of next meeting

Monday 12th March 2012, 7.30pm at the Village Hall

#### 20 Meeting Closure

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10pm.