

ELSWORTH PARISH

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in Elsworth C of E School
May 21st 2014 at 7.30pm

The meeting was chaired by Mr Paul Solon, Chairman of the Parish Council.

Those present

Parish Councillors: Paul Solon, Peter Deer, Alan Farrow, Maria Meyer-Kelly, David Pope, Margaret Stevenson, Matthew Weddle, James Witherow

South Cambs. District Councillors Mark Howell, Nick Wright

Other Attendees: Mrs E Sim (Parish Clerk)

Holy Trinity Churchwarden: Mr James Howell

Samuel Franklin Fund Mr I Maddison,

Fardell's Lane Committee Mr B Kenny, Mr P Harding

Elsworth C of E School Mrs Clair Harrison

Parish Tree Warden Mr P Harding

Elsworth Show Committee Mrs Sonia Hegan

Parishioners 26

1. Apologies for absence:

County Councillor: Miss Mandy Smith

Parish Councillor Annie Howell

Cambridgeshire Constabulary PCSO Tom Baugh.

Elsworth C of E School Theresa Thornton

Speed Watch Co-ordinator Elizabeth Swinburn

2. Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting 2013

The minutes were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. (Prop: Mark Howell, Sec: Peter Deer).

3. Presentation of reports for the year 2013 -2014

Cambridgeshire Constabulary

A police report May 2013 – May 2014 was sent to the Clerk for circulation and a copy is appended to these minutes.

Elsworth C of E School

Mrs Clair Harrison, Chairman of the Governors presented the report, a copy of which is appended to these minutes. Mrs Harrison advised those present that Theresa Thornton, the current Head teacher, would be leaving the school at the end of the summer term to take up a post in Cambridge. A new Head Teacher had not yet been appointed.

Elsworth Village Community Shop

Janet Bell presented the report, a copy of which is appended to these minutes. The shop brought in a small profit in the last year as opposed to a small loss the previous. Janet thanked all the stalwart volunteers and reported that the shop was still trying to get the post office but that the Post Office's outreach management was resistant to changes in the system.

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Holy Trinity Church

James Howell, Churchwarden, presented another very positive report, a copy of which is appended to these minutes. He reminded those present that the Papworth Team serves several of the villages and that Elsworth was but a small part of the very successful work that they do.

Elsworth Sports Club

Anthony Taylor presented the report, a copy of which is appended to these minutes. He promised to consult the Committee about a suggestion from a parishioner that the club could offer life membership rates.

The Samuel Franklin Fund

Mr Ian Maddison presented the report for the Fund, copies of which were distributed to parishioners and a copy of which is appended to these minutes. He requested that those present pass on the fact that a unit was vacant to anyone who may be interested in renting.

Fardell's Lane Reserve Management Committee.

Berry Kenny, Chairman of the Fardell's Lane Reserve Committee, presented a report, copies of which were distributed to parishioners and a copy of which is appended to these minutes. He again appealed for wood chippings for the paths in the reserve.

Elsworth Speedwatch Group

Peter Deer, a member of the group, presented the report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He highlighted the data that the group was compiling with regard both to traffic speed and volume. It was agreed that the installation of flashing speed warning signs at the entries to the village should be put as an agenda item on the July PC meeting.

Elsworth Show Committee

Sonia Hegan presented the report for the show committee. Copies were available for those present and a copy is appended to these minutes. She highlighted the increased success of the show over the past few years and thanks the PC for funding the show schedule. The 2014 show would be held on August 31st.

South Cambridgeshire District Council

Cllrs Nick Wright (Cabinet member for Economic Development) and Mark Howell (Cabinet member for Housing) presented the report which included updates on

- The Local Plan consultation. Of the 30K houses needed to be built by 2031, 5k were left for allocation over 3 new sites, Waterbeach and Bourn Airfield (brownfield sites) and West Cambridge (greenfield site that can be developed very quickly)
- The City Deal - the Government's grant of £500m for 3 councils, most of which was allocated to transport, cycle ways and buses. The A428 would have a dedicated bus lane
- A14 development. The District Council has objected to plans in the proposals for a main junction being sited at Swavesey. The DC proposed it should be sited at St Ives. Elsworth will suffer badly from traffic volume if this does not happen.
- A new company, *South Cambs Homes* that has been set up so that the DC can borrow money and buy houses to offer at the market rent. Money made on the venture would go to subsidise general funds. In addition a management fee could now be charged by the DC for running housing for other bodies (e.g. Waterbeach for the MOD). The DC is hoping to be totally free of government grants in the next 10 years with this company operating in a free market.

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- Council tax has been raised this year making a band D property contribution £122.86.
- An amazing number of new jobs are being created in this area, over two thousand a year in South Cambs. The benefits of the growth are allowing MPs to push the Government for a better budget allocation for the area for Education. Astra Zenica has already highlighted this deficit.
- The Fen Drayton Flood bank has still not been built. Once this is done the new flood alleviation ditch to the west/north of Elsworth Village can be dug. Elsworth Brook is not an awarded watercourse, nor is it the responsibility of the DC. The maintenance of stretches of the brook lies with the riparian owners. In response to a question about the possibility of the brook being adopted and brought up to the same standard as the stretches of the watercourse which were maintained by the DC, NW and the Clerk responded that this was not possible, that historic documentation had been searched and no reference is made to Elsworth Brook being awarded the same status as other stretches. The Clerk advised those present that the DC had agreed to clear debris from the section of the brook north of the village in the autumn as a one off good will gesture. The Parish Council had agreed to fund the minimal cost this clearance but had reminded parishioners of their duties as riparian owners.

A14 Land use. A question was raised about the proposed removal of soil from land between Elsworth and Boxworth for use on the A14 upgrade and the possibility of the land being subsequently used as land fill. NW responded that it was in fact true that land would be mined from Wilderspin's farm as it was the "right sort" of clay required for some areas of the proposed A14. The entire hill would be used but no deep pit created. A shallow pit up to Friesland Farm would be created and the land was being compulsorily purchased under the same legislation that the government uses for putting up power stations. This is a massive engineering endeavour for the benefit of everyone except the local communities. The District Council has requested that this land be returned to agricultural use. Lobbying has to focus on finance issues. The government will not listen to any lobbying which does not save them money. There is a strong argument for the road staying in the position it is in at present as this would be cheaper.

Cambridgeshire County Council

Cllr Mandy Smith was unable to attend the meeting and no report was received.

4. Chairman's Report on the year ended 31 March 2014

Paul Solon, the Parish Council Chairman, outlined the main areas of the work of the Council over the past year. Mrs Margaret Stevenson had been co-opted onto the council. The Council continued to work solidly on behalf of the village and community and was vigilant and proactive in issues affecting the parish.

- It had lobbied extensively on behalf of Elsworth over the Local Development Plan and Cambridgeshire Future Transport proposals.
- There had been extensive consultations with Balfour Beatty and the County Council over the proposals for changes in the Street Lighting in the village. Villagers had been consulted and a final proposal for the removal and replacement of lighting had been agreed.
- The PC was continuing to make strong representations to the County Council Highways Department over the severe flooding the village had experienced and the general conditions of the roads in and around the village through years of lack of maintenance. The list of maintenance issues to be tackled which had been submitted to the CC Highways Dept in 2013 had still not been fully addressed.

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- Pressure had been kept up on BT for the provision of Superfast Broadband which was delayed but now scheduled for Elsworth by December 2014.
- The PC's parish plan had been updated and the council continued to work towards the ideals that it expressed, promoting and enhancing the village and its environment.

The Chairman formally thanked the Clerk for her hard work. He also thanked all his colleagues on the Parish Council for their invaluable efforts during the year.

Summary of income and expenditure

The Clerk circulated copies of the unaudited accounts for the year ended 31st March 2014, copies of which were distributed to parishioners and a copy of which is appended to these minutes

5. The installation of security cameras at the three entrances to the village

Following a crime wave in the village at the end of 2013 and start of 2014 during which there were a number of oil thefts and burglaries a suggestion had been put to the Parish Council that installation of security cameras at the three entrances to the village would be a positive move. The Council was keen to gauge the strength of feeling for this initiative and thoughts on the expenditure this would incur. It was clear that there were strong reservations about invasion of privacy and the effectiveness of the cameras in recording car number plates. In addition there was a general consensus that information gathered would not be admissible as evidence in any cases of burglary in the village. Police would only view CCTV footage within 30 minutes of a crime being committed and the possibility of falling foul of the ICO with the PC keeping information was a raised. Generally the consensus was that the installation of CCTV cameras would be an expensive action and one that was disproportionate for the level of crime that had been experienced. Those present expressed the view also that it was the responsibility of the householders to protect their own property.

6. Question Time

One issue was raised with regard to the consultation on the proposed changes with lighting in the village. It had been understood that a second public meeting would be held to update parishioners on whether their objections had been taken into consideration and plans redesigned and this had not happened. A second meeting was requested. The chairman responded that the objections had been taken into consideration and changes made according to the requests from parishioners. Brockley Road was still an outstanding issue as designs for this road had initially been omitted. Residents would be consulted. Lights in the village would be dimmed by 40% between 10pm and 6am

No further questions were forthcoming so the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21:10.

The meeting was followed by an informal social chat with refreshments.

Signed ...P Solon .(Chairman) Date April 22nd 2015