

# ELSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on**  
Wednesday September 28<sup>th</sup> 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) Lawrence Seifert (LS)  
Margaret Stevenson (MSt) James Witherow (JW)  
Clerk Mrs. E Sim (ES)  
In attendance D Cllr Peter Sandford (PS)  
C. Cllr Mandy Smith (MS) (from 19:40)  
Paul Harding Parish Tree Warden  
Louise Hanzi Fardell's Lane Reserve Volunteer Manager  
Parishioners 2

## **2022/09-1 To receive and approve apologies for absence.**

D. Cllr Mark Howell (Attending Papworth Everard PC meeting)  
C. Cllr Mandy Smith (Late)

**Public Participation/Forum** No items were raised.

## **2022/09 -2 Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's death.**

The Chairman had written a piece for the *ET* paying tribute to her late Majesty The Queen. A book of condolences for parishioners would be sent to Cambridgeshire County Archives.

## **2022/09-3 Co-option of a member of the Parish Council**

Councillors agreed unanimously to co-opt Mr Richard Hyde as a member of the Parish Council.

## **2022/09-4 To receive declarations of interest & requests for dispensations.**

- 4.1 Declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda.  
MS declared an interest in planning application 22/1068/TTCA 41 Brook Street Elsworth Cambridgeshire CB23 4HX PLUM (neighbour)
- 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 received
- 4.4 To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate. N/A

## **2022/09-5**

- 5.1. **To sign & approve the Minutes of the Council meetings dated July 20<sup>th</sup> 2022.**  
It was proposed <sup>(LS, seconded TH)</sup> and unanimously **approved** that the Chairman sign the Minutes.
- 5.2. **Clerk's Report**  
Planning Applications received since 21<sup>st</sup> September 2022.  
Ref: Item 22/09-10

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## Village maintenance

There is a need for a variety of types of maintenance in the village that has not been carried out for some considerable time as it was previously undertaken by the Community Payback teams. This includes:

- Siding out footpaths
- Clearing gullies/grips
- Painting metal railings on bridges over the brook/ by the crossroad
- Cutting back Water Lane overgrown area.
- Clearing vegetation from road signs
- Sides of the brook
- Painting the slide in the play area
- Cleaning and staining the bus shelter

JH volunteered to co-ordinate volunteers from the village to undertake the work required. ES to provide JH with a full list of works. Cllr Smith said she would contact Highways.

## Hedges

Several hedges belonging to private owners are overgrown and causing obstructions on footpaths. The local County Highways Officer has been requested to advise owners to trim them.

Verges and stream in Fardell's Lane.

Ref: Item-2022/09-9.3

## 2022/09-6 County Council Business

### 6.1. Cambridgeshire County Councillor's report Cllr Smith reported

- LHI Bidding had opened. The deadline for applications is the end of October.
- EWR. She had questioned how the opinions of various groups were tied together.
- CCC was looking into the possibility of villages getting 20mph speed restrictions. An email would be sent to Clerks soon detailing how bids could be made.
- Buses. Bar Hill was arranging a meeting of Parish Council representatives to discuss bus services.
- Chief Inspector Paul Rogerson was hosting online meetings about policing in the area. The next one was scheduled for October 5<sup>th</sup>.
- County Highways had been requested to carry out a safety inspection of the Conington/Boxworth Road junction.

~~Cllr~~ JW raised the issue of the danger posed to all road users and pedestrians by the number of road signs that are dirty and obscured by overgrown vegetation and requested that MS ask County Highways to undertake necessary maintenance work. He also raised the issue of the amount of litter in the area of the Caxton Gibbet and also requested that the County Council clear this.

### 6.2. School parking:

PD reported that a site meeting was held on 15 Sept with County Safety Officers and the County's Local Highways Officer.

- Three representatives from the County Council attended the meeting. Various options were considered with regard to alleviating the parking and congestion problems including the possibility of setting up a "park and stride" scheme,

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alternative parking areas in the village, restriction of traffic in the area, and installation of additional “no parking” road lines.

- Since the meeting, the school had produced information on the numbers of children attending, where they live and those who are entitled to free bus transport. With the expansion of housing in Fenstanton, there is a possibility that Hilton may fall into the school’s catchment area and a free bus service provided to bring them to Elsworth.
- Feedback from the school was promised, in particular with regard to the new “travel ambassadors” scheme. Noted that Kirstin Bicknell, a parent governor, would ask Nick Wright, the chairman of the governors, to investigate whether there was any privately owned land near the school that might be used as a car park.
- County Officers would consider the various suggestions for improvement of the area and advise on the possibility of an LHI bid.

## 6.3. LHI bid: To consider an application for funding

Areas of concern in the village would be considered for an LHI funding bid.

- Broad End and parking facilities outside the school.
- The area near the George and Dragon pub with parking provision to be decreased as a result of a planning application for an additional house in the rear car park. This was a consideration raised in the PC’s comments on the application.
- The area near the junctions of Boxworth Road, Orchard Close, The Drift and Roger’s Close where parking on the road was obstructing visibility and causing traffic to encounter oncoming traffic.

The Clerk would request Josh Rutherford from County Highways to attend a site meeting and advise.

## 6.4. Community Flood Group.

Philip Sleightholme had requested funding from the Parish Council for a shed to store equipment and for a water level trigger that would be installed in the brook, which the County Council insists is preferable to individuals monitoring the level of the water in three areas of the brook. The effectiveness of the trigger was discussed. JW reported that Peter Ward would assist with drawing up the flood plan for the County Council to sign off and that discussions were ongoing with Agriserves about additional piping and a possible relief channel behind the school. Concern was expressed that channelling would move water down Water Lane ditch more swiftly and cause more flooding in Broad End and Fardell’s Lane.

## 2022/09-7 District Council Business

### 7.1. South Cambs District Councillor’s report

Cllr PS. reported that

- The loss of the V4 bus was disappointing but not critical to the Elsworth. Other services were problematic because they were so infrequent and this was only made worse by cuts.
- Consultations on rail transport and congestion charging in Cambridge were underway.
- Cllr Tumi Hawkins had offered to attend Parish Council meetings to provide updates on the current Local Plan.
- South Cambs DC was undertaking a three-week trial of a four-day working week. PS commented that he remained to be convinced of its effectiveness and value for residents. A report is expected in April 2023.
- The next Parish Liaison Meeting would be held on 12<sup>th</sup> December.

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- Full District Council meetings had unanimously passed the proposals for improved water quality.
- The drastic increase in the cost-of-living emergency was of concern. SCDC and CCCC were setting up a contingency plan for hubs that could be heated for people to go to if they could not afford to heat their homes.

7.2. LDP Further call for sites. It was noted that a response was submitted by the PC.

7.3 Luton Airport Flight path. The Chairman noted that an ex-PC member had requested that the PC respond to the concern that the flight paths were causing nuisance. Councillors noted that the D. Cllr's newsletter and a blog by the leader of the District Council had highlighted this. Agreed that in the first instance residents be asked if they are affected and giving details of how they can complain if they wish to do so.

### 2022/09-8 Finance

8.1. Payment of accounts.

The following payments were approved unanimously (prop PD Sec LS)

28/07/2022	PC annual Insurance premium	Zurich Municipal	170.26
01/08/2022	Clerk's remuneration (July)	Parish Council	601.20
03/08/2022	New play equipment	NGF Play Ltd	23,973.60
11/08/2022	Elsworth Times	Pendrill Publications	75.00
17/08/2022	Elsworth Times	Andrew Pope	30.00
17/08/2022	Computer equipment	HP Inc UK Ltd	13.74
25/08/2022	Play area repairs	MG Tree Surgery Ltd	200.00
01/09/2022	Clerk's remuneration (August)	Parish Council	601.20
20/09/2022	Computer equipment	HP Inc UK Ltd	5.41
26/09/2022	Verge Cut	Neil Kenny	400.00
			<b>26,070.41</b>

8.2. Notice of receipts received.

29/07/2022	Interest PC savings a/c Nat west	1.44
02/08/2022	Interest Santander Account	1.80
03/08/2022	Donation towards Play equipment	20,000.00
31/08/2022	Interest PC savings a/c Nat west	0.85
06/09/2022	HMRC VAT refund	379.20
20/09/2022	Precept	12,000.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>32,383.29</b>

The Chairman advised that a pay award for Clerks had been announced, to be backdate to April 2021. Future reimbursements would reflect this.

### 2022/09-9 Village Matters

9.1. Children's Play Area.

Rob Askham had indicated that he would clear leaves and cut the grass round the play equipment until it was properly established, run a hedge trimmer round edge of the play area and the entry path from Broad End. Dips in the terrain and rabbit holes had been filled and some re-seeding would be done. He believed that the old surface matting was wanted for the forest school in FLNR. Noted that regular checks on the play area would be carried out by LS and a record of these kept. Painting of the big slide

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would be done by volunteers or a local tradesperson. Consideration would be given to the provision of seating and picnic tables in the area.

## 9.2. Food Park.

PD reported that following the public meeting held on September 22<sup>nd</sup> he had had exchanges with Anthony Davison over feedback and the need for more details on matters raised including:

- Vehicular access from Rogues Lane and pedestrian access to the site
- Traffic impact on the village roads
- Car parking
- A flood risk assessment for the site as a whole
- Lighting proposals
- How it was proposed to work with the community shop
- The need for any planning consents
- The designation in 2013 of the area between Brockley Road and Avenue as a Local Green Space
- The erection of polytunnels/ greenhouses
- The need for clear graphics/a mock-up of the proposed site

It was noted that AD would be meeting the Community Shop Committee the following week.

## 9.3. Fardell's Lane Reserve.

A written report from Warden had been circulated to all councillors and is appended to these minutes. Councillors agreed unanimously that quotes for tree works should be sought by LH. County Highways would be requested to rebuild the verge and clear the ditch in Fardell's Lane and SCDC to clarify responsibility for the fence and gates at the rear of their houses on Broad End.

## 9.4. Village Bus service.

Notification of Stagecoach's withdrawal of local services. D.Cllr PS was taking this up and local usage would be canvassed.

## 2022/09-10 Planning

### 10.1. Planning Applications considered.

- 22/03268/HFUL.18 Paddock Row CB23 4JG Mr Brian Smith. Demolition of existing conservatory, followed by new side extension and minor works to existing porch. *PC recommendation: No recommendation.*
- 22/03219/FUL George and Dragon Public House 41 Boxworth Road CB23 4JQ. Erection of dwelling to the rear of the George and Dragon Public House, change of use to garden land including existing relocation of gas tank, realignment of car park to public house and new access ramp to public house. *PC recommendation: Object, with comments*
- 22/0917.TTCA 31 Smith Street Fell 3 Walnut trees, one to the side of house and two in front garden. All have grown too big for their position in the garden. *PC recommendation: No recommendation.*
- 22/03227/HFUL 15 Church Lane CB23 4UH. Mr & Mrs Philpott. Installation of 38No solar panels to rear (east) facing roofs of swelling and detached garage. *PC recommendation: Support*
- 22/1031/TTCA5 Orchard Close Elsworth Cambridgeshire Remove lower branches overhanging boundary. *PC recommendation No objections*
- 22/1032/TTCA 3 Orchard Close Elsworth Cambridgeshire  
T1: Magnolia - Reduce height by 1-1.2m and shorten lateral branches by 0.5-1m to reshape and maintain size of tree. *PC recommendation No objections*

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- 22/1068/TTCA 41 Brook Street Elsworth Cambridgeshire CB23 4HX PLUM (TI) Carry out crown reduction by 2M Top 1.5M to the side. Thin the crown density. Works are required to reduced growth due to the proximity of the tree to the house. *PC recommendation No objections*
- 22/03801/FUL The Avenue Business Park Brockley Road Elsworth  
Erection of office extension to Units 17-18 Avenue Business Park and associated external works. *A planning meeting would be convened to discuss this application*

### 10.2. Notification of Planning Applications - For Information only

- 20/04791/FUL Site address: Land To The South Of 29 Brook Street Elsworth  
Reference: 20/04791/CONDB Proposal: Submission of details required by conditions 3 (Archaeology), 5 (long term maintenance - Surface Water) and 8 (Basement flood risk ) of permission.

### 10.3. Applications determined/closed by GCP

- 20/05351/NMA1. 15 Cotterells Lane Elsworth CB23 4JR. *Granted Permission*
- 22/02531/S73 Elm Lodge Meadow Drift Elsworth Cambridgeshire  
*Granted Permission*
- 21/04315/FUL George and Dragon Public House 41 Boxworth Road CB234JQ.  
*Refused permission.*
- 22/0917/TTCA 31 Smith Street Elsworth Cambridgeshire CB23 4HY. *Have No Objection To*
- 22/03268/HFUL18 Paddock Row Elsworth Cambridgeshire CB23 4JG *Granted Permission on 26 September 2022*

### Date of next Parish Council meeting in 2022.

November 16<sup>th</sup> Parish Council Meeting

There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21:26

Signed ..... Chairman Date .....