

ELSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council

held on

Wednesday September 19th 2018 in Elsworth School at 7:30pm

PRESENT

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Chairman | Peter Deer |
| Councillors | Rob Askham (RA) Alison Brolls (AB) Victoria McNeil (VM) David Pope (DP) Margaret Stevenson (MSt) James Witherow (JW) |
| In attendance | Mrs E Sim (ES) Parish Clerk |
| County Councillor | Mandy Smith (MS) (from 20:30) |
| District Councillor | Mark Howell (MH) (from 20:00) |
| Parishioners | 4 |

1. Apologies for absence

D.Cllr M Howell (Late)
D.Cllr N Wright
C Cllr M Smith (Late)
Paul Harding,

2. Declarations of Interest

James Witherow declared an interest in Item 8.

3. Minutes of the Parish Council AGM held on July 18th 2018.

The minutes were approved as a true record ^(Prop JW, 2nd VM) and signed by the Chairman.

4. Update on action points from July 18th 2018 Parish Council meeting

• Plan for bus stop/village sign.

- The bus shelter thatch would not be replaced this year but the wooden structure was in need of re-staining.
- The Community Payback Team would be tasked with siding out the footpath on Smith Street from the Manor to Broad End.
- Cllr unanimously **agreed** (unanimously) a budget of £15.00 for the purchase of bulbs to brighten the area around the Smith Street/Brockley Road junction.
- County Highways would be requested to provide an update on their proposals for raising kerb heights at the junction.
- The bed around the village sign was in need of attention to enable more manageable regular ongoing maintenance. A contractor would be sought for this.
- The sides of the brook needed severe trimming. Neil Kenny would be asked if he could undertake the work. Should he be unable to, a contractor would be sought.
- It was noted that the verges near the brook were becoming severely eroded in some places.
- Mr M Peterson had advised he would be cutting his hedge on Brockley Road to a height of 5 ft in the spring.

• Recommendations for trees for gardens.

RA had drafted recommendations which would be published in the Elsworth Times and on the village web site.

• Report back on meeting with Sports Club Cttee regarding cleaning of Pavilion.

PD reported that, at a recent informal meeting with the sports club, a suggestion had been floated that the PC might consider grant funding for up to one year to enable the

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pavilion to be cleaned on a regular basis. This was in response to criticisms of the cleanliness of the pavilion affecting requests from the community to use of the building and also to give effect to Mr E Davison's stated wish (in discussions about possible changes to the various leases held in respect of the Grass Close) that the pavilion should be more widely used. The costs of cleaning were expected to be up to £1500 for one year which would be provided as a grant to the Sports Club which would employ and manage the work of a cleaner. The PC would look to the Sports Club to exercise flexibility around accepting bookings and would monitor the cleaning from time to time. Councillors proposed to adjourn a final decision until feedback was received from the forthcoming Sports Club Committee meeting on 2 October where this matter was an item for discussion. **Agreed unanimously**

- **Constellation Mobile Home Park issues** (see also Min. 14).

Councillors noted that it appeared some residents had benefited from their gardens being enlarged and from new boundary fences. However, it remained to be seen whether there might still be issues relating to flooding. Concern was also expressed about the possibility of continued expansion of the number of dwellings on the site and how this might affect the demographics of the village (the question of whether there was an age limit restriction for the site had yet to be determined). It had been confirmed with SCDC that no section 106 monies were available from the current development.

- **Signs for dog fouling in Fardell's Lane Reserve and installation of poop bin.**

The Fardell's Lane Reserve Committee had withdrawn their request that signs and bins be installed.

- **Discussions with Rector and Headteacher re: WW1 remembrance activities.**

DP is to follow this up. He reported that there was a possibility of planting a new yew hedge in the churchyard. Paul Harding and Kazio Bienek were writing an article about the "*Roll of Honour*" for inclusion in the Elsworth Times.

- **Consultation with Brockley Road residents re road/pavement issues.**

A consultative letter had been delivered to all 23 properties in Brockley Road and Spigot Lane about how the £7.5K funding from the County Council for improvements to Brockley Road road/footpath could be spent. 10 responses were received. The most favoured suggestions were for the imposition of a 20mph speed limit, raising the kerb height and improving the footpath's surface. The least favoured was the possibility of barriers at the side of the footpath protecting pedestrians from the road. Councillors recognised that the introduction of a 20mph speed limit on part of Brockley Road would have implications elsewhere in the village. The PC **agreed** to request Highways to produce costings on the most favoured suggestions

Councillors noted that many issues raised many months ago with regard to the maintenance of highways, drains and road signage were still outstanding and no information had been received as to the progress of their resolution, despite requests for updates. Councillors **agreed unanimously** to raise their concerns with the Chairman/Vice Chairman of the County Councils Highways Committee and consider using the County's formal complaints procedure.

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5. To receive oral/written reports from

- District Councillor Howell

Cllr Howell reported that the Local Plan was expected to be approved by cabinet the following Monday. He referred to the likely development of 3,500 houses on Bourn Airfield and reiterated his opposition to the development on the grounds that this would be excessive development in this area compared to other parts of Cambridgeshire. Finally, he drew attention to the promotion of a northerly route (in addition to the two southerly routes already proposed) for the Cambridge/Bedford/Oxford rail link. This would be costly and impact on Elsworth, as a station was proposed to the north of the A 428 near Cambourne. In order to pay for this proposed route, fifty thousand houses would be required for the stretch (equivalent to five Cambournes), whichever route was chosen.

- The Clerk

A written update had been circulated to all Councillors, a copy of which is appended to these minutes. The Clerk also reported receipt of a temporary traffic order for closure of part of Brook Street for BT to install new underground cabling in January 2018. A faulty streetlight on the Drift had been reported.

- Fardell's Lane Reserve Committee Chairman

A written report from the Chairman of the Committee had been received and circulated. A copy is appended to these minutes

Cllr Smith arrived at the meeting at 20:30

Cllr Howell left the meeting at 20:35

- County Councillor Mandy Smith

Cllr Smith reported that the County Council was seeking foster carers.

PD updated Cllr Smith on the results of the questionnaire on Brockley Road and the issues that were causing concern about highways matters. Cllr Smith requested that an email be sent to James Broder at the County Highways, copied to her.

6. Monthly accounts.

The following payments were agreed (Prop DP, 2nd MSt)

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|--|----------|
| Victoire Press Elsworth & district show Entry forms | 48.00 |
| Victoire Press Elsworth & district show schedule | 180.00 |
| SCDC Election expenses Bank Rejected - bank account details had been changed | 135.00 |
| Neil Kenny Verge cut 4 | 385.00 |
| Mrs E Sim Reimbursement for unlimited 24/7 technical 6 mth support package | 99.95 |
| Thomas Harris Delivery Elsworth Times Aug /Sept edition | 30.00 |
| A James Ltd repairs and service to Church Clock | 258.00 |
| Neil Kenny Verge Cut 5 | 385.00 |
| Shred Station Destruction of 4x wheelie bin loads of PC documentation | 137.28 |
| Neil Kenny General Maintenance 18.July – 19 September | 116.25 |
| Receipts | |
| CCC Highways Grant for verge cutting | 408.53 |
| SCDC Precept 2 nd instalment | 9,250.00 |

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7. **Sponsorship of a tree for the Churchyard.** To consider and, if though fit, agree the cost of the Parish Council sponsoring a tree for the replanting programme in Holy Trinity Churchyard.
Councillors **agreed unanimously** to make up any shortfall in funds required for the replanting programme.
8. **CBRR:(CamBedRailRoad).** To consider current proposals and the possible impact on Elsworth.
PD reported on a meeting of the Coalition of Parish Councils that he had attended the previous evening when the CBRR proposal for a northerly route (with new stations at St Neots South, Cambourne and Northstowe) for the Oxford-Bedford-Cambridge rail link was discussed. He drew attention to the likely consequences of the proposal to build the station for Cambourne north of the A428 and the increase in housing required in association with the northerly route. It was noted that most of the PCs in the Coalition were south of the A428 and that the promoters of the northerly route were residents of areas that would otherwise be impacted by the southerly routes that were under consideration. Cllrs **agreed unanimously** that PD ascertain the views of neighbouring parish councils and write to Heidi Allen MP seeking her views on the proposals and expressing the PC's concerns.
9. **Standing Orders:** To ratify amendments to the Parish Council's Standing Orders (amended version March 2018).
It was **agreed** to allow councillors additional time to consider the amendments and bring a final draft back to the PC meeting in November 2018.
10. **Village Questionnaire:** To receive an update on the proposed village questionnaire.
A draft of the questionnaire had been circulated to all councillors. Councillors were requested to send comments to MSt within 5 days. MSt, PD and the Clerk would liaise over some issues that required clarification. It was hoped to distribute the questionnaire with the next edition of the Elsworth Times.
11. **Planning Applications:** To note the process and considerations to be taken into account when considering planning applications.
Councillors **agreed unanimously** to continue the current arrangements
12. **Planning applications received by the Parish Council July to September 2018**
 - S/2634/18/FL Mr & Mrs Smith 3 Church Lane. No recommendation
 - S/2590/18/FL Victoria McNeill 14 Brook Street. FIO
 - S/2725/18/TP Jonathan Boocock Low Farm 45 Brook Street. FIO
 - S/2597/18/DC J Logan Elsworth Motocross circuit. FIO
 - S/2802/18/TC CCC Educ Dept. Elsworth C of E School. FIO
 - S/2715/18/FL Andy Brand. The Abbey Group. Land east of unit 2 Caxton Gibbet Park. No recommendation
 -
13. **Planning Applications - Decision notices received**
 - S/2634/18 FL and S/2636/18/LB Smith 3 Church Lane Granted

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14. Planning application for consideration.

- S/3423/18/VC Mr B Moore Constellation Mobile Home Park, The Drift, Elsworth, Cambridgeshire, CB23 4JP Variation of Condition 3 (number of mobile homes on site) of planning consent S/2363/14/FL for use of land as a residential caravan park with up to a maximum of 28 caravans.

Councillors expressed concern about the possibility of this proposal permitting even greater site expansion and noted that the village as a whole derived no benefits through section 106 funds. Councillors were concerned that expansion of dwellings of a similar nature could be emulated elsewhere in the village. It was **agreed unanimously** to request further information regarding the site owner's intentions, from the District Council and possibly from the site owner himself.

15. Editorship of Elsworth Times:

Noted that Paul Solon and Gaynor Clements had agreed to take on editorship pro tem.

16. Dates of future meetings in 2018/2019

November 21st 2018

January 16th 2019

March 20th 2019

April 17th 2019 Annual Parish Meeting

May 15th 2019 Annual Parish Council Meeting

July 17th 2019

September 18th 2019

November 20th 2019

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 21:40

Signed(Chairman) **Date.....**