

ELSWORTH PARISH

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in Elsworth C of E School

April 22nd 2015 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, James Witherow

Other Attendees: Mrs E Sim (Parish Clerk)
South Cambs. District Council Nick Wright
Holy Trinity Churchwarden: Mr James Howell
Samuel Franklin Fund Dr S Taylor,
Fardell's Lane Committee Mr B Kenny, Mr P Harding
Elsworth C of E School Mrs Sarah Moore
Parish Tree Warden Mr P Harding
Elsworth Community Shop Ms Janet Bell
Elsworth Show Committee Mrs Margaret Stevenson
Elsworth Sports Club Mr Anthony Taylor
Elsworth Speedwatch Mr John Hicks
Parishioners 15

1. Apologies for absence:

County Councillor: Miss Mandy Smith
District Councillor Mark Howell
Parish Councillor Matthew Weddle,
Cambridgeshire Constabulary PCSO Bugar Mani.
Speed Watch Co-ordinator Elizabeth Swinburn

2. Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting 2014

The minutes were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. (Prop: James Witherow, Sec: Maria Meyer- Kelly).

3. Presentation of reports for the year 2014 -2015

Cambridgeshire Constabulary

A police report May 2014 – May 2015 had been sent to the Clerk for circulation and a copy is appended to these minutes.

Elsworth C of E School

Mrs Sarah Moore, Head Teacher presented the report, a copy of which is appended to these minutes.

Elsworth Village Community Shop

Janet Bell presented the report. The shop now has 47 volunteers but there are still some slots that need filling. In the past years the annual turnover had been £80 - £85K The shop still makes a loss of about £1K as it is still paying off loans. The shop had won an award from South Cambs. District Council as runners up in the Village Amenities category and Janet Parr and Angie Broughton had attended the awards Ceremony at the District Council Hall.

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Holy Trinity Church

James Howell, Churchwarden, presented another very positive report, a copy of which is appended to these minutes.

Elsworth Sports Club

Anthony Taylor presented a positive report. Funding was being sought for new equipment and storage. There was a junior team now in the Cambridge league. The Club continues to encourage new members.

The Samuel Franklin Fund

Dr Sue Taylor presented the report for the Fund, copies of which were distributed to parishioners and a copy of which is appended to these minutes. She highlighted the significant drop in income over the previous financial year as 3 units were not let. The charity had been badly affected by the District Council's policy of charging full rates for the empty units which, if tenanted, would have brought the DC in lower revenue in rates.

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 reported that the Committee was pleased to see that Mrs Moore, the new head of the school was taking up the committee's offer of the use of the reserve for educational purposes.

Elsworth Speedwatch Group

John Hicks, a member of the group, presented a report. He outlined the work undertaken by the group over the past year and the changes that the group were experiencing in the requirements for increased numbers of volunteers undertaking the speed surveys which would probably make it more difficult to co-ordinate volunteers. The Chairman thanked the Speedwatch group for their work and noted that their collection of traffic volume data was extremely useful as it contributes to the Parish Council's representations about the local plan with regard to the lack of infrastructure on the A14 and A428 and the adverse effects on Elsworth

Elsworth Show Committee

Margaret Stevenson presented the report for the show committee. Copies were available for those present and a copy is appended to these minutes. The show continues to enjoy more support and participants each year.

South Cambridgeshire District Council

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

- The Local Plan consultation. This is still grinding through the inspection process along with the Cambridge City Plan. He noted that at least the Inspector had not chucked the plan out. SCDC had not got a 5 year land supply for housing until the plan is finalised. This has given developers the opportunity to bring in applications to develop many sites. Davisons have applied for 200+ houses near Ridgeway Papworth Everard. This would affect Elsworth and in particular the school. The application is expected the week after the general election. The principle objection is that 240 houses and will increase the traffic for commuting as the hospital is moving soon and there will not be the opportunities for local employment. The effect on the already over-congested Caxton Gibbet roundabout would be severe. The massive

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growth planned for South Cambridgeshire in the local plans up to 2035 does not include this development and the DC is against it.

- A14 upgrade proposals. The Parish Councils in the area are teaming together to make objections to the plans proposed. The District Council previously objected to plans in the proposals for a main junction being sited at Swavesey. The DC proposed it should be sited at St Ives. This junction is still proposed and an increase of 235% in traffic volume anticipated. Elsworth will suffer badly from traffic volume if this does not happen.
- The Fen Drayton Flood bank has still not been completed although it is almost done. Once this is done the new flood alleviation ditch to the west/north of Elsworth Village can be dug to stop water pouring down Fardell's lane.
- Congratulations to the village shop and to Sheena Farrer the local postie on winning runners up in the village amenities category and Village Hero Category of the DC's Community Awards.
- Superfast Broadband was now active in Elsworth although not yet in Knapwell and Conington. People must opt to upgrade to the new system.

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 2015

Paul Solon, the Parish Council Chairman, outlined the main areas of the work of the Council over the past year. The Council continued with its strategic objective to protect and promote the rural community of the village. The PC is doing this against the huge political and national erosion of help and finance for rural communities. PS highlighted:-

- The provision of superfast broadband for the village and thanked David Pope for championing this.
- The continual lobbying of Balfour Beatty and the County Council over the installation of the new street lighting in the village. Some of this was good, some bad but there were two conspicuous errors that the PC was still seeking satisfactory solutions to a) removal of a light in Brook Street contrary to what was agreed and b) areas with lights stuck outside houses which were causing over-bright light pollution to residents.
- The Local Plan. The PC believes that the local plan is unsustainable and has put in objections to the inspector. Development proposals in this area are out of control and the enormous demand for housing in Cambridge and this area does not have the infrastructure to support it or the government's much vaunted sustainability. The proposed development along the A428 corridor takes no account of the fact that jobs are the other side of Cambridge and will require even more people to commute.
- The A14 upgrade. The Parish Council has put in objections to the proposals because for their effects on this village. The main problem is the proposed junction at Swavesey which would have a 240% increase in traffic flow.
- Village Web site. This has been upgraded and is much better than before. This will continue to improve as more information and links are added.
- Parish Council elections. 2015 is the year for election of councillors for Elsworth Parish. Five people stood for election. The Parish Council is entitled to 9 members. As the numbers of those who put their names forward did not exceed the numbers required, there would be no ballot on May 7th and the five nominees will be elected by default.
- POC Budget. The Council had made the decision to increase the PC budget for the coming year. The precept would be increased by a nominal amount and the PC had resolved to fund its expenditure from this small increase and its reserves if this proved necessary. Expenditure would focus on village maintenance. Many functions which should be dealt with by the County Council, in particular the Highways Department,

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were simply not being carried out and despite the parish council endlessly petitioning them for work to be carried out it was having to resort to self-help. It was noted that in contrast, the District Council did a pretty good job with the resources available to it.

The Chairman formally thanked the Clerk for all her hard work and the councillors for the time they put in to protect the village's interests.

Summary of income and expenditure

The Clerk circulated copies of the unaudited accounts for the year ended 31st March 2015, copies of which were distributed to parishioners and a copy of which is appended to these minutes

6. Question Time

Parishioners raised the following:-

- The new noticeboard. This is appreciated, it represents money well spent as it is of good quality and attractive.
- Thanks to the PC for keeping up the pressure on Balfour Beatty and the County Council with regard to the lighting issues. However, the quality of the light now in the village had not been raised. This is far brighter and harsher than the light from the old lamps and not suitable for a rural village environment. The lights are not dimming as promised by 40% between 10pm and 6am. There was a request to remove the light from half way up the causeway that was not in a position that was desired and put it in Brook Street in the position where the light had been removed without consultation.
- The state of the verges in the village. These are in an appalling mess and need to be restored

No further questions were forthcoming so the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21:15.

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

Signed(Chairman) Date