

ELSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on
Wednesday May 17th 2023 at 7.30pm**

in
Elsworth Sports Pavilion, Broad End, Elsworth CB23 4JD

PRESENT

Chairman Peter Deer (PD)
Councillors Tim Hegan (TH) James Howell (JH) Richard Hyde (RH) Lawrence Seifert (LS)
Margaret Stevenson (MSt) James Witherow (JW)
Clerk Mrs. E Sim (ES)
In attendance D Cllr Peter Sandford
Paul Harding (PH) Village Tree Warden
Peter Ward (PW) Elsworth Community Flood Group

2023/05-1 Election of the Chairman of the Parish Council

Peter Deer was proposed (JW) and seconded (MS) and elected unanimously. PD advised that he was prepared to continue in office pro tem, but that councillors needed to think long term about the composition of the PC and how the Parish Clerk is to be replaced when she decides the time is right to retire. Consideration would be given to preparing a short note for an early meeting.

2023/05 -2 Apologies for absence

C. Cllr Mandy Smith
D.Cllr Mark Howell

2023/05-3 Councillors' updates of their Registers of Parish Members' Financial and other interests.

All Councillors reviewed their registers and confirmed there were no changes to be noted.

Public Participation/Forum

No items were raised.

2023/05-4 Declarations of interest & requests for dispensations

- 4.1 Declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda. NONE
- 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 Written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests NONE
- 4.4 Grant of any requests for dispensation as appropriate. NONE

2023/05-5 To sign & approve the Minutes of the Council meetings dated 18th January 2023

It was proposed (MS seconded LS) and unanimously **approved** that the Chairman sign the Minutes with no amendments.

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ELSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

2023/05-6 Appointments for 2023-2024

- 6.1. The Samuel Franklin Fund To note the appointment of Mr David Pope as the PC nominated trustee from March 2023. Noted
- 6.2. Parish Tree Warden. Paul Harding
- 6.3. Fardell's Lane Volunteer Warden Louise Hanzi
- 6.4. PC representatives for The Village Community Flood Group. Existing member reappointed. (PS, PW, JW, IM)
- 6.5. Elsworth Sports Club Committee Lawrence Seifert.

2023/05-7 Reports

- 7.1 Cambridgeshire County Councillor. No report received.
- 7.2. South Cambridgeshire District Councillors
Cllr Peter Sandford reported on:

1. *Bin collection proposals.* A 14-week trial of 4 working days with an additional 30 minutes work time was proposed for the service shared with Cambridge City Council in order to streamline the service, ~~and~~ avoid reshuffles for bank holidays, ~~and~~ increase recruitment/retention of operatives and save money by requiring fewer agency staff.

Councillors questioned:

- How this proposal would be measured in terms of benefits to the ratepayers.
 - How new lorries could be justified at the expense of ratepayers who were struggling to make ends meet following increases in council tax.
 - How taxpayers' opinions could be fed back to the DC as the impact on parishioners needed to be seriously considered.
2. *4 day working week* A further 12 months trial of the 4 day week working for all other South Cambs DC staff was to take place.

Councillors and the Clerk commented that:

- The current level of service from the DC had deteriorated and response times for issues had declined markedly.
 - Contact with officers at the DC was very poor and much time was wasted with no clear delegation of responsibility when officers were on their non-working days.
 - Current work time arrangements represented a substantial pay award for DC staff at a time when parishioners were seeing a decline in general service levels and an increase in council tax.
3. *Cambridge Congestion Charge.* All 24K responses had been analysed and it was noted that everyone wanted a better public transport system. The GCP will now consider the results.
 4. *EWR.* A decision on the route alignment and station locations was expected to be published on Wednesday May 24th.

7.3. Clerk's Update

The Clerk reported that

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ELSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Complaints had been received about the difficulty some parishioners were having contacting Papworth Surgery to arrange appointments. Impact was particularly hard on residents who do not have access to the internet.

NHS Cambridgeshire and Peterborough took up the complaint and responses were received from Sue Simkins Executive Assistant to John O'Brien (Chair of the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Integrated Care Board), Dr Gary Howsam (Interim Chief Clinical Improvement Officer, ICB), Jane Webster (Director of Commissioning, ICB Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Integrated Care System), and Barbara Brafman-Price (Chief of Staff NHS Cambridgeshire and Peterborough ICS).

Cllr Sandford was aware of the issue. MS advised that her husband was a member of the Papworth Surgery Patients' link Team and would take the issue up with them and take their advice on how to best approach the Practice.

2023/05-8 Finance

- 8.1. To approve and sign the Council's Annual governance statement 2022/2023
It was proposed (JW, seconded MS) and unanimously **approved** that the Chairman sign the council's Annual Governance statement 2022/2023
- 8.2. To approve and sign the Council's Accounting statement and Certificate of Exemption for the year ending March 31st, 2023.
It was proposed (JW, seconded MS) and unanimously **approved** that the Chairman sign the. Council's Accounting statement and Certificate of Exemption for the year ending March 31st, 2023
- 8.3. To note the Annual Internal Audit report 2022/2023. Noted.
- 8.4. To approve payment of accounts

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

31.03.2023	Clerk's expenses Postage and Mileage	94.59
20.03.2023	Computer/stationery HP Inc UK Ltd	9.99
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17.03.2023	Clerk's Remuneration + Back pay to April 2021	1803.60
01.03.2023	Clerk's Remuneration	601.20
24.02.2023	Computer/stationery	9.99
20.02.2023	Elsworth Times Pendrill Publications	75.00
20.02.2023	Elsworth Times Andrew Pope	30.00
19.02.2023	Data protection Fee Information Commissioners Office	35.00
01.02.2023	Clerk's Remuneration	601.2
16.01.2023	Telephone/Internet BT	187.83

13.05.2023	Fardell's Lane Maintenance Neil Kenny	52.50
13.05.2023	General Village Maintenance Neil Kenny	560.00
13.05.2023	Fardell's Lane Maintenance Neil Kenny	65.00
11.05.2023	Internal Audit LGS Services	114.00

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ELSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

04.05.2023	57	Fardell's Lane Maintenance Wickes	57.00
02.05.2023	676.35	Clerk's remuneration	676.35
21.04.2023	220.24	Phone and Internet BT	220.24
17.04.2023	410	Verge Cut Neil Kenny	410.00
17.04.2023	9.99	Computer equipment HP Inc UK Ltd	9.99
17.04.2023	112	Entertainment Annual Parish Tesco	112.00
11.04.2023	75	Elsworth Times Pendrill Publications	75.00
11.04.2023	30	Elsworth Times Andrew Pope	30.00
11.04.2023	1360	Shed for Flood equipment Littleport Timber Buildings	1360.00
05.04.2023	1024.8	Picnic Benches Marmax recycling Products	1024.80
03.04.2023	676.35	Clerk's remuneration	676.35

8.5. Receipts .

31.03.2023	8.25	Interest PC savings a/c Nat west	Nat west
02.03.2023	9.21	Interest Santander Account	Santander Bank
28.02.2023	7.76	Interest PC savings a/c Nat west	Nat west
02.02.2023	9.93	Interest Santander Account	Santander Bank
31.01.2023	8.44	Interest PC savings a/c Nat west	Nat west
01.01.2023	8.24	Interest Santander Account	Santander Bank
02.05.2023	12.25	Interest Santander Account	Santander Bank
21.04.2023	12000	Precept	South Cambs DC
28.04.2023	7.08	Interest PC savings a/c Nat west	Nat west
02.04.2023	11.08	Interest Santander Account	Santander Bank

8.6. To consider the Parish Council's continuation of funding to cover insurance for litter pickers and if thought fit to reimburse Mr Paul Solon the sum of £119.61.

Agreed Unanimously

8.7. Defibrillator for Constellation Mobile Home Park. To consider a request from residents of the Mobile Home Park for funding to enable the installation of a defibrillator on the site.

Although there was no obligation on the PC to provide defibrillators and without creating a precedent, cllrs were sympathetic to funding the installation of a defibrillator at Constellation Park but felt more information was required, regarding matters such maintenance, the supply of electricity, etc. PD agreed to speak to David Daniels and, if necessary, approach the owner of Constellation Mobile Home Park. It was agreed that the Clerk would look into defibrillator training courses.

2023/05-9 Village matters

9.1. *The Elsworth Chronicle*. Mr Alan Farrow had advised that he would no longer be able to produce the Elsworth Chronicle. He meets the cost of hosting of the current website created by Mr Kasio Bienek at a cost of £80.00 p.a. (paid up to April 2024) and can no longer offset this against advertising revenue. Tom Hogan had taken on the management of the

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ELSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

website since Mr Bienek passed away and had added additional material. Paul Harding is currently storing hard copies of documentation and has produced an initial provenance list of the material. PH advised that much work would be necessary to make sense of what there is.

Councillors agreed that:

- a) The safeguarding of the web site and its continuation should be supported.
- b) Decisions need to be taken about the physical archiving of documentation and its future storage.

It was proposed that an article be drafted for inclusion in the Elsworth Times to seek interest in this matter.

9.2. *Village Maintenance.* Progress report from JH.

JH reported that he had sided out part of the footpath in Broad End.

PD raised the painting of the big slide in the play area and MS raised the problem of grips being silted up and preventing water from draining from roads. JH agreed to deal with these matters as soon as possible.

9.3. *Community Flood Plan.*

Councillors **agreed unanimously** to adopt the current plan that the flood group had produced. It was recognised that this plan would provide a way forward and permit access to funding streams. In addition, it was agreed that as this was an evolving document, it would be reviewed by the PC on an annual basis.

Noted also that, in respect of the proposed relief ditch behind the school, a grant application had been submitted to CCC and a case submitted for consideration of Agreserve.

2023/5-10 Planning

10.1. **Planning Applications considered.**

- 23/0354/TTPO 2 Smith Street Site Elsworth Cambridgeshire. T15 Ash tree Crown reduce by 0.5m to a maximum of 2m on all trees. (to achieve a reduction in crown volume by 50% staying within BS3998 and removing secondary and tertiary limbs only, and not exacerbating any one sidedness of the trees current form)
- 23/0134/23 TTPO 2 Smith Street Elsworth Cambridgeshire
Proposal: 2 x Weeping Ash (T1 and T2 our ref): Section Fell to ground level after report from John Setchell design report ref 3187. *PC recommendation: Support*
- 22/05065/FUL The Avenue Business Park Brockley Road Elsworth Cambridgeshire Davison and Co (Barford) Further Consultation on application for Planning Permission for Creation of a mixed-use food hub with additional parking.
Amendment. Removal of additional access onto Rogues Lane, reduction in car parking, submission of preliminary ecological appraisal, retail impact assessment, flood risk assessment and additional information
PC recommendation: No recommendation, with comments.
- 23/00952/LBC & 23/00951/HFUL 2 Brook Street
Single story side and rear extension
PC recommendation: Support

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- 23/0309/TTCA 9 Boxworth Road Elsworth
Proposal: 1 - Elm - remove dead fallen stem. remove single dead stem with bird box
2 - Group of Elm - re-pollard all remaining Elm to 4-5m
5 - Field Maple - reduce to just above height of shed approx 2.5m
PC recommendation: Support
- 23/01254/LBC 1 Brockley Road Elsworth Cambridgeshire CB23 4JS
Installation of illuminated and non-illuminated signs to the exterior of the building
PC recommendation; object with comments.
- 23/00694/LBC & 23/0615/HFUL 2 Church Lane Elsworth Cambridgeshire CB23 4HU
Replace above ground LGP tank on concrete base to below ground vessel; restore garden to original state; remove damaged brick arch and replace with a continuation of fence to improve safety and access. *PC recommendation support*

10.2 Applications determined/closed by SCDC

- 23/0309/TTCA 9 Boxworth Road Elsworth Cambridgeshire CB23 4JQ
Have No Objection To
- 22/04843/FUL Dears Farm Fardells Lane Elsworth Cambridgeshire *Granted Permission on 17 May 2023*

10.3 Consideration of applications received

Noted that it was important that all councillors responded in a timely fashion to planning applications, as deadlines were quite tight and in case there is a need to have meetings about particular cases.

Dates of Parish Council meetings in 2023.

July 19 th	Parish Council Meeting
September 20 th	Parish Council Meeting
November 15 th	Parish Council Meeting

Meetings to conclude by 21:30

Elizabeth A Sim
Parish Clerk & RFO