**EDGEFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall,**

**Monday 13th April 2015, 7:00pm**

 **Present:** John Seymour (Chairman) Suzanne Longe

 Emma Cletheroe (Vice Chair) Anne Harrup

 Mark Cook Kirsty Cotgrove (Clerk)

 + 16 parishioners

John Seymour welcomed Ed Mumford-Smith from Broadland Housing (BH) following on from their recent consultation afternoon in the Village Hall, regarding the proposed housing development. Mr Mumford-Smith is Head of Development at BH, and explained how the charity works and how they intend to raise funds for the proposed social housing. The proposal is for 22 houses in total, 10 of them open market (to fund the social housing. The open market properties will still be smaller properties of 2-3 bedrooms and only 2 larger properties. There will be no access onto Rectory Road, but they have approached Stody Estate with a proposal for access across their land, directly onto the Holt Road. There is a housing need in Edgefield of 134 people, and the part ownership and rental properties will be offered to local people. Approx. 100 people attended the consultation, with 67% supporting and 27% objecting. Concerns raised were about drainage, which Anglian Water will deal with. Also conservation concerns were raised about the removal of hedges, but BH have discussed with Norfolk Wildlife Trust regarding replanting. There are two large oak trees on the site, and BH intend to retain these and get a protection order on them. There was a concern about the lack of employment in the area, but Mr Mumford-Smith explained that as the houses are going to local people, it will maintain the economy. BH have discussed paying a sum to Holt Primary School and Melton Constable GP surgery to expand. Street lighting is largely not wanted, and they have found their tenants do not want larger gardens. A parishioner asked about the current footpath across the site. Mr Mumford-Smith advised that this would be retained as it is. The parishioner commented that as a road would cross it, this would be dangerous for children crossing to get to the play area, and Mr Mumford-Smith said they would be happy to re-route the footpath if necessary. JS commented that it is not a legal right of way and belongs to NNDC. A parishioner asked why they are allowed to build, when two building plots had been turned down in the village. Mr Mumford-Smith explained that policy doesn’t permit building in Edgefield and that there is a different policy for social housing. The open market houses are being applied for to fund the social housing. He advised that Highways are happy with the access onto Holt Road. A parishioner asked about the extra road. It was explained this was for access to the barns. The parishioner queried this as there is existing access, and was told this is an alternative, safer access. A parishioner asked about the speed limit as it is currently 40mph passing the access, could the 30mph be extended to past the 3 dangerous bends at the North end of the village? A parishioner asked about a road, discussed years ago,

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Which would cross the proposed site. It was confirmed that Highways were not planning a road in that area. A parishioner asked if a tenant wanted to swap their house once in, would there still be a local restriction? Mr Mumford-Smith advised he didn’t know. He explained the process of offering the houses for rent & right to buy. A parishioner asked what the village will gain from this? JS explained that the village will gain younger families, which is vital, and anything else would need to be discussed with BH. Mr Mumford was thanked for his time, and left the meeting at 7:35pm, along with 4 parishioners.

1. **Chairman’s welcome & apologies for absence** – The Chairman welcomed everyone and apologies were noted on behalf of David Ramsbotham & Eric Earnshaw. A parishioner read a statement regarding the costings of the speed reduction initiative and resulting precept rise. He advised he had contacted EE & JS that morning who were unable to immediately give figures. He then contacted the clerk who gave estimated figures. The parishioner asked if costings could be displayed on the noticeboard and this was agreed. He asked why quotations had not been obtained and JS explained that as it is Highways work, it has to go through NCC Highways department and we have no say who is used. The parishioner said that he felt that the quotation from Highways is extortionate. SL asked the parishioner if he could advised the actual cost of the SAM2 sign compared to what Highways were quoting, but he refused to reply. JS stated that speeding problems are longstanding and two articles had been put in the newsletter in the last year to state what the intended initiative would be and to ask for any comments. The precept rise is approx. £30 per household for one year only. As the precept request had to be in before the grant acceptance would be decided, the Parish Council had to increase the precept for the full amount, but as we have the grant only half will be needed. This will result in a very low precept next year. A parishioner confirmed she had spoken to Jim Frost about the Police/HomeWatch noticeboard and he has confirmed HomeWatch no longer need it. The board has not been updatedhttps://adobeid.services.adobe.com/verify/en\_US/CB8Y55A4QMJVSGJ4JZQK6BTTJ0 since 2012. It was agreed the clerk will contact the police and if they are happy, she will ask Phil Borley to remove it. A parishioner asked what is happening with the pond? JS explained why the digger work could not be carried out last month, and that it is scheduled for the autumn. There will be working parties during the summer to remove as many of the water soldiers as possible. The swan would be left alone. A parishioner asked if the Parish Council have contacted planning enforcement about their neighbours allegedly using their buildings for business use? JS advised that the Clerk has contacted planning enforcement and they are dealing. JP-W will be copied into all correspondence.

 1 parishioner left the meeting.

1. **Statement of pecuniary or Prejudicial interests** – none.
2. **To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of Monday 2nd March 2015** – the minutes are approved and signed (prop. SL & sec. EC).
3. **Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda** –None.

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 **5. Police Report** None.

1. **Finance**

**(a)Payments**

The following payments were approved and the cheques were signed. (Prop SL, Sec MC)

1. Kirsty Cotgrove – Clerk net salary & expenses (Mar) £ 192.65
2. EDF Electricity direct debit £ 27.00
3. NALC annual membership £ 111.16

**(b)Receipts**

None

**(c) To approve and sign the 2014-15 accounts for Mazars** – all agreed, and signed by JS & KC (clerk)

1. **Report from John Perry-Warnes, District Councillor** – JPW stated that he hopes the Edgefield housing scheme will go ahead. He has been involved in many similar schemes over the years. He had listened to the comments regarding the speeding initiative and advised that he has been involved with the Safer Norfolk scheme and the Northern area only have two SAM2 signs to loan to the whole area. He also commented on the neighbour dispute and advised that as it is a civil matter, it’s hard for the Council to get involved. JPW confirmed that he is standing down at the election, but hopes to attend the Annual Parish Meeting. JPW left the meeting at 8:20pm.
2. **Planning**

**(a)Permission for Development** –None.

**(b)Refusal of permission** – None

**(c)Applications** –None

**(d)Development committee decision** – None.

**(e)Decision notice** – (i) PF/15/0201 The Old White Horse, Hunworth Road, Edgefield, NR24 2AE. Demolition of existing garage block and erection of replacement car-port with storage. NNDC permit given

**(f)Additional information on applications** – None.

**(g)To consider late planning applications** – There were two late applications. It was agreed that due to the nature of these, the clerk will request a deferral and if that is not possible, a meeting will be arranged to discuss them.

1. **Update on the Parish Partnership grant application** – JS read the letter confirming the grant and signed the acceptance letters, witnessed by AH.
2. **To discuss the work plan for the village pond** – Exact dates for the digger work are not yet set. The clerk read a request by EE that the work be done as soon as possible, eg late September. He has asked that in the meantime can the reed bed be chopped down, unless the digger will do this. He also asked if the willow shoots on the dry ground could be cut down, along with any regrowth. AH advised that there will be a monthly meeting to maintain the pond during the summer. She will put up signs and put an article in the newsletter. The working party will likely be on a Wednesday, 5:30-6:30pm. 7 parishioners left the meeting.

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1. **To approve and adopt the following policies** –
2. Financial Regulations – all agreed to adopt. EC asked if we will use telephone

banking? The clerk confirmed that telephone banking is not needed and will draft

a letter to Barclays to confirm the Parish Council do not require it.

1. Standing orders – all agreed and signed by JS.
2. Financial risk assessment – all agreed and signed by JS.
3. Annual review of the effectiveness of internal audit – all agreed and signed by JS.
4. Annual review of the effectiveness of internal control – all agreed and signed by JS.
5. **Report from David Ramsbotham, County Councillor** – The clerk read an email from DR, where he states he has received two complaints from parishioners regarding the lack of consultation on the speed reduction initiative, and that the next Better Broadband rollout will be announced at the end of April.
6. **Correspondence** – (a) Rectory Road BT phone box adoption – The clerk has received correspondence regarding the adoption of the phone box, and has applied online for the Council to adopt it. MC advised that a pane of glass has blown out of the bottom of the phone box outside the hall. The clerk will liaise with EE to get the materials required to repair the box.

(b) Workplace pension requirements – The Council have received a letter from the Pensions Regulator to advise it has automatic enrolment legal duties for employees. Edgefield Parish Council’s staging date is 1 April 2017. The clerk has nominated JS as primary contact, and is secondary contact.

1. **Dates of next meetings** – APCM 18th May at 7pm, APM 25th May at 7pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:40pm

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