

ELSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday January 18th 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), Lawrence seifert (LS),
Margaret Stevenson (MSt), James Witherow (JW)
In attendance C Cllr Mandy Smith (MS)
D Cllr Peter Sandford (PS)
Peter Ward (PW) Community Flood Group
4 Members of the public

2023/01-1 To receive and approve apologies for absence.
Elizabeth Sim, Parish Clerk (vacation)

Public Participation/Forum No items.

2023/01 -2 Declarations of interest & requests for dispensations

- 2.1 To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda. TH, RH, MSt declared an interest in flooding (as residents of Brook Street) and JH declared an interest in the closed churchyard (as Churchwarden)
- 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. N/A
- 2.3 To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any). N/A
- 2.4 To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate. N/A

2023/01-3 Minutes of the Council meetings dated November 16th 2022.

It was proposed ^(JW, seconded TH) and unanimously **approved** that the Chairman sign the Minutes.

2023/01-4 Reports

- 4.1 **Cambridgeshire County Councillor's report.** MS reported that:
 - Following the adoption of 20 m.p.h. as the default speed limit on new residential roads, the application process for new 20mph zones on existing roads is expected to open in February; details regarding costs are yet to be determined.
 - National Highways officers were prepared to attend PC and public meetings to speak about the upgrade of the A428.
 - She would speak with Highways about concerns over their input to planning applications and feedback to PD.
- 4.2 **South Cambs District Councillor's report.** PS reported that:
 - The upgrade to the A428 was delayed as it continued to be subject to a legal challenge.
 - Council Tax would be rising by 3.4% to try to achieve break even in the DC budget.
 - A £12 increase in Band D houses was proposed to fund better bus services.
 - The congestion charge consultation had received many thousands of responses and it would take some time for these to be analysed.
 - The first proposals in the new Local Plan envisage a need for an increase in the number of new houses required in South Cambs, however water supply is a problem and proposals for piping water from Grafham Water and the construction of a new Fens reservoir by 2035 were under consideration.

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2023/01-5 Village Matters

5.1 Community Flood Plan

PW introduced the draft Flood Plan; arising out of consideration of the draft it was agreed that:

- The Flood Group be recognised formally as a PC Working Group.
- A small Steering Group comprising parish councillors and Flood Group members be established to discuss the detail in the plan and to report back to the PC; TH and JH volunteered to be the PC's representatives.
- A balance had to be struck between those things which the PC undertakes and measures which residents could be expected to take to protect their own property or for which they have riparian obligations.
- From the £3k which had been allocated for flood prevention in the current financial year, a new shed be purchased at a cost of £1070.83 + VAT.
- The Steering Group to consider and report back on the purchase from the same allocation of a limited number of sandbags (a single pallet?) and a flood trigger.
- Provision be made for a budget of £6k for flood prevention for the forthcoming financial year.
- Insurance cover for individuals with responsibilities under the flood plan be investigated by the PC once these were clearer.
- With regard to possible funding, that MS's suggestion that she arrange a meeting between PW and John Winfield of Cams CC was welcome.

5.2 **Maintenance in the village.** JH reported that he had 12 volunteers to undertake the list of maintenance tasks that had been identified.

5.3 **King Charles' III Coronation.** Noted that a bring your own food and drink street party in Brook Street on Sunday, 7 May was being organised for everyone in the village and that an article would be put in the next edition of the ET.

2023/01-6 Communications

6.1 Further to the letter from Rev N Di Castiglione addressed to all councillors dated 15 December 2022, it was agreed nem con to request that SCDC takes over the responsibility for the management of the closed churchyard under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972, sections 215(2) and (3).

6.2 With regard to the suggestion in the letter that the PC meet the cost of horticultural care, it was confirmed by JH that, in fact, he would continue to bear this. As regards insurance cover for injury for people passing through the churchyard or possible damage to the church building most particularly from damaged trees, PD reported that advice had been received from the PC's insurers. They indicate that cover could be provided if the PC wished to accept responsibility for their maintenance; but they also drew attention that ownership together with its attendant responsibilities remained with the church and to the importance of undertaking risk assessments. Agreed that PD discuss these matters further with the Rector.

2023/01-7 Finance

7.1 The following **payments** were approved unanimously (proposed JW, seconded JH)

	Nett	VAT	Gross	Total:	2,185.60
21.11.2022	7.07	1.42	8.49	Computer equipment	HP Inc UK Ltd
23.11.2022	134.00			SLCC Subscription	SLCC
23.11.2022	20.00			Royal British Legion Wreath	Parish Council
23.11.2022	108.32	21.66	129.98	General Village Maintenance	M & P Direct
23.11.2022	46.87	9.37	56.24	Christmas Lights switch on	Tesco
01.12.2022	601.20			Clerk's remuneration	Parish Council

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.

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06.12.2022	30.00			Elsworth Times	Andrew Pope
12.12.2022	50.00			Computer equipment	Michael Firth
15.12.2022	42.00			Christmas Lights switch on	Tesco
20.12.2022	10.41	2.08	12.49	Computer equipment	HP Inc UK Ltd
30.12.2022	500.00			Grant grass cutting sports field	Parish Council
03.01.2023	601.20			Clerk's remuneration	Parish Council

7.2 Receipts

30/11/2022	8.45	Interest Nat West
02/12/2022	3.49	Interest Santander
30/12/2022	8.69	Interest Nat West

7.3 Precept

Having regard to anticipated expenditure in the forthcoming financial year (2023-2024), it was agreed unanimously that the Council request a precept of £24,000.

2023/01-10 Planning

10.1. Planning Applications considered .

- 22/05053/FUL 24 and 26 Brook Street - Construction of a vehicular access bridge and formation of parking areas to front of 24 and 26 Brook Street.
PC recommendation: Object; comments submitted. (Noted application now withdrawn).
- 22/05065/FUL The Avenue Business Park Brockley Road - Creation of a mixed-use food hub with additional parking.
PC recommendation: Object; comment submitted. (Noted that a bakery was now operating from unit 7).
- 22/03801/FUL The Avenue Business Park Brockley Road - Further consultation on application for planning permission for erection of office extension to Units 17-18 Avenue Business Park and associated external works. Amendment to the application: Submission of a new Flood Risk Assessment to address concerns regarding potential flood risk. *PC recommendation: No recommendation; comments submitted.*

10.3. Applications determined/closed by SCDC.

- 22/04152/LBC 20 Brook Street. Granted permission.
- 22/1280/TTCA 1 The Causeway No Objection Raised.
- 22/1198/TTCA 31 Smith Street Have No Objection Raised.
- 22/04520/LBC 15 Cottrell's Lane. Granted permission.
- 22/1472/TTCA 8 Cotterells Lane. No Objection Raised.

Dates of Parish Council meetings in 2023

March 15 th	Parish Council Meeting	
April 19 th	Annual Parish Meeting	
May 17 th	Parish Council Meeting	
July 19 th	Parish Council Meeting	
September 20 th	Parish Council Meeting	
November 22 nd	Parish Council Meeting.	Meetings to conclude by 21:30

There being no other business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21.32.