

# ELSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday July 19<sup>th</sup> 2023 at 7.30pm

in

Elsworth Sports Pavilion, Broad End, Elsworth CB23 4JD

## PRESENT

Chair Peter Deer (PD)  
Councillors Tim Hegan (TH), Richard Hyde (RH), James Howell (JH), Margaret Stevenson (MSt),  
James Witherow (JW)  
In attendance Mrs E Sim Parish Clerk (ES)  
D Cllr Peter Sandford (PS)  
Paul Harding Village Tree Warden (PH)  
2 Members of the public

### 2023/07-1 To receive and approve apologies for absence.

Lawrence Seifert. Annual Leave  
C Cllr Mandy Smith  
Mrs E Bennett. Head Teacher Elsworth C of E School

### Public Participation/Forum No items

### 2023/07 -2 To receive declarations of interest & requests for dispensations

- 2.1 To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda.  
James Witherow declared an interest in Item 6.4.as a landowner.
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests None.
- 2.4 To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate. None.

### 2023/07-3 To sign & approve the Minutes of the Council meetings dated 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023

It was proposed <sup>(JW, seconded JH)</sup> and unanimously **approved** that the Chairman sign the Minutes.

MS reported an update on item 2023/05-7.3. Papworth Surgery. Mr G Stevenson had attended a meeting for patients' representatives. The Surgery had accepted that current arrangements for booking appointments were unsatisfactory and had subsequently initiated a new system for booking routine and emergency appointments. No minutes of the AGM were available to date.

The Chairman proposed to take Item 5:5 at this point in the meeting. **Agreed**

To consider a request from Elsworth Pre-school for funds to support replacement of equipment.

Cllrs **agreed** unanimously to support their funding efforts and authorised PD and ES to make a contribution, estimated to be approximately £272.00 proportionate to the number of children attending the preschool who live in Elsworth Parish (38%), once details of the pre-school's funding position were made known. The preschool was encouraged to seek other possible sources of funding from Parishes where children were in Elsworth's catchment area.

### 2023/07-4 Reports

- 4.1 Cambridgeshire County Councillor. Absent. No report received.
- 4.2. South Cambridgeshire District Councillors  
D. Cllr Peter Sandford reported:

Elsworth Parish Council Chairman - Mr Peter Deer

Clerk to the Council: Mrs Elizabeth Sim. Mercia Cottage, Brockley Road Elsworth CB23 4JS  
Tel 01954 267664 Email clerk@elsworthvillage.com.

# ELSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

- The trial of a 4-day week by Cambridge City Bins collection would commence in October 2023.
- A government minister had requested the trial of the office-based staff 4-day working week to cease with immediate effect. SCDC had responded with a letter requesting further information.
- 8-9 other councils were thinking of trialling the 4-day working week.
- Cambridge Congestion charge. The initial consultation had been unsatisfactory and identified considerable objection to the proposals. Technical officers were going back to the drawing board to look at alternatives. A third draft of the proposals was likely.

MS commented that residents of South Cambridgeshire were being expected to subsidise the residents of Cambridge city's bus services.

There was discussion between the D.Cllr and parishioners attending the meeting touching on the list of exceptions proposed, the need for a clear joined up business case, the environmental implications, the knock on effect of traffic chaos in Cambridge resulting from the way the city had dealt with the road system.

- SCDC was endeavouring to engage more young people in its affairs. Cambourne Youth Club and the village college students had been involved.
- SCDC held an impressive collection rate for the council tax at 98.7% payment.
- PS had spent an afternoon with the police and crime panel at the control room at police headquarters and was impressed by the calm atmosphere. The force is experimenting with video technology to permit on-site communication as opposed to the need to send a squad car to an incident. A recent spike in the number of ghost calls to 999 had been reported. Ambulance attendance time had recently increased which might account for this.

MS asked about feedback from residents regarding the 4-day working week. PS responded that two reports carried out by universities had noted that productivity remained much the same as before the trial. PD requested that the parishes be consulted to ascertain their opinions on the 4- day working week.

#### 4.3. Clerk's Update

The Clerk's report had been circulated to all Cllrs.

#### **Training for CPR and defibrillator**

In response to an email asking for interest in training, thirty-eight residents requested attending a training session. This number presented issues as the defibrillator that is sited in the village by The Poacher was purchased from the East of England Ambulance Service and the package purchased included a free session of training which the EAAS no longer offers. Training now provided was only on a commercial basis and the cost for this number of participants would be prohibitive.

Community First Responders NHS Trust (all volunteers) was contacted and it was clarified that this organisation could provide training free of charge. As school holidays were near, a date in September was preferable. Elsworth School Head Teacher agreed to the use of the hall for the session which was confirmed for Thursday September 28<sup>th</sup> 2023 at 6:30 – 8:30pm.

PC members noted that no charge was made by Community First Responders NHS Trust for this training but that donations would be very welcome to enable the organisation to purchase equipment for their training sessions and provide the first response service.

# ELSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

The Clerk suggested that the PC could make a contribution and councillors **agreed unanimously** to give £100.00 donation to the organisation.

## Willow and Ash trees

A self-set willow on the verge by the brook near the stile, was leaning badly over the road and into power wires. PH advised that this was probably an offshoot of one that was planted years ago by a resident, that had subsequently been felled and the stump poisoned and that, similarly, this new growth should be felled and the stump poisoned. The tree fell into the road. Thanks were expressed to Justin Wilkins for dealing with it so quickly. Mr Wilkins would supply a quote for dealing with the stump.

A large ash tree dropped a very big branch onto the sports field, reasonably near to the play equipment. The branch was still attached to the main tree and was in danger of breaking away. PH had inspected it and advised it should be dealt with by a professional as a matter of urgency. Rob Askham had cordoned it off. Its location meant it was the responsibility of the Sports Club and their chairman was dealing with this. The branch then fell and been partly cut up. PH advised that remedial work on trees on the sports field that had previously been carried out was inadequate and that this ash tree was unbalanced. The field is owned by the Davison Trust which had agreed responsibility and action. However, to date no action had been taken. JH would speak to the Chairman of the Sports Club about the sports club taking responsibility for Health and Safety matters and respond to the Clerk.

## 2023/07-5 Finance

### 5.1. Payment of accounts.

The following payments were approved unanimously (Prop JH Sec TH).

18/05	Street Lighting	South Cambs DC	186.50	37.30	223.80
18/05	Litter Pickers	Ladbrook Insurance	119.61		119.61
31/05	Computer equipment	HP Inc UK Ltd	3.74	0.75	4.49
25/05	PC annual Insurance	Zurich Municipal	706.21		706.21
22/05	Sandbags	The Sandbag Co	148.09	29.62	177.71
31/05	Play area annual rent	Davison & Co Ltd	0.05		.05
01/06	Clerk's remuneration	Parish Council	676.35		676.35
07/06	Elsworth Times	Pendrill Publications	75.00		75.00
15/06	Verge Cut	Neil Kenny	410.00		410.00
16/06	Play area repairs	Huws Gray Ridgeons	68.58	13.72	82.30
19/06	Elsworth Times	Andrew Pope	30.00		30.00
19/06	Computer equipment	HP Inc UK Ltd	3.74	0.75	4.49
03/07	Clerk's remuneration	Parish Council	676.35		676.35
13/07	Scribe Accounts Package	Starboard Systems Ltd	345.60	69.12	414.72

### 5.2. Receipts. Noted

Interest Main accounts	31/05/2023	Nat West	14.67
Interest Main accounts	03/06/2023	Santander	12.67
Verge Cutting	28/06/2023	CCC	408.53
VAT refund	29/06/2023	HMRC	7664.89
Interest Main accounts	30/06/2023	Nat West	12.11
Interest Main accounts	02/07/2023	Santander	12.67

5.3. To consider a request from Elsworth Pre-school for funds to support replacement of equipment. Dealt with previously.

# ELSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

## 2023/07-6 Village matters

6.1. The Elsworth Chronicle archive.  
PD reminded members that the PC had expressed support for the web site to be continued and materials archived. PH would draft an article for the Elsworth Times outlining the current position. JH would contact Cambridgeshire County Archives to ascertain their position on electronic archives.  
The future of the Elsworth Times was discussed. RH agreed to take on a project to look into the future of the publication and ES would convene a meeting with Sue Taylor to discuss the matter.

6.2. **Village Maintenance.**  
The Clerk had circulated the list of maintenance requirements for the village previously presented at the November 2022 meeting. Little progress had been made to date over dealing with maintenance requirements had been non-existent. JH advised he had a list of volunteers who were willing to assist. The Clerk requested to be informed of the names to ensure they were covered by insurance for work carried out on behalf of the Parish Council. Members **agreed** to reinstate the PC's Maintenance Working Party. TH and JH would report on progress to PC meetings. Members **Agreed** to authorise payment for painting and other necessary maintenance to be carried out. The Clerk was mandated to identify a suitable contractor.

JW offered to deal with cutting back the sides of the brook in Brook Street.

### 6.3. **Play Equipment Safety Inspections.**

Lawrence Seifert had reported that

- the entrance to the play area from Broad End was overgrown. The Clerk advised that Neil Kenny had this on his schedule for the coming week.
- The rubber surface matting was lifting and needing attention. The Clerk was mandated to contact the company that supplied this and request an inspection.
- The large slide needed repainting.
- The newly installed picnic tables were appreciated and being well used.

JH stated that the slide was powder coated and that it had been repainted with unsuitable paint that was now flaking off. The only way forward was to allow this to all flake off.

Cllr **Agreed** to request that the annual inspections be carried out by the Play Inspection Company which had previously undertaken all annual inspections.

### 6.4. **EWR. Update**

PD reported that he had attended the recent drop-in event at the Belfry Hotel in Cambourne. It was anticipated that approx. 53,000 people could be attracted to the area because of the proposed station at Cambourne which would be north of the A428. This could mean something in excess of 20k houses stretching from Papworth to Dry Drayton and engulfing Elsworth and Knapwell. There was a move for a second open letter from councils and organisations in Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire objecting to the proposals for the proposed route.

PD was attending a meeting on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July with Anthony Browne MP, and the chairs of the PC and Parish Meetings from Elsworth, Knapwell, Dry Drayton and Caldicote to discuss matters.

## 2023/07-7 PC matters

7.1. Update of PC regulations and policies. MS and the Clerk would review the regulations and polices.

# ELSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

## 2023/07-8 Planning

### 8.1. Planning Applications considered.

- 23/01760/HFUL 15 Cotterells Lane Elsworth Cambridgeshire  
Insertion of a pedestrian access gate along the footway to the side of property. *PC recommendation: Support*
- 23/02228/HFUL. Elm Lodge Meadow Drift. Elsworth.  
Extensions and alterations to the existing bungalow and construction of a new garage. *PC recommendation: no recommendation, with comments regarding drainage ditch.*
- 23/02633/LBC 38 Boxworth Road. Installation of secondary glazing to front four windows - Installed inside to match the mirror line of the windows. *PC recommendation: Support subject to no objection from the listed buildings officer*

### 8.2 Applications determined/closed by SCDC

- 23/00615/HFUL & 23/00694/LBC22 Church Lane Elsworth Cambridgeshire CB23 4HU  
*Granted Permission*
- 23/0354/TTPO 2 Smith Street Site Elsworth Cambridgeshire. *Granted permission.*
- 23/00951/HFUL & 23/00952/LBC 2 Brook Street Elsworth Cambridgeshire CB23 4HX  
Single storey side and rear extension *Granted Permission 21/06/2023*
- 23/01254/LBC 1 Brockley Road Elsworth Cambridgeshire CB23 4JS Installation of illuminated and non-illuminated signs to the exterior of the building. *Granted Permission.*

### 8.3. Feedback from Planning Committee meeting 12<sup>th</sup> July 2023 re Avenue Business park application.

PD reported that

- He had attended the Planning Committee meeting on July 12<sup>th</sup> on behalf of the PC and, in the three minutes available to speakers, had focused on the imposition of conditions to be placed were permission to be granted. This was the second meeting to consider the application as the initial committee meeting had been abandoned over complaints of potential political interference by a member of the DC Cabinet addressing the committee when not entitled to do so.
- There were documentation issues that were extremely unsatisfactory; for example, while the committee meeting was on the Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup>, new documentation had been uploaded onto the planning portal on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup>, giving no opportunity for people to challenge the content.
- While understanding the need to limit the time available to speakers, the three minute rule (and the way it was applied at the meetings) is unsatisfactory in a case of such complexity as the food park application and simply does not give time to address points arising during the meeting or raise issues related to the documentation (such as County Highways failure to adequately evaluate the transport documentation).

D. Cllr Sandford advised that there was no post-hearing scrutiny undertaken by the Planning Committee regarding process and procedures.

Members thanked PD for his work in preparing the representation to the DC planning Committee and raising concerns that had been expressed by residents.

JH advised the council that Anthony Davison had sent an email to some residents of the village which had subsequently been forwarded on a whatsapp group. In the communication Mr Davison had voiced extremely derogatory comments about some individuals who made representations to the Committee, including the Chairman of

# ELSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Elsworth Parish Council. JH stated that this was a reflection on the PC as a whole and that a printed public apology should be demanded.

PD said that he would request a formal retraction of the comments.

## Dates of Parish Council meetings in 2023.

September 20<sup>th</sup> Parish Council Meeting

November 15<sup>th</sup> Parish Council Meeting

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21.50.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_(Chairman ). Date \_\_\_\_\_