

ELSWORTH PARISH

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in Elsworth C of E School
April 17th 2019 at 7.30pm

The meeting was chaired by Mr Peter Deer, Chairman of the Parish Council.

Those present

Twenty six parishioners attended the meeting along with District Councillors Howell and Wright and County Councillor Mandy Smith

1. Apologies for absence:

Margaret Stevenson, Alison Brolls, Rob Askham

2. Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting 2018

The minutes were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. (Prop: Peter Deer Sec: James Witherow).

3. Chairman's address to the meeting

Peter Deer highlighted the activities of the Parish Council over the past year, noting that:

- after the PC elections in May only two of the previous council remained. There was no ballot as only seven people stood for council. (The PC allocation of Members is nine). This presented a substantial change in the membership of the council.
- Much of what the Council does is reactive, e.g. responding to consultations and planning applications.
- The PC has limited powers and many areas over which it has no jurisdiction.
- This new Parish Council wishes to be more proactive. PD cited examples such as consultation with residents over the safety of Brockley Road, The village questionnaire to establish parishioners priorities for the village, the public meeting called to establish views on a proposed development near Meadow Drift and the new December celebration for turning on Christmas tree lights.
- The consultation on the Meadow Drift development and the questionnaire feedback highlighted a distinct split in opinions in the village. Many parishioners were happy to see some development, others felt it should be minimal.
- The Elsworth Times Newsletter would be continuing under the editorship of Paul Solon and Gaynor Clements
- Highways matters occupied much of the PC's time with constant pressure being applied on the County Highways to get something done to improve the quality of the roads and footpaths in the village, as well as addressing the speeding problems and increase in volume of traffic. The PC was awaiting a decision by the County Council on its request for a 20mph blanket speed limit in the village
- The PC was proposing to resurface the car park area on the sports field and improve pedestrian access to the shop from Broad End

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- Plans were being drawn up for improving the area around the village sign and the bus shelter
- The PC had offered to pay for the cleaning of the sports pavilion, but this was currently on hold as a response from the Sports Club would be received after their AGM
- The PC was supporting the volunteer litter pickers by paying for additional insurance to cover the volunteers on roads outside the 30mph limits.

4. Summary of Elsworth's income and expenditure for year ending March 31st 2019

Liz Sim, the Parish Clerk, presented a summary of income and expenditure for the financial year ending March 2019, a copy of which is appended to these minutes.

5 Question Time

Rev Di Castiglione asked if the PC could make a contribution to the hire of the hall for its meetings. The Clerk responded that under the Local Government Act 1972 the PC was entitled to use the facility free of charge if there were no other buildings in the parish that were suitable for the meeting. The PC would take on board the request for financial assistance and consider possible funding for activities that would benefit the whole community of the village.

Sally Wilkins had written to the PC outlining the problem of parking on Broad end at school drop off and pick up times. This is becoming dangerous with the number of cars attempting to turn, is creating a build-up of fumes as parents leave their car engines running and is destroying verges which are run onto. Mrs Wilkins requested that the PC should look into this matter with relevant authorities and the school set up a traffic committee. PD responded that the PC was aware of this issue and would liaise with the village shop and the sports club about the possibility of parents possible in the car park on the sports field. It was noted that the school Head Teacher regularly writes about this problem in the school newsletter and requests parents to be considerate in all respects.

Rosemary Turner thanked the Clerk for the useful information emails that are circulated to parishioners.

She asked if the PC could contribute towards the repair of the Church gates which are in a bad state of repair. The Chairman responded that there were legal limitations to the PC's ability to help fund church property.

Mrs Turner asked if the PC was aware that the Glebe land had been offered to the District Council for development. Rev Di Castiglione commented that this was rapacious opportunism on the part of the Diocese and that he was considerably disquieted by how the Diocese had reported this to the church. Cllr Wright responded that such offers of land were made when the DC called for sites when a local plan is commenced. There is no obligation on the DC to accept the sites. The DC currently has its 5.8 year land supply so such an application from the Diocese was unlikely to succeed.

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The Clerk asked Cllr Wright why decision notices were not being sent out any more. Cllr Wright agreed to look into this.

Debby Witherow drew attention to an inaccuracy in the publication of the time for the village BBQ in the Elsworth Times. It would commence at 12:30 on June 2nd 2019.

The provisional date for the Elsworth and District Show had been set for September 8th 2019.

The Chairman declared the formal meeting closed at 20:15 and invited parishioners to put questions to the representatives of organisations during the informal social chat with refreshments that followed.

Signed _____ (Chairman). Date _____