

# ELSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on**  
Wednesday May 15th 2024 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  
D. Cllr Mandy Smith  
Paul Harding (PH) Village Tree Warden  
Peter Ward (PW) Elsworth Community Flood Group

## **2024/05-1 Election of the Chairman of the Parish Council**

Peter Deer announced that he was standing down as Chairman, but would remain a parish councillor.

It was unanimously agreed that Mr Deer would chair this meeting.

Timothy Hegan was proposed as Chairman (JH) seconded JW and was elected unanimously.

### **Election of Vice Chairman**

Richard Hyde was proposed as Vice Chairman (JW) and seconded (JH) and was elected unanimously.

## **2024/05-2 Apologies for absence**

None

## **2024/05-3 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.

## **2024/05-4 To receive declarations of interest & requests for dispensations**

- 4.1 To receive 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. N/A.
- 4.3 To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any) None.
- 4.4 To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate. N/A.

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## 2024/05-5 To sign & approve the Minutes of the Council meetings dated 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024

It was proposed (TH seconded JH) and unanimously **approved** that the Chairman sign the minutes with no amendments.

## 2024/05-6 Appointments for 2024-2025

- 6.1. Parish Tree Warden. Paul Harding  
Mr Harding stressed that he would be willing to provide advice but could no longer undertake physical activity.
- 6.2. PC member for The Village Community Flood Group. James Witherow
- 6.3. PC representative on Elsworth Sports Club Committee Lawrence Seifert

## 2024/05-7 Reports

### 7.1 Cambridgeshire County Councillor

Cllr Smith reported:

- There was to be a change of LHO for our area.
- The rebuilding of the verge in Fardell's Lane could be considered for an LHI application
- She was chasing the highways Department with regard to the potholes in the village; and flood issues at the junction of the Avenue Park service road and Smith Street and in Broad End.

### 7.2. South Cambridgeshire District Councillor

Cllr Sandford reported:

- D Cllr Howell was still on leave of absence.
- The DC precept has increased by £5 for the coming financial year
- 2 additional environmental Health officers were in place to deal specifically with fly tipping
- Bin emptying was on track
- CCC was starting its enforcement on parking on pavements and had a web site to report infringement.
- Grants were available for solar panels on community buildings
- The DC website was being updated
- AI was being used to respond to residents' queries
- A Development Consent Order (DCO) was being pursued as the means of obtaining permission for EWR and associated developments, thereby bypassing normal planning processes; water supply remained an ongoing concern
- The 4 day working week trial at SCDC was continuing while a much anticipated report on the effectiveness of this was being written up
- A bin lorry trial of the 4 day working week was being extended until October.

### 7.3. Chairman's update

PD reported:

- East West Rail. He had attended an online meeting organised by Cambridge Approaches at which there was a presentation on the disruption that was being caused in Bedfordshire. EWR had sent out Land Interest Questionnaires to landowners who might be affected by

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the building of the rail line. They have also indicated they intend to prepare Local Opportunity Plans about the aspirations for strategic scale growth around the new stations on the line relating to planning officers are engaged in discussions with EWR about these as part of the preparation for the Local Plan.

- Together with PW, he had met Brian Heffernan (CCC Flood Team) to discuss riparian ownership in Broad End and the ditch that had been filled in outside Elm Lodge Meadow Drift. (Cllr Smith to chase).
- Franks Farm. Conditions imposed on the planning approval for the food park had still not been implemented

## 7.4. Clerk's Update

- A response was still awaited as to the reasons for delays in planning applications being decided; one application has been outstanding since 2020. The Clerk would send details to Cllr Sandford who agreed to pursue the matter.
- The new signage for the play area and Fardell's Lane would soon be installed.
- Complaints had been received about the state of Fardell's Lane Reserve and the cemetery as they had not been mown. The village maintenance man has been unable to deal with Fardell's Lane due to illness. Residents had been directed to the Rector with regard to the cemetery.
- An individual calling himself Bill Thompson, claiming to be with County Highways was paying scam visits to residents offering to repair driveways and roadways.
- BT issues. The majority of residents who had been affected by almost seven weeks of outage were gradually being reconnected to phone and internet supplies. BT (Openreach) crew would be continuing to deal with underground cabling issues for the foreseeable few weeks. Residents had been advised how to claim compensation from BT.

## 2024/05-8 Finance

8.1. To approve and sign the Council's Annual Governance Statement 2023/2024  
It was proposed (MS, seconded LS) and unanimously **approved** that the Chairman sign the council's Annual Governance statement 2023/2024

8.2. To approve and sign the Council's Accounting Statement for the year ending March 31st, 2024.

It was proposed (JW, seconded LS) and unanimously **approved** that the Chairman sign the Council's Accounting statement for the year ending March 31st, 2024  
The Internal Auditor's report was noted.

8.3. To approve payment of accounts

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

Payments	Nett	VAT	Total	Description	Supplier
01.03.2024	£676.35	£0.00	£676.35	Clerk's remuneration	Parish Council
08.03.2024	£25.00	£5.00	£30.00	Web site hosting	Richard Milns (Guava Design)

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14.03.2024	£72.29	£0.00	£72.29	Clerk's expenses postage and mileage	Parish Council
17.03.2024	£9.99	£2.00	£11.99	Computer equipment	HP Inc UK Ltd
21.03.2024	£130.62	£26.12	£156.74	Stationery	Viking

09.05.2024	£95.00	£19.00	£114.00	Internal Audit	Gayle and Ben Stoehr (LGS Services)
01.05.2024	£676.35	£0.00	£676.35	Clerk's remuneration	Parish Council
30.04.2024	£770.00	£0.00	£770.00	Verge Cut	Patrick Horsley (The Handyman Contractor )
30.04.2024	£165.00	£0.00	£165.00	General Village Maintenance	Patrick Horsley (The Handyman Contractor )
19.04.2024	£198.07	£39.62	£237.69	Phone and Internet	BT
29.04.2024	£30.00	£0.00	£30.00	Elsworth Times	Andrew Pope (Andrew Pope)
10.04.2024	£82.50	£0.00	£82.50	Elsworth Times	Lee Tilbury (Design By Lee)
03.04.2024	£676.35	£0.00	£676.35	Clerk's remuneration	Parish Council

#### 8.4. Notice of receipts received. Noted

28.03.2024	£18.55	Interest PC savings a/c Nat west	Nat west
03.03.2024	£17.77	Interest Santander Account	Santander Bank
29.02.2024	£20.19	Interest PC savings a/c Nat west	Nat west

30.04.2024	£25.67	Interest PC savings a/c Nat west	Nat west
02.05.2024	£18.42	Interest Santander Account	Santander Bank
25.04.2024	£25,000.00	Precept	South CDC
02.04.2024	£19.01	Interest Santander Account	Santander Bank

8.5. Elsworth Times. To consider, and if thought fit, agree a donation of £82.50 per issue towards the publication costs of the newsletter for the current financial year 2024-2025. **Agreed** Unanimously

8.6. Fardell's Lane Nature Reserve. To consider, and if thought fit, agree the quotation from Cambridge Trees Ltd. for tree works to remove a dead elm and hedge cutting where there was overhanging vegetation on pathways in areas to the rear of bungalows in Broad End.

Councillors requested that the Clerk seek other quotations. The question of future management of the reserve was also discussed. The school was seeking parent volunteers to join the FLNR working party and JH would be the contact;

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he would liaise with PH over the maintenance programme. Noted that the trimming of trees growing into the overhead power lines along Fardell's Lane would be done later in the year by contractors working for UK Power Networks.

- 8.7. Elsworth Chronicle. To consider, and if thought fit, agree payment of the domain hosting renewal for the publication for 2024-2025 financial year. **Agreed** Unanimously. The change of address, for the invoice, to that of the Parish Council, would be requested
- 8.8. Elsworth Litter picking Group. To consider, and if thought fit, agree the request for reimbursement of the insurance premium the group for the current financial year 2024-2025. **Agreed** Unanimously.

### 2024/05-9 Village matters

- 9.1. Assets of Community Value. The Poacher and the George and Dragon public houses had both been included in SCDC's Register of Assets of Community Value. Clarification of the boundary for the asset at the George and Dragon was needed to take account of the new dwelling and the planning approval for an additional dwelling to be erected in the car park.

### 2024/05-10 Planning

- 10.1. **Planning Applications considered-**
  - 24/0341/TTCA 4 And 6 Broad End Elsworth Cambridgeshire Proposal: Site 35 - Crown reduce mixed broadleaf species group by 3 metres, in order to provide 4 metre clearance from freestanding transformer pole (Council land)  
Site 35A - Light prune on Silver Birch x1 (reduce closest branch tips by 2 metres to gain 3 metre clearance (this tree is located in adjacent private garden, No 4 Broad End. *Parish Council Recommendation: Support*
  - 24/0459/TTPO Rectory Farm Brook Street Elsworth Proposal: B65C SITE 81 Side reduce mature Ash by 2M including any branches overhanging conductors. *Parish Council Recommendation: Support*
  - 24/0460/TTPO 34 Brook Street Elsworth Cambridgeshire Proposal: B65C Site 82 Ash x1: Light prune one side of crown Southern aspect by 1M to increase clearance to 11kv Overhead line. *Parish Council Recommendation: Support*
  - 24/0458/TTPO 54 Boxworth Road Elsworth Cambridgeshire  
Proposal: South Eastern end of TPO area as identified on planning portal appears to overlap area of trees which are having an effect on the 11KV overhead line as it passes through wooded area.  
Required work is:  
Mixed broadleaf woodland group, Side prune or crown reduce as appropriate depending on position of tree in relation to conductors by 3M. Fell all scrub beneath Overhead line. Re-planting not appropriate due to requirement to maintain safety clearance from overhead powerline *Parish Council Recommendation: Support*
  - 24/0477/TTPO 12A Constellation Mobile Home Park The Drift Elsworth  
Proposal: T1 Ash tree: re-reduce the crown by 2-2.5m.  
T2 Ash tree: re-reduce the crown by 2-2.5m.  
Reason: Our client would like to re-reduce the crown of these two Ash trees,

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because they dominate the whole of the garden, causing shading and bird excrement. It has been quite a while since these trees were last reduced. *PC recommendation: Support. Noted that the supporting documentation was poor and the exact position of the trees was difficult to establish.*

## 10.2 Applications determined/closed by SCDC

- 24/0265/TTCA 31 Smith Street Elsworth Cambridgeshire CB23 4HY  
*Have No Objection To*
- 20/04791/CONDC Land To The South Of 29 Brook Street Elsworth Cambridgeshire CB23 4HX Discharge Condition in Part
- 24/00289/PRIOR Rectory Farm Brook Street Elsworth Cambridgeshire CB23 4HX *Prior Approval Given*
- 21/05189/CONDA 3 Brook Street Elsworth Cambridgeshire CB23 4HX  
*Discharge Condition in Full*

## Dates of Parish Council meetings in 2024.

July 17 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Council Meeting
September 18 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Council Meeting
November 20 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Council Meeting

**There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 20:47**

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