

ELSWORTH PARISH

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

April 20th 2016 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, Annie Howell, Margaret Stevenson,
Other Attendees:	Mrs E Sim (Parish Clerk)
South Cambs. District Council	Cllr Nick Wright Cllr Mark Howell
Holy Trinity Churchwarden:	Mr James Howell
Samuel Franklin Fund	Mr Ian Maddison, Dr S Taylor,
Fardell's Lane Reserve Committee	Mr B Kenny,
Elsworth C of E School	Mrs Sonia Hegan
Elsworth Community Shop	Mr Matt Weddle
Elsworth Sports Club	Mr Anthony Taylor
Elsworth Times Newsletter	Dr Sue Taylor
Elsworth Speedwatch	Mr Peter Deer
Parishioners	15

1. Apologies for absence:

Cambridgeshire County Councillor	Miss Mandy Smith
Parish Tree Warden	Mr P Harding
Cambridgeshire Constabulary	PCSO Bugar Mani.
Holy Trinity Church	Nigel di Castiglioni

2. Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting 2015

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

3. Presentation of reports for the year 2015 -2016

Elsworth Village Community Shop

Matt Weddle presented the report. The shop will have been operational for five years come September. During this time, it had made an accounting loss but a trading profit every year and had paid off its loan. There were no cash flow problems and funds should now build to enable essential maintenance and repairs.

Matt thanked Angie Broughton who had left after three years as Manager. A change of management structure had been implemented with two co-managers. Strategic decisions were made by the committee; which David Samson had joined.

Various suppliers had been tried, with varying degrees of success, the shop cannot afford to take on too many risks. Volunteers continued to be invaluable and teenagers who helped as part of their Duke of Edinburgh's Schemes were welcome.

Holy Trinity Church

James Howell, Churchwarden, presented a positive report. Nigel di Castiglione had been appointed as Papworth Team Rector. Conington would be joining the Papworth Team, which would be divided into 4 clusters, the Elsworth cluster reflecting the catchment of the school. The PCC had combined with Knapwell's, apart from accounting, which remained separate.

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At present the PCC was without a secretary. There would be slight changes in the service patterns with a reduction in number to 3-4 services a per month. Dates: 19th May Elsworth Cluster going to Conington to welcome them; 22nd Holy Trinity Patronal Festival.

Elsworth Sports Club

Anthony Taylor presented the report. The Constitution of the Sports Club was changed at the AGM and there is now a Parish Council member on the Executive Committee. Grants were received totalling £3,300 last year from the South Cambridgeshire District Community Chest (£1,500) and the Parish Council (£1,800) for new equipment and storage. Mr Taylor stated that there are too few people using the sports facilities to justify putting in a request for Lottery funding. Details of fixtures would be on the noticeboard. The pavilion was being used most nights during the winter season. The sports club is keen to upgrade the car park. Mr Taylor responded to a question about the sports club's proposed measures to encourage younger people's interest in the facilities, saying that there are very different regulations for juniors and that fewer larger clubs are needed because of critical numbers and DPS checks requirements.

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 was pleased to report that income had risen during the year as all units were let. This level of income is crucial for sustaining the donations from the fund.

The charity had been badly affected, to the tune of £7,000, by South Cambridgeshire 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. No exemption from business rates is possible for a charity, whereas tenants, who are running businesses, are exempt.

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 very pleased with the help it had received from the Community Payback Teams.

Elsworth Tree Warden

Mr Paul Harding had sent a copy of the report to the Clerk for circulation and a copy is appended to these minutes.

Elsworth Speedwatch Group

Peter Deer, a member of the group, presented a report. The group had all but folded following the introduction of a requirement for 3 volunteers to carry out the monitoring. This had proved impossible. He asked for new volunteers and advised of the effect on the village of the proposed A14 works with their works HQ at the Swavesey junction.

Elsworth Times newsletter

Sue Taylor advised that she would be stepping down as editor in the coming year having held the position since 2007 and would welcome interest from others for training up, with a view to taking over from her. She thanked the regular contributors and reported that the ET was now missing the voice of the youth reporter, Alice French who was unable to continue, having started a university course. An overwhelming response as to the value and enjoyment of the Elsworth Times was given after she questioned whether the publication

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was still a relevant means of distributing village information. Thanks were expressed to Sue for her work as Editor.

Cambridgeshire Constabulary

A police report May 2015 – May 2016 had been sent to the Clerk for circulation and a copy is appended to these minutes.

South Cambridgeshire District Council

Elsworth's Cllrs Nick Wright (Vice Chairman Audit and Corporate Governance Committee) and Mark Howell (Environmental Services Portfolio holder) presented the report which included updates on

- Housing. The planned one thousand new houses had been reduced to 176 following a £136m reduction in the District Council's budget through the government's reduction in council house rent. Sales of council houses resulted in 75% of the money going to central government.
- A14. An imminent announcement was expected for the go ahead of the A14 scheme. Work is anticipated to commence 1 August 2016 following archaeological works in May. The work on the actual road would commence in Spring 2017 and finish mid-2019. There is a duty to keep the traffic flow going which will result in a very difficult two years of rat running in this area.
- Devolution. Central Government is looking at the Eastern region working together under one elected Mayor. Cambridge City is not interested in this proposal and SCDC is keeping its cards close to its chest – if money is available then they are interested! The Government wants SCDC and Huntingdon to be part of the Eastern region deal. There is a possibility that the County Council Structure could go; questions are being asked as to whether it is really necessary given the District Council structure. Should this happen there would be a dearth of expertise to deal with many issues e.g. Social Care. Some business enterprises see a Mayor as beneficial, providing direct access to government ministers able to fight their corner. At present the view is that a combined authority of 3 Districts with a Mayor dealing with transport systems for the whole of the east might be the way forward. It is unclear at present who would hold the budgets if there were amalgamation of counties. Generally, it was not considered true devolution but upward devolution to one person, the Mayor, who would raise money by a surcharge on business rates.
- Refuse collection. SCDC now had a combined yard with Cambridge City for the bins. At present SCDC has a very good relationship with the work teams as opposed to the City's.
- A428 Caxton to Black Cat roundabout. Highways England would be consulting on possible routes with a view to work commencing in 2021/2023
- Local Plan consultation. This was still suspended under the Secretary of State. This is leading to many villages being under threat from unscrupulous developers e.g. proposals have been put forward for 200 houses between Papworth Everard and Elsworth. A proposed development of 10 houses in the centre of Elsworth, opposed by both the Parish and District Councils, was recently refused on appeal. Elsworth is not large enough to sustain large developments.

Cambridgeshire County Council

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

Elsworth C of E School

Mrs Sonia Hegan presented the report, a copy of which is appended to these minutes.

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4. Elsworth Parish Council Chairman's Report on the year ended 31 March 2016

Paul Solon, the Parish Council Chairman, reported that only 5 people stood as councillors in the May 2015 elections and therefore no ballot was held. (Elsworth Parish is entitled to 9 councillors). There were no plans to co-opt additional members.

He reported on the work that the council had been undertaking over the past year with particular reference to the ongoing funding problems of the County Council to maintain the roads in the village and deal with flood mitigation and drainage issues. The relief channel that is proposed behind Elsworth School has been on hold for over 3 years awaiting the completion of works in Fen Drayton. This is now being pursued by D Cllr Wright. The Parish Council had increased its annual budget for village maintenance and had benefited greatly from the work that was being carried out by Community Payback Teams during their regular visits.

The Chairman thanked the councillors and the Clerk for their work over the year.

Summary of income and expenditure

Liz Sim, the Parish Clerk, presented a summary of income and expenditure for the financial year ending March 2016, a copy of which is appended to these minutes.

5. Question Time

Parishioners raised the following:-

- The need for continued development of the village web site.
- The need to re-think the re-siting of the bus stop that is at present in a dangerous position at the bottom of The Drift, following the aborted proposal to re-site it on Boxworth Road in a position which was found, when the contractors were on site, to fail to meet health and safety size requirements.

No further questions were forthcoming so the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21:20.

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

Signed _____(Chairman). Date _____