

# ELSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday September 18<sup>th</sup> 2024 at  
7.30pm

in

Elsworth Sports Pavilion, Broad End, Elsworth CB23 4JD

## PRESENT

Chair Tim Hegan (TH)

Councillors Peter Deer (PD), James Howell (JH), Richard Hyde (RH),  
Lawrence Seifert (LS) Margaret Stevenson (MSt), James Witherow (JW)

In attendance Mrs E Sim Parish Clerk (ES)

D.Cllr Mark Howell (MH) from 20:10

D Cllr Peter Sandford (PS)

C.Cllr Mandy Smith (MS)

Paul Harding Village tree warden (PH)

Peter Ward. Community Flood Group (PW)

## 2024/09-1 To receive and approve apologies for absence.

D.Cllr Mark Howell. (Late) Attending Bourn PC meeting.

## Public Participation/Forum

PH asked for an update on the Elsworth Chronicle website. PD responded. The website is currently inaccessible. [Clerk's Note – transfer of ownership to the parish council is still being sought].

## 2024/09 -2 To receive declarations of interest & requests for dispensations

- 2.1. To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda. None
- 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 (if any).N/A
- 2.4 To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate. N/A

## 2024/09-3 To approve & sign the Minutes of the Council meeting dated 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024

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

## 2024/09-4 Reports

### 4.1 Cambridgeshire County Councillor

Cllr Smith reported that

- A new Local Highways Officer had been appointed. A meeting could be arranged with the officer or with Jonathan Clarke, Head of Highways if required. Cllrs requested that outstanding road issues be dealt with as a matter of urgency.
- She would send information to the Clerk with regard to the Green Agenda.

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- The response to the PC's request for a 20mph Zone would be conveyed at the end of the year. Cllrs requested that she could ascertain when this would be decided.
- A new round of bidding for LHI funding was opening soon. Cllrs noted that without knowing the outcome of the PC's previous bid it would be difficult for to consider a further project for LHI funding.
- She would respond to the previous request from the PC for an update on the County Council's flood report on issues encountered in Fen Drayton.
- She would chase up the County Council's promise of providing CCTV exploration of drainage in Fardell's Lane and Broad End.

Cllrs raised the following with Cllr Smith

- Maintenance work on highways, vegetation obscuring signs had been severely cut back saving considerable amounts of money. MS was asked to ascertain where these savings had been redirected.
- The PC's had raised a planning concern over the filling in of a ditch near Elm Lodge, Meadow Drift and the non-compliant garage. NO response had been received.

#### 4.2. South Cambridgeshire District Councillor

Cllr Sandford reported that

- Grants were available from the DC for electric vehicle chargers, solar panels and under the Green Agenda.
- SCDC was changing its licensing policies. An article would appear in SC magazine detailing these.
- Of the 102 parishes in S. Cambs only 15 attended the recent Parish Liaison meeting at the DC offices.
- The 4-day week decision was still in limbo. The best value notice had expired the previous week. A possible final decision may be made in December.
- The new government had announced more money available to recruit more planners. The new minister was more pragmatic than Michael Gove.
- East West Rail. A questionnaire was sent by the EWR company to County Councillors. Responses had been very negative. No-one had responded to say they wanted it or that it would benefit this area. MS stated that she had responded very negatively. Councillors noted that nothing had been heard about housing proposals.

#### 4.3. Chairman's update

TH reported that he would attend the Shared Planning meeting at the DC the following day.

Cllrs noted that there had been no response to its complaint that conditions applied to the grant of planning permission for the food park at Avenue Business Park had not been adhered to. The additional length of footpath on Brockley Road to enable safer access to the area had not been installed.

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Cllrs were hopeful that additional drainage being installed on land around Avenue Business Park would alleviate some of the problems with flooding affecting Brockley Road.

#### 4.4. Clerk's Update

The Clerk reported that a planning application had been received for a development of four houses at 53 Boxworth Road. This would require an open planning meeting. (Clerk's note- the meeting was subsequently scheduled for October 2<sup>nd</sup>)

#### 4.5. Community Flood group

PW reported that

- A meeting would be held on 8<sup>th</sup> October with CCC, representatives from other villages and Atkins to put forward a global proposal to deal with flooding in all areas.
- Money was possibly available for relief ditch funding in 2027.
- The Flood Group had pulled back on water Lane and Fardell's Lane works.
- Lattenbury Services would be starting work on brook clearance the following week.
- The early warning sensors were working well but the flood group was not getting information from them. This was essential to enable them to issue early warnings, as well as the Environment Agency.
- It was anticipated that much work would be undertaken around March 2025.

PW's report had been circulated to all parish councillors. A vote of thanks to the Community Flood group was proposed.

#### 4.6. SCDC Funding seminar

MSt reported that she had attended an event informing councils of funding streams, which was very informative. It highlighted the amount of funding that was available which could be very beneficial for possible PC projects such as a possible information centre in the village. LS would approach a resident who has much experience in fundraising to seek possible advice on the process of applications for funding. MSt's report had been circulated to Cllrs.

## 2024/09-5 Finance

#### 5.1. To approve payment of accounts and note receipts

The following payments were **approved** (Prop PD Sec JH)

Payments 11<sup>th</sup> July – 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024

£142.55	Clerk's expenses postage and mileage	Parish Council
£76.67	Stationery	Viking
£676.45	Clerk's remuneration for August 24	
£148.32	Microsoft 365 business Licence	Microsoft
£252.00	External Audit	PKF Littlejohn LLP

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£35.00	General Village Maintenance	Patrick Horsley The Handyman Contractor
£770.00	Verge Cut	Patrick Horsley The Handyman Contractor
£82.50	Elsworth Times	Lee Tilbury (Design By Lee)
£30.00	Elsworth Times	Andrew Pope (Andrew Pope)
£676.35	Clerk's remuneration for July 24	Parish Council
£26.10	Mileage to collect tree	Paul Harding
£90.00	Tree for Neil Kenny's services to village environment	Simpsons Nurseries
£2,880.00	Flood prevention work	Chris (Lattenbury Services Ltd)
£990.00	Verge Cut	Patrick Horsley The Handyman Contractor
£11.99	Computer equipment	HP Inc UK Ltd
£220.05	Phone and Internet	BT
£60.20	Clerk's expenses	Parish Council

### Receipts 11<sup>th</sup> July – 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024

£19.10	Interest Santander Account	Santander Bank
£33.11	Interest PC savings a/c Nat west	Nat west
£408.53	Verge Cut Grant	Cambridgeshire County Council
£19.08	Interest Santander Account	Santander Bank
£42.63	Interest PC savings a/c Nat west	Nat west
£195.93	BT refund	BT

- 5.2. External Auditor's report on accounts for the financial year 2023-2024. PKF Littlejohn signed off the External Audit on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2024 as being in accordance with the proper practice and that no other matters had come to their attention giving cause for concern that the relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had not been met.

A vote of thanks to the Clerk was proposed for the work done on the AGAR.

- 5.3. To consider, and if thought fit, agree a repeat order for outdoor annual inspection of the children's play area for 2025. **Agreed Unanimously.**
- 5.4. Date for review of PC budget for 2025-2026. 16<sup>th</sup> October at 7:30pm. Venue TBC

### 2024/09-6 Village matters

- 6.1 Management structure for Fardell's Lane Reserve.  
PH advised that he had not yet managed to contact the CEO of the Wildlife Trust with regard to their possible participation in the management of the reserve. He would continue to try to establish contact. He noted that the Fardell's Lane Management Committee had had a very clear management plan, but that the committee had previously been disbanded by the Parish Council. JW and JH would look into the possibility of setting up the committee again. PH offered to share his knowledge with a future committee.

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6.2. Nominations for a Parish Council trustee for the Samuel Franklin Fund to succeed Mr Ian Maddison in 2025.

Councillors agreed that the current trustees be requested to consider a suitable nominee and advise the parish council, for the nomination to be included as an agenda item for the November 2024 Parish Council meeting.

## 2024/09-7 Planning

7.1. **Application determined/closed by SCDC**

24/01940/HFUL4 Brook Street Elsworth Cambridgeshire CB23 4HX *Application Permitted*

7.2. **National Planning Policy Framework.** To formulate a response to the consultation on the National Planning Policy Framework. It was noted that the response time was pressing. TH would draft the PC's response.

Date of Next Parish Council meeting.

November 20<sup>th</sup> 2024

## Meetings 2025

January 15 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Council Meeting
March 19 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Council Meeting
May 21 <sup>st</sup>	Annual Parish Meeting TBC
	Annual Parish Council Meeting TBC
July 16 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Council Meeting
September 17 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Council Meeting
November 19 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Council Meeting

Meetings to commence at 19:30 and conclude by 21:30.

There being no further business the chairman declared the meeting closed at 21:46

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

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