

ELSWORTH PARISH

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in The Sports Pavilion Broad End
On May 15th 2024 at 6:30pm

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

Those present

Twenty three people attended the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence:

None.

2. Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting 19th April 2023

The minutes were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. ^{(Proposed}
James Howell Seconded Lawrence Seifert)

3. Chairman's address to the meeting

Peter Deer reported that

- Another year had gone by during which the PC had dealt with the usual mix of business such as planning matters and highways matters and the frustrations which attend these.
- More proactively, and as predicted at the last APM, a particular focus had been on the perennial problem of flooding which impacts particular parts of the village. Largely through efforts of the PC's Community Flood Group some flood relief works had been undertaken (e.g. in Fardell's Lane), the Parish Council had been seeking to improve its understanding of where problems lie (e.g. blocked conduits), what remedial work could be done, and producing a schedule for long term plan regular maintenance with an increased budget allocation.
- The PC had begun employing a contractor to do some of the outstanding maintenance jobs around the village.
- Bids had been made for funding yellow lines along Boxworth Rd and for a 20 mph speed limit across the village.
- East West Rail is creeping ever closer and this is not only the rail line itself, but the prospect of a rail station for Cambourne being located just south of Knapwell. The location of a station for Cambourne north of the A428 is seen as an opportunity for economic and large scale housing development to the south of Knapwell and Elsworth; in similar fashion the location of a station at Tempsford had also been identified as a site for major development opportunities.
- EWR recently sent Land Interest Questionnaires to owners of land that might be impacted by the line and intends to work on Local Opportunity Plans around the new stations which for Elsworth means aspirations to significantly expand Cambourne to the north of the A428.
- Although a statutory consultation process has still to be worked through (with a first stage later this year), experience suggests that decisions are already entrenched and, despite outward appearances and honeyed words, consultation is something akin to a tick box exercise. All these and other various stages will take time, but there was little room to doubt that EWR will happen and must pose an existential threat to Knapwell and Elsworth as we

ELSWORTH PARISH

know them. A question were raised regarding the possibility of this project being shelved, should there be a change of government at the forthcoming general election. The Chairman responded that this was unlikely the Oxford/Cambridge arc was seen as a major economic driver for the country and costs for the project were to be covered by the large-scale additional housing developments. Comment was made regarding the problems of water supply for such developments which is seen as a potential threat to the villages nearby.

- Peter Deer announced that he intended to stay on the PC as a councillor but was standing down as the chair after the Annual Parish Council meeting when Cllrs would be choosing his successor. He paid tribute to all the Parish Cllrs, District and County Cllrs, both past and present, that he had worked with during his chairmanship; all those individuals who have been connected with the PC in a voluntary capacity; and to the person any chair has to work closely with - the Parish Clerk.

4. Summary of Elsworth's income and expenditure for year ending March 31st 2024

Liz Sim, the Parish Clerk, presented a summary of income and expenditure (unaudited) for the financial year ending March 2024, (Appendix 1). She noted that the rise in the precept for the coming year had been kept to a minimum although expenditure was expected to rise considerably in the current climate.

5 Reports from village organisations

Reports were received from:

1. Elsworth Sports Club (Appendix 2.)
2. Elsworth C of E Primary School (Appendix 3).
3. Elsworth Preschool (Appendix 4).
4. Fardell's Lane Reserve (Appendix 5).
5. Holy Trinity Church (Appendix 6).
6. The Elsworth Times Editor (Verbal). A new typesetter had taken over the publication. More contributions were needed.
7. The Elsworth Show (Verbal). The show was just about breaking even and had a £4K reserve. No adverts were taken for the brochure, in order to minimise editorial and production costs. More help was requested for setting up on the day. This year the show would be on Sunday September 8th.

6. Question Time

A comment was made about the safety of pedestrians in Fardell's Lane, in particular for children walking too and from school. The grass verge had been badly eroded and needed reinstating to enable pedestrians to stand safely out of the path of traffic.

A vote of thanks was raised for Mr Peter Deer, in sincere appreciation of all the hard work he had put in, to the benefit of the village, during his time as Parish Council Chairman.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 19:25.

Signed _____ (Chairman). Date _____

Elsworth Parish Council
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2023-2024

	RECEIPTS	PAYMENTS
Opening Balance at Bank	30,047.59	
Precept	24,000.00	
Interest Main accounts	438.63	
VAT refund	7,664.89	
Clerk's Remuneration		8,116.20
Insurance - Annual Premium		706.21
Audit		410.00
Computer/stationery	93.71	573.63
Telephone/Internet		716.54
Postage and Mileage		156.24
Subscriptions		484.60
Parish Council Publications		30.00
Verge Cutting	408.53	2,870.00
Play area		68.63
Flood Prevention & Brook Strimming		398.09
Fardell's Lane		335.00
Street Lighting		186.50
General Village Maintenance		3,142.26
Website		380.00
Elsworth Times		630.00
Annual Parish Meeting		93.33
Christmas Lights event		25.57
Donations		120.00
Section 137		1,772.00
Litter Pick		119.61
Data protection Fee		35.00
East West Rail and Development consultations		30.00
Capital expenditure		1,987.33
VAT		1,135.31
	32,605.76	24,522.05
Closing Balances:		
Balances in Bank Accounts 31.03.2024		38,131.30
Cash in Hand		
TOTAL	62,653.35	62,653.35

The above statement represents fairly the financial position of the council as at 31 Mar 2024

Signed _____
 Responsible Financial Officer

Date *31 May 2024*

Statement of Elsworth Sports Club for delivery at the Annual Parish Meeting, 15th May 2024

Elsworth Sports Club was very thankful for the continued support of the Parish Council in meeting the rising costs of maintaining the grass close and pavilion.

The committee continues to explore ways of improving the maintenance of the grass close in order to ensure a vital village asset is kept open and able to be used by all.

Thanks go out to our members and volunteers for helping us in every way they can this past 12 months.

PC Funding breakdown 2023 - £1500.00

Hall hires	£ 405.00
Playground Maintenance	£ 700.00
Field Maintenance	£ 955.00
Total	£ 2,060.00

Month	Hall Hires Quantity	Cost per hr	Total
January	3	£ 15.00	£ 45.00
April	5	£ 15.00	£ 75.00
May	3	£ 15.00	£ 45.00
July	5.5	£ 15.00	£ 82.50
September	3	£ 15.00	£ 45.00
November	3	£ 15.00	£ 45.00
December	4.5	£ 15.00	£ 67.50
			£ 405.00

Playground Maintenance			
Task	Quantity	Cost per unit	Total
Grass cutting	20	£ 30.00	£ 600.00
Leaf clearance	4	£ 25.00	£ 100.00
			£ 700.00

Field Maintenance			
Task	Quantity	Cost per unit	Total
Grass cutting	25	£ 35.00	£ 875.00
Strimming	4	£ 20.00	£ 80.00
			£ 955.00



Elsworth C of E Primary School report

Parish Council AGM Wednesday 15th May

Elsworth C of E Primary School currently has 124 pupils on the school roll. We have families from our catchment villages of Elsworth, Connington, Boxworth and Knapwell. We also have families from Papworth, Hilton and other surrounding villages who are keen for their child/ren to come to Elsworth C of E Primary School

We have strong links with Holy Trinity Church and we are very grateful to Reverend Nigel who comes into school to lead Collective Worship with the children on a Thursday morning. On Wednesday 27th March we were blessed with blue skies and sunshine for our walk to church for our Easter Service. Each class shared a prayer on the way to church; the whole school stopped to pray at the Village Shop, the bottom of The Causeway and outside Holy Trinity church.

Our school curriculum is planned using a topic based approach. In the Spring term children in Sapphire and Emerald class were learning about 'Minibeasts'. In Ruby, Aquamarine and Diamond class, the children focused on learning about the 'Vikings'. History Off the Page came into school for a day and the children took part in a range of engaging learning activities to help them understand what life was like living in a Viking village.

Children and staff thoroughly enjoyed designing our own Mini G in the Autumn term. On 21st March the Standing Tall trail launched in Cambridge. On the trail, visitors will be able to see 31 beautifully decorated giraffe sculptures and alongside them will be over 60 Mini Gs, each one created by local schools and community groups. Elsworth C of E Primary School giraffe is on display in the Central Library.

On Friday 19th April, we had a visit from Pete Thompson: 5 x world skipping record breaker! Pete is also known as the Skipping Ninja. His organisation - Skip Beatz - teaches children the fundamentals of jumping and skipping and why exercise is so beneficial to our wellbeing.

Pete led an assembly and he talked about his world records and how he makes healthy life choices. We were then introduced to the ninja (AKA Pete), who gave us a mind-blowing demonstration of highly impressive skipping moves. The hall lights were turned off and special coloured spot lights, along with dramatic music really made the show spectacular!

After the assembly, each class took part in a 30-40 minute workshop outside on the playground. Pete led a warm-up and then taught the children how to improve their skipping skills.

It was a fantastic way to launch our 'Skipping week'. The children have been achieving their bronze, silver and gold awards. Some of our Year 5 pupils decided to create a Platinum award to challenge children even further.

Our Year 5 Junior Travel Ambassador group would like to thank Parish Councillor, Tim Hegan, for meeting with them to discuss their suggested improvements to the roads and ways to encourage parents, children and staff to actively travel to school. We hope the 20mph application to Cambridge County Council that we worked on with Tim will be successful.

Finally, we will be celebrating the 70th Anniversary of Elsworth C of E Primary School on Wednesday 9th October. We will be holding a special celebratory service at Holy Trinity Church followed by a street style party on the school playground with the staff and children. We are planning to have an exhibition in the school hall to show Elsworth School through the years in the afternoon. Past pupils and families are invited to come and see the exhibition in school. More information will follow nearer the time.

Elsworth Pre-school Report to Annual Parish Meeting 2024

Thank you so much for your donation last year, we really appreciate it! We have used the funds to purchase a second hand toy kitchen for the children to enable them to roleplay their lived experiences. The kitchen teaches children basic cooking and cleaning concepts, which enriches their understanding of the world and develops their life skills. As it was second hand we spent less money than in the grant request.

We were gifted a play garage and a dolls cot and highchair, therefore we spent the remaining money on a wooden spaceship toy, as this is a particular area of interest for our children.

We currently have 29 on roll, 10 of whom live in Elsworth. In September, we anticipate (based on sign up) that we will have 20 on roll, 9 of whom live in Elsworth.

We look forward to further benefiting the children of this parish and would appreciate your continued support.

Kind regards
Sophie Mills

Kind regards,
Sophie Mills
Manager

Fardell's Lane Nature Reserve – Report to the Parish Council

The Parish Clerk asked me to provide a report on FLNR. I am grateful to Louise Hanzi for comments.

FLNR manager

Louise Hanzi stood down in 2023 as the voluntary reserve manager. No replacement has been identified by the PC. The most recent Elsworth Times (April/May 2024) still lists Louise as the contact regarding FLNR although there had been a suggestion that James Howell would become the named contact.

Management

Following a meeting between Mrs Bennett and myself at the School on 24/1/24, we agreed that it was desirable for the school to be more actively involved with use of FLNR. Mrs Bennett also suggested involving some parents in management activities. As a result, a work party of seven spent a couple of hours on 3/2/24 doing some essential work, mainly clearing paths.

On 24/1/24 James Witherow flailed back the main areas of bramble encroachment around the 'Meadow'.

Fly-tipping along the back of the Broad End Bungalows was collected-up by James Howell as part of a village litter-pick event – see cover of Elsworth Times (Feb/Mar 2024).

Although I winter-pruned some of the young trees planted in the reserve, Louise and I think that there has been no other management work.

UK Power Networks

Louise Hanzi reported that she and James Howell met with Fergus Andrew of BTS Group, a sub-contractor for UK Power Networks on 4/4/24. Fergus needed to do his own survey and said he should have all the forms completed and signed off the following week. The previous surveyor recommended Fergus to double-check with SCDC that nothing had changed as the prior approval was over 18 months ago. Once in the system he thought it would be 4-6 months before the work started.

Broad End / Fardell's Lane hedge

The spur of hedge running from the main reserve to the Broad End / Fardell's Lane junction is a responsibility of the PC as part of the FLNR agreement with SCDC. It is overgrown and is a reported nuisance for occupants of the relevant bungalows.

With the agreement of the PC Chairman I have sought an estimate from a trusted tree surgeon for two options for the management of this hedge during 2024. The estimate is now with the PC for consideration.

Picnic Benches

The PC has agreed to provide funding for two new picnic benches in the reserve. I do not know who is overseeing this commitment.

Paul T. Harding
28 April 2024

AP 5

Holy Trinity Church, Elsworth

Thank you for all your interest, support and encouragement over the past 12 months.

Overall it is fair to say the resilience in rural communities means the short to medium term, consequences of the COVID pandemic on church life and activities has been somewhat less than in urban and suburban areas.

Your church depends and benefits from a huge amount of volunteer work, that often goes uncelebrated, and extends far beyond regular Sunday activities. This includes:

- a) the leadership and practical input of James Howell as Churchwarden and the PCC;
- b) those who provide and display flowers, clean brass work, hoover and dust within the church building, and wind of the clock on a regular basis;
- c) those who mow grass in the churchyard from spring until early autumn;
- d) the ACCESS group activities that both raise funds towards the internal reordering plans and provide important opportunities for fun and fellowship;
- e) bellringers, organists and the contributions of a 'Pop-up Choir' for the Harvest Festival, the Village Christmas Carol Service and most recently on Easter Day.

There are regular services on two, sometimes 3, Sundays each month and the congregation is usually enlarged at the major festivals as well as for the Act of Remembrance at the village war memorials. In addition to my participation in their weekly Collective Worship programme, Elsworth School come to the church two or three times a year as a whole community of pupils and staff, supported by a growing number of other family-members and carers. The church is also an important place for people to gather for Life Events (weddings, christenings and funerals). There will be 3 weddings in May and June this year, of couples living in the village.

Internally a major focus for the Parochial church Council has working with our architect to secure a faculty (the equivalent of planning permission in church-speak) for ambitious plans that will bring water into the building, provide a kitchen, also toilet facilities, allow more flexible use of the space at the rear of the building, some modest improvements to both heating and lighting and some important repairs to both floors and walls. The next step is to make applications to major grant-making bodies to supplement existing funds for an ambitious project aimed at making the church building more welcoming and accessible for both regular Christian worship and other activities.

From the start of 2024 formal responsibility for the care and maintenance of the original churchyard – closed by Order in Privy Council in 1904 - including the ongoing repair and maintenance to boundary walls trees and the like (passed to the Parish Council. This has led the PC to refer the matter of who does what to the District Council; as you can imagine this is one of those discussions that reminds us why 'Rome was not built in a day'!

Next year will mark 25 years since Elsworth became a formal part of the wider Papworth Team Ministry. As Team Rector it often feels as though Elsworth is my home (for which we are very thankful) whilst much of my time (not just on Sundays!) is spent in the other 14 parishes that are also part of the Team! A big change in 2023 was the departure of my other stipendiary (paid) ministry colleague; which means - for the time being and foreseeable future - I am the only full-time minister for the whole Team. This reflects the national trend in the Church of England with resources being more and more thinly spread – due the heady cocktail of financial pressure, a surge in retirements in the first half of this decade and a slump in recruitment due to so much uncertainty about the future.

Among the many joys I celebrate is the continuing generosity of those who donate into the Foodbank Box which is in the village shop, filled with items bought in our shop and therefore making a contribution to both people in need and the viability of the shop. Thank you. Normally the box is replaced every two weeks; a conservative estimate is that over a 12 month period the value of goods taken to a local foodbank is between £1,200 and £1,500 in a year. This was an acorn of an idea sown among us back in 2016 by a village resident who has now moved on, but has become an important oak-tree of important community generosity.