

## **The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for the Parish of Edington held at the Parish Hall, Edington on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 7.15pm**

Present: Mesdames Greening, Henning, O'Donoghue, Dorgan, Watts, and Pike and Messrs, Swabey, King, Johns and Forward and Mrs Wickham (Wiltshire Councillor), PCSO Alice Moore and 8 members of the public.

Apologies were received from Mr Hardman,

The Chairman of the Parish Council (PC), Mrs Greening, welcomed all to the meeting.

**The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting** held on 8th April 2024 were adopted as read and signed. There were no Matter Arising from those Minutes.

### **Chairman's Report**

Mrs Greening said that the most obvious change from last year was that she wasn't John. John Pollard had resigned his position on the PC and as chairman in July 2024. She thanked him for all his work as Chairman for 5 years and 11 years as parish councillor.

John's resignation had meant a reorganisation of the PC. She had been elected as chair and Steve Forward as vice-chair. She expressed her thanks to Steve for all his help and support since becoming vice chair.

She also thanked all the parish councillors and clerk for the work they did to help make Edington a lovely village to live in. Every parish councillor had their own responsibility and she was extremely grateful for all the effort they put in to carry out their tasks.

She explained that 2025 was a PC election year. She was pleased that 10 out of the 11 parish councillors had agreed, subject to being re-elected, to carry on. She thanked Mike Swabey for his time on the parish council. He had been a parish councillor for 13 years as well as chairman for nearly 4 years. Luckily for the village Mike had agreed to carry on being the PC tree advisor which was really appreciated.

Edington PC had a close relationship with Wiltshire Councillor, Suzanne Wickham. On behalf of the PC and the village she thanked Suzanne for all her work in helping the PC, particularly in answering questions relating to WC. Due to the local elections and the fact she was not seeking re-election the PC was sad to see her go. As a thank you she would be presenting her a small gift from the PC.

One of the ongoing projects the PC had been undertaking was the proposed playfield land swap. This had been a long and slow process and was still ongoing. In June a plan of how the land swap would work was released and placed in the newsletter, on the website and PC notice boards. Having agreed the principal ideas, the Heads of Terms were finally with solicitors and negotiations were continuing. She hoped this would progress during the coming year.

Another ongoing project was the permissive path from the parish hall car park to the kissing gate nearly opposite The City. Bob King had started work on it but was now waiting for WC Highways to give permission to make a new access for the footpath by the car park.

The car park surface had become very worn and the PC was seeking quotes for resurfacing and it was hoped this would happen soon.

The neighbourhood plan was still in progress and Liz Pike and Steve Forward had taken it on to try and proceed with it. Most of the work had already been done and they were looking into how to progress it and get it ready to be submitted.

Speeding continued to be one of the biggest problems in Edington. With advice from the WC highways department the new signs, gates and rumble strips were installed at the Bratton end

of the B3098 and on Lower Road in June 2024, but from the Speed Indicator Device on the B3098 there had been no change in the number or speed of traffic. Therefore, the PC had gone back to WC to discuss the next steps. The PC had commissioned 3 traffic survey requests to see how the signs and also 20mph limit had affected the speed of traffic. These would be B3098, Lower Road and Tinhead Road. The PC would then discuss what further steps were available to slow traffic down. Unfortunately, since John Pollard had stepped down as Community Speed Watch coordinator speed watch had had to stop in Edington. A volunteer who was willing to take on coordinating however needed to be trained and there were currently no training courses happening, but hopefully Speed watch would be up and running again soon.

As always, the village volunteer group which was led by John Richardson had been very busy doing maintenance around the village. The PC thanked them for all the time and effort they put in which made significant improvements to the village.

Finally, Edington PC finances. Residents will have probably seen from their council tax demands that the PC had not raised it's precept for the current year.

**Matters Arising** from the report. One question was raised as to the timeframe relating to the play field. Mrs Greening explained that this was in the hands of the solicitors for both the PC and the Three Daggers. Once those negotiations had hopefully been successfully completed a planning application would have to be submitted to the WC.

### **Wiltshire Council Report**

Mrs Wickham gave what would be her last report as Wiltshire Councillor. She had enjoyed being part of the managing of Wiltshire but at times it was very much full on.

She had offered to manage the village's Best Kept Village Competition application and the forms were ready to go. Mr Pollard had assisted with plans and the judging was expected to take place mid-May.

The response to the Gypsy strategy had forced WC to think again as there had been a lot of disquiet expressed. But, she said, it would come back again and she would resist any new plans that affected the village.

There were concerns about the state of Salisbury Hollow which was a byway but had deep ruts and a cyclist had been injured as a result.

She thanked the PC for its work on so many issues, especially thinking of the need to reduce the speed of vehicles on the B3098.

In closing she expressed thanks for the welcome the PC gave her at the meetings that she was able to attend, and the way in which the PC was seeking to do things for the benefit of the village. She wished the PC and the village well for the future.

### **Police report.**

PCSO Moore reported that in the year 2024/25 there had been 52 incidents in the village of which 23 had been crimes, one being a burglary. This was still considered to be very low for a village the size of Edington. There had been 3 thefts – down from 4, 5 incidents of Criminal damage and 1 incident of hare coursing. Of the 29 other recorded incidents she said that 7 had been RTA incidents, and 5 traffic incidents.

Generally, across the Warminster Neighbourhood Policing team area –which covered some 450 square miles – antisocial behaviour had been the focus of the teams visits to schools.

The chairman thanked PCSO Moore for her report and attendance and looked forward to her being able to occasionally attend PC meetings if possible or the village drop ins.

In the absence of **Any Other Business** the Chairman thanked all who had attended the meeting and formally closed it at 7:58pm.