

Elsworth Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on

Wednesday July 20th 2022 at 7.30pm

in

Elsworth Sports Pavilion, Broad End, Elsworth CB23 4JD

PRESENT

Chairman Peter Deer (PD)
Councillors Tim Hegan (TH) James Howell (JH) Victoria Mc Neill (VM)
Lawrence Seifert (LS) Margaret Stevenson (MSt) James Witherow (JW)
Clerk Mrs. E Sim (ES)
In attendance D Cllr Mark Howell (MH) (from 19:45)
D Cllr Peter Sandford (PS)
C. Cllr Mandy Smith (MS)
Rev Nigel Di Castiglione (NdC)

2022/07-1 Apologies for absence.

MH (Late, Attending Bourn PC meeting)

2022/07 -2 Co-optation of Lawrence Seifert and Tim Hegan as members of the Parish Council.

Councillors agreed unanimously to co-opt Lawrence Seifert and Tim Hegan as members of the Parish Council ^(Prop JH Sec VM)

2022/07-3 Declarations of Acceptance of Office and Registers of Parish Members' Financial and other interests.

Received from Tim Hegan. Lawrence Seifert to provide documents to the Clerk.

2022/07-4 To receive declarations of interest & requests for dispensations.

- 4.1 Declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda.
Public forum matter. James Howell (Churchwarden)
Item 6.5 James Witherow (Landowner)
Item 7.4 Lawrence Seifert (Wife a member of Preschool Fundraising Committee)
- 4.2 For declarations of interest received, Councillors to inform the Chairman if they wish to speak on the matter at the agenda item prior to discussion. None.
- 4.3 To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any). None.
- 4.4 To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate. N/A

Public Forum

Rev Di Castiglione had been invited to address the Parish Council regarding correspondence relating to the maintenance of the 'closed' burial ground at Holy Trinity Church. Among the issues discussed were the evidence on which the claim had been made that the PC had long ago accepted responsibility for it; the financial implications if the PC accepted that responsibility; the possible involvement of the District Council; and whether there might be scope for some understanding between the PCC and the PC. Agreed that the Chair be authorised to have further discussions with the Rector to explore whether such an understanding might be possible and report back no later than the November meeting on progress.

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2022/07-5 To sign & approve the Minutes of the Council meetings dated 18th May 2022.

It was proposed (JW, seconded JS) and unanimously **approved** that the Chairman sign the Minutes with one amendment: Item 2022/05 “Peter West” to read “Peter Ward”.

2022/07-6 Reports and updates

6.1. Cambridgeshire County Councillor

Cllr Smith reported

- LHI bids would be opening shortly and encouraged councillors to apply for funding.
- The Age UK Warden scheme running in Fen Drayton was looking for assistance from other villages. The PC had considered participating in the scheme previously but had felt that it was too costly. Cllrs agreed to contact Fen Drayton and enquire anew about costs.
- Flood advice from a travelling exhibition was currently being given in Hilton. The PC would enquire about the exhibition coming to Elsworth.

6.2. South Cambridgeshire District Councillors

Cllr Stanford reported on the committees that he had become a member of and encouraged PC members to contact him on any problematic planning issues. He advised that bin collections would be starting earlier and that residents should be encouraged to put their bins out the previous evening.

6.3. Clerk’s Update

Car parking issues in the village

Several complaints had been received about car maintenance being carried out on the carriageway on Boxworth Road near the junction with Rogers Close. Parked cars were obscuring visibility for cars proceeding along the road towards Boxworth and for cars turning out of Orchard Close, Rogers Close and The Drift. The police have been informed and the County Council has been approached with a view to the installation of no-parking lines on the road. Some residents have indicated that they would be prepared to contribute towards the cost of this. The County Council has advised on the procedure for requesting markings.

Complaints had also been received about parking difficulties on Broad End at school drop off and pick up times. Police have been advised of unacceptable abuse from parents picking up children from school towards residents of the bungalows opposite the school. The school’s head teacher and governors are aware of the complaints. PC members agreed to follow these matters up with the police and County Council.

6.4. Children’s Play Area

MS reported that generally the installation of the new equipment was going well. The play area was not expected to be open for use until the Wednesday or Thursday of the week of July 25th as the installed equipment had to be signed off by a safety inspector. Permission from the DC to prune trees near the play area was still awaited. Members agreed that some gesture of appreciation should be made to the anonymous donor and to consider the installation of picnic tables and a notice board. Thanks were expressed to MSt and Rob Askham for the work they had put in liaising with the suppliers and organising the installation and to everybody in the village who had been involved.

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6.5. East West Rail

PD gave an update on the A428 Cluster Forum meeting on 6 July and the EWR drop-in event he had attended that afternoon in Cambourne. He also referred to the letter written to Grant Shapps by 'local leaders' supporting the completion of the EWR project (posted on the Elsworth & District Forum facebook page), while PS reported that another letter had also been sent to Rishi Sunak.

PD also drew attention to the publication of the draft Local Plan and a further invitation to developers and landowners to submit revised/new sites. The possible location of a station for Cambourne to the north of the A428 had led to the resurrection of a proposal for a 10k housing development south of Knapwell and Elsworth and the submission of the Meadow Drift development which had previously been the subject of a planning application which had been refused on appeal by the Planning Inspectorate. Noted that a response to these development proposals would be made in a GCSPS survey on the revised Local Plan.

D.Cllr M Howell reminded members that he had opposed the EWR route plans and continued to do so but reminded members that Cambourne Town Council was continuing to favour a station to the north of the A428. The continuation of the whole EWR project was uncertain given the current political climate and the possibility that the costs of the project would prove too high.

6.6. Proposed Food Park at Avenue Business Park

Some PC members and a representative from the shop had a meeting with Anthony Davison on 16th November 2021 when he outlined proposals for a Food Park selling local produce on the Avenue Business Park site. Issues for the village such as the impact of increased traffic and competition with the shop were raised. It was agreed that it was desirable to consult with the village at a public meeting and it was thought this might be early in 2022.

The PC was invited to send a representative to a meeting AD had organised with S Cambs Business Development Team on 27th June on the Avenue Park site; MS (for the PC) and JH (representing the Shop) attended. Work had already begun to renovate and update two of the empty units nearest the Brockley Road entrance. It appeared that no substantive discussions with S Cambs Planning Dept. had yet taken place. The renovated units were being planned as a butcher's and a baker's outlet (with already identified renters) and the unit opposite possibly for the sale of local cheeses. AD advised that if the Farm Shop didn't come to fruition the units would revert to offices. The D.C.'s Business Development Team were very supportive and identified ways they could help, e.g. with publicity and business contacts. There was discussion about further possibilities for another small unit nearby to house a micro-brewery, also a café, regular markets of local produce and special food events, including in-house cookery and baking courses.

MS and JH expressed concern about the impact of much increased traffic through the village. AD suggested that there could be a new entrance to the Park at the Hilton Road bend with one-way traffic exiting onto Brockley Road.

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Re the possible negative impact of competition on Elsworth Shop he said that every effort would be made to support it.

MS and JH highlighted the importance of communication with the village over the proposed plans, including holding a public meeting to explain the proposals and receive feedback from residents. Since the meeting AD had emailed a draft information leaflet to PD for possible circulation throughout the village which sought feedback, but did not propose a consultative meeting. PD reported that he had indicated his view that the leaflet lacked sufficient information in several respects and the need for a public meeting which AD had accepted. PD also advised he had written to a senior planning officer seeking clarification to enquire whether approval was required for the possible change of use of the business units but had yet to receive a reply.

Councillors reiterated concerns about traffic, the potential impact on the community shop and that residents should have a proper opportunity to learn about the proposals and ask questions. It was suggested that with schools about to break up and people going on holiday, September might be the best time for a public meeting.

2022/07-7 Finance

7.1. Payment of accounts.

The following payments were approved unanimously (prop VM Sec JW)

Date	Description	Supplier	Net	VAT	Total
19/05/2022	Computer equipment	Microsoft	36.00	7.20	43.20
19/05/2022	Litter Pickers Insurance	Ladbrook Insurance	171.20		171.20
19/05/2022	PC annual Insurance premium	Zurich Municipal	424.97		424.97
01/06/2022	Clerk's remuneration	Parish Council	601.20		601.20
01/06/2022	Election costs	South Cambs District Council	135.00		135.00
06/06/2022	Hire of Sports Pavilion	Elsworth Sports Club	150.00		150.00
13/06/2022	Refreshments	Peter Deer	27.89		27.89
13/06/2022	Decorations	Novelties Direct (Parties) Ltd	35.79	7.16	42.95
13/06/2022	Memorial plaque Jubilee Tree	orieindesigned.com	20.82	4.17	24.99
13/06/2022	Jubilee tree Elsworth School	Eneravine Studios	11.62	2.33	13.95
13/06/2022	Children's Jubilee Gift wildflower seeds	Kava wholesale Ltd	5.82	1.16	6.98
13/06/2022	Wildflower seeds jubilee gift for children	Naturescape	30.45	6.09	36.54
13/06/2022	Compost for jubilee trees	Blue Diamond	29.98	6.00	35.98
23/06/2022	Computer equipment	HP Inc UK Ltd	10.41	2.08	12.49
23/06/2022	Play area repairs	Anderton Haulage	1,150.00	230.00	1,380.00
23/06/2022	Elsworth's Pond Map	Print Out	18.00	3.60	21.60
23/06/2022	Play area annual open/corn rent	Davison & Co (Barford) Ltd	0.05		0.05
01/07/2022	Clerk's remuneration	Parish Council	601.20		601.20
01/07/2022	Elsworth Times	Pendrill Publications	75.00		75.00
01/07/2022	Verge Cut	Neil Kennv	400.00		400.00
01/07/2022	Refreshments	James Howell	147.15		147.15
11/07/2022	Elsworth Times	Andrew Pope	30.00		30.00
14/07/2022	Fardell's Lane Maintenance	Neil Kennv	112.50		112.50
14/07/2022	General Village Maintenance	Neil Kennv	352.00		352.00
14/07/2022	Verge Cut	Neil Kennv	400.00		400.00
15/07/2022	Wildflower seeds jubilee gift for children	Huws Grav Ridgeons	137.78	27.56	165.34
15/07/2022	Scribe Accounts Package	Starboard Systems Ltd	288.00	57.60	345.60
16/07/2022	Phone and Internet	B & R Direct	181.21	36.24	217.45
18/07/2022	Computer equipment	HP Inc UK Ltd	11.24	2.25	13.49
		Total	5,595.28	393.44	5,988.72

7.2. Receipts received were noted

Date	Description	Supplier	Total
31/05/2022	Interest PC savings a/c Nat west	Nat west	2.06
01/06/2022	Interest Santander Account	Santander Bank	1.80
23/06/2022	Community Chest Grant	South Cambs DC	252.00
30/06/2022	Interest PC savings a/c Nat west	Nat west	1.74
02/07/2022	Interest Santander Account	Santander Bank	1.75
		Total	259.35

7.3. Addition of signatory to the Parish Council's bank accounts.

Councillors agreed unanimously to James Witherow being added as a signatory. Victoria Mc Neill would be removed as a signatory.

7.4. Request for funding from Elsworth Preschool.

Councillors congratulated the preschool on its recent excellent OFSTED inspection. Details of the proposed project for renewal of equipment for the preschool had been

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circulated. Councillors **agreed unanimously** to award a grant of 50% of the estimated costs of the project up to a maximum of £900.00

2022/7-8 Planning

8.1. Planning Applications considered.

- 21/02515/FUL 22/02531/S73 Elm Lodge Meadow Drift Elsworth
Application for Removal or Variation of a Condition (Section 73).S73 variation of condition 2 (Approved plans) of planning permission (Demolition of existing bungalow and construction of a 5 bedroom replacement dwelling together with garage, driveway and landscaping) to remove the basement floor of the house and remove the sunken courtyard, to provide new plans for the ground and second floor, and extend the permitted garage to provide an additional car parking space and larger home office. *PC recommendation: Although the proposed alterations represent a substantial change in the proposed development since the PC comments made on the original application, the additional 'weight' of the house faces away from Meadow Drift toward the open fields and the PC has no additional comments to make.*
- 22/00706/HFUL3 Brook Street Elsworth Cambridgeshire Retention of electric car charging point on wall of shed within curtilage of listed dwelling. No change to listed building. *PC recommendation: Support.*
- 22/01749/HFUL 10 Church Lane Elsworth Cambridgeshire CB23 4HU Single storey front extension. *PC recommendation: Support*
- Application for Works to Trees in a Conservation Area. 22/0680/TTCA Recreation Ground Broad End Elsworth
Proposal: T1 - Ash - Remove 2 branches that will severely overhang the new proposed play area. T2 - Walnut - Remove 2 branches that overhang the new proposed play area. T3 - Elm - remove elm tree hanging over public footpath completely due to low level. *PC recommendation: Support.*

8.2. Notification of Planning Applications - For Information only

- 21/05369/LBC 15 Cotterells Lane Elsworth Cambridgeshire.
Submission of details required by condition 3 (Material) of planning permission
- 21/05616/FUL 5 Church Lane Elsworth Cambridge
Submission of details required by conditions 5 (Traffic Management Plan(TMP)) and 8 (Surface and Foul Water) of planning permission
Reference: 21/05616/CONDA

8.3. Applications determined/closed by SCDC

- 20/01204/HFUL & 20/01205/LBC The Old Chapel Boxworth Road. **Granted permission**
- 21/05155/NMA1. 54 Boxworth Road Elsworth Cambridgeshire CB23 4JQ **Granted Permission**
- 22/01749/HFUL 10 Church Lane Elsworth Cambridgeshire CB23 4HU **Granted Permission**
- 20/04791/CONDA Land To The South Of 29 Brook Street Elsworth Cambridgeshire CB23 4HX **Discharge Condition in Full**

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8.4. Appeals Determined

- S/4521/19/FL Martins Farm 53 Boxworth Road Elsworth Cambridgeshire CB23 4JQ Against Refusal of Permission ***Appeal Dismissed.***

Dates of Parish Council meetings in 2022.

September 21st Parish Council Meeting

November 16th Parish Council Meeting

There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21:28

Victoria McNeill advised the council of her resignation. A vote of thanks was extended to her for her contribution to the work of the council over the past years.

Signed _____ (Chairman) Date _____