

# ELSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 17 July 2019

### Present

Chair	Peter Deer (PD)
Councillors	Rob Askham (RA), Alison Brolls (AB), David Pope (DP), Margaret Stevenson (MS), James Witherow (JW)
In Attendance	Paul Harding, Village Tree Warden Mandy Smith, County Councillor Nick Wright, District Councillor

### John Thurley

The Council wished to mark the passing of John Thurley on 12 July 2109 and acknowledge his contribution to the Parish Council, of which he had been a member for 47 years, and Chairman for many years .

#### 1. Apologies for Absence

Victoria McNeil (VM), Elizabeth Sim (ES), District Councillor Mark Howell

#### 2. Declarations of Interest

JW declared an interest in item 14.3 relating to a planning application for approval of a change of use for barns at Rectory Farm.

#### 3. Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council on 15 May 2019

The Minutes were approved as a true record (Proposed: JW, Seconded DP, unanimous) and signed by the Chair.

#### 4. Update on items from the May meeting

##### Noted that:

4.1. **Grant to Elsworth School.** A date had still not been fixed for a discussion with the Head Teacher about the polishing of the hall floor at Elsworth School and it appeared that this would now not take place until September.

4.2. **Bus shelter.** The re-thatching of the bus shelter is scheduled to be done in the last week of August, weather permitting; the cost would be c£3.2k.

4.3. A report had been circulated prior to the meeting by MS and AB giving details of the plan for the planting, ongoing maintenance and cost to date (£203.02) of the flower bed under the village sign; MS and AB were thanked for their work on improving this area.

4.4. **Car Park.** Work on the car park by the Community Shop would begin in early August after the School had closed for the Summer; publicity would need to be given to this and about continued access to the Shop and the Pavilion.

#### **4.5. Age UK Community Warden scheme**

PD and Cllr Smith had met the Fen Drayton Chair and Clerk to discuss the Age UK Community Warden scheme. Fen Drayton are looking to partner with Elsworth (and possibly other small parishes) to identify 15 users which would make it viable for Age UK to employ a warden at a cost of c£14k p.a.; to meet the cost service users would pay a weekly fee (currently £7) and parishes would contribute an annual sum, the exact amount being dependent on the availability of funding from the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation and the District Council. It was agreed that DP would draw the attention of the SFF to the scheme; Cllr. Smith would arrange a meeting with Fen Drayton and Age UK; and that, in the light of these further discussions, consideration would be given to producing an article to go in the Elsworth Times.

4.6. **Mobile speed signs.** MS would follow up on the type of mobile signs that might be available (refer 4.8)

#### **4.7. Proposal for a nature reserve at Upperfield**

PD, JW, ES and Paul Harding had met Richard Wakelin to discuss the possible creation of a nature reserve and the utilisation for this purpose of the donation originally given to the parish by his father for the re-establishment of a post office. It was noted that when a firm proposal is received from him the matter would be brought back to the PC for consideration.

#### **4.8. Highway matters**

##### **LHI Bid 2018-19**

Alternative uses for the £7.5k arising out of the bid in the 2018-19 LHI round had been discussed with the County Council's LHI Officer, Joshua Rutherford, and he had suggested that the funds be used to refresh existing white lining in the village and install 40 mph buffer zones and dragon's teeth at the entries to the village on Rogues Lane, Brockley Road and Boxworth Road. He had also confirmed that the A14 legacy fund had accepted in principle a bid for mobile flashing signs. It was noted that it was expected the outcome of bids to the legacy fund would be known by the end of the week. Agreed that PD confirm acceptance of the proposals to Joshua Rutherford.

##### **Traffic problems in Broad End**

(a) PD reported that he had attended a meeting that morning at the school involving the Head Teacher, the Chair of the Governors, the Manager of the Pre School and two Community Police Support Officers to discuss the traffic problems in Broad End arising from children being dropped off and picked up from school. In the discussion a number of suggestions were made including making Fardell's Lane one way so that traffic did not have to turn around in Broad End, the extension of the railings outside the school entrance and placing signs outside the entrance about children's safety. Amongst other things, it was also noted that Fardell's Lane was used as a safe walking route for village children; that the school relied for its continued viability on the

attendance of children from outside the village whose only practicable way of getting to school was by car; and that a breakfast club would begin in September which might serve to stagger the arrival times of some pupils.

(b) Highways had been unable to send a representative to the meeting and it was agreed to try to arrange another meeting in September when Highways could be present; PD indicated that the PC would contact Highways for this purpose.

## **5 Reports Received**

5.1. Cllr. Mandy Smith reported that James Broder, Highways, would be providing the Clerk with an update on highways matters.

5.2. Cllr. Wright reported that: with regard to Broad End (Min. 4.8.), similar issues were common to many schools. He suggested that making Fardell's Lane one way might encourage vehicles to go faster. SCDC had now appointed a new Chief Executive. He was pleased to see the Poacher and the George & Dragon had been re-listed as community assets.

5.3. A written report from the Chair on behalf of the Fardell's Lane Committee had been circulated. This was supplemented by comments from PH concerning nettles under the picnic benches and a broken gate hinge.

5.4. A written report from the Elsworth Community Flood Group which had met on 27 June 2019 had been circulated. It was noted that efforts would be made to recruit new members to the group, particularly from those parts of the village at greatest risk of flooding. JW indicated that Ian Hardy, the Group Convenor, was undertaking the task of preparing a flood plan.

## **6. Clerk's Update**

Consideration was given to the Clerk's written report. Arising from this it was agreed that:

(a) The five lights listed in the report which fall under the existing lighting energy arrangements should be retained and that non half hour billing is the preferred option. A query arose as to whether a light in Duncock Lane should also be on the list and the Clerk would be asked to clarify the matter.

And noted that:

(b) A provisional reservation of the sports pavilion had been made for Friday, 13 December 2019 for the Christmas Tree lights celebration. This would be confirmed.

(c) SCDC had approved planning application S/1364/19/TC Childerley, 15 Brockley Road.

(d) Complaints had been made by the Clerk, Cllr Wright and MP Heidi Allen about the District Council refuse collection lorry collecting from the school at the time children arrive for school on a Friday.

(e) CCC Highways 'dragon patcher' had filled a number of the potholes in Brockley Road.

## 7. Monthly Accounts

The monthly accounts were received and approved. (Unan)

### Payments

Neil Kenny	Verge cut 3	390.00
Neil Kenny	Balance due from previous payment	64.50
Zurich T & P	PC Annual insurance premium	413.96
Pendrill Publications	ET June edition	75.00
LGS Services	Cover 20/03/2019	148.80
Mrs E Sim	Salvias and hebes for Village sign bed	45.56
Thomas Harris	Delivery ET	30.00
Starboard Systems Ltd	Scribe Accounts package	308.40
Neil Kenny	Verge Cut 4	390.00
Neil Kenny	General village Maintenance	528.25
Neil Kenny	Fardell's Lane	43.50
BT	Phone and internet bill	188.07
Victoire Press	Show schedule and entry forms	230.00
Mrs M Stevenson	Hebes for Village Sign Bed	23.97

## 8. Assets of Community Value

Noted that the Poacher and the George & Dragon had been re-listed by SCDC as Assets of Community Value.

## 9. LHI Grant Bid 2020-2021

Agreed that a bid in the current round (closing date 4 August 2019) should be submitted and should re-present the case made for action to redress the parking issues and level the footpath outside the George & Dragon Pub. PD and DP were delegated to do this.

## 10. Elsworth Village Show

(a) Noted that the PC had been requested to meet the cost of printing the programme for the show to be held on 8 September 2019, as in previous years. Two quotes had been obtained by the organisers who were recommending acceptance of the lowest quote (£268.80 Victoire Press). However, it appeared that the Show Committee had reserves and councillors were uncertain why the PC was being asked to meet the cost.

(b) Agreed that (subject to the Clerk confirming that the quote was correct regarding the VAT position) the PC would meet the cost (Victoire Press) of printing the programme this year, but would wish to understand the necessity for continuing to provide this financial support before agreeing to meet this cost in the future.

## **11. Contribution to possible community event**

(a) PD reported on a discussion he had had with Alan Farrow who was trying to arrange an inter-street cricket competition and on the possibility of the PC making a modest contribution toward the cost of refreshments for the event.

(b) Agreed that, while the PC would wish to encourage community cohesion and inclusion events, the proposed competition did not seem to be broadly involving in the way that a Sports Fun Day might be and that therefore a contribution should not be made toward the cost of refreshments. Noted that Paul Harding would establish whether the change of date for the competition (which had originally been planned for June) had been discussed with the Sports Club.

## **12. MAGPAS Donation**

PC members considered a circular letter from MAGPAS requesting donations. While holding the work done by MAGPAS in the highest regard, it was agreed that a precedent in respect of charitable giving should not be set by making a donation

## **13. Play Area**

(a) Noted that the latest safety inspection had highlighted that some remedial work was required and the need for ongoing monitoring and maintenance of the play equipment. Agreed that RA draw up a specification of remedial work required for consideration at the next meeting.

(b) Refurbishing and improving the play area would require grant funding to be sought and this was made difficult because of the existing lease arrangements for the playing field.

(c) There was a wider discussion concerning general village maintenance and it was agreed that a more formal approach was needed to identify what was involved and how to manage the resulting workload. Agreed that the matter be considered again at a later meeting.

## **14. Planning applications considered at the planning meeting on June 27th 2019**

### **14.1. S/1955/19/PA** Mr Benjamin Conway, Agreserves Limited

Agricultural Building at Pitt Dene Farm, Elsworth, Cambridge, CB23 4JA

Prior approval for a proposed change of use of agricultural building to 3 dwellinghouses (Class C3), and for associated operational development. *PC recommendation: No recommendation + Comments\**

### **14.2. S/1949/19/FL** Mr Alan Hutchinson<sup>14</sup>, Church Lane, Elsworth, CB23 4HU

Demolition of detached single storey dwelling and detached garage. Construction of two spit level dwellings and associated landscaping. *PC recommendation: Support + Comments\**

### **14.3. S/2016/19/FL** James Witherow, Rectory Farm, Brook Street, Elsworth, CB23 4HX

Change of use of two agricultural barns to Class B8 (storage or distribution). *PC recommendation Object + Comments\**

*(\*PC comments on these applications may be viewed on the DC Planning portal)*

**14.4. S/0644/19/PA** Mr Sandercock Barn at Browns Farm, Boxworth Road Elsworth  
Notification for prior approval for a proposed change of use of agricultural building to a dwellinghouse (Class C3). *Approval granted by DC but being reviewed after inaccuracy in application found.*

**15. Applications for tree work. Received for information.**

**15.1. S/2237/19/TC** Unit 4 Avenue Business Park CB23 4EY

**15.2. S/2258/19/TC** N. Thornton, 45 Brook Street. CB23 4HX

**15.3. S/2276/19/TP** J. Howell. Main Wing The Manor Smith Street CB23 4HY

**15.4. S/2296/19/TP** N. Thornton. 45 Brook Street CB23 4HX

**15.5 S/2297/19/TP** N Thornton. 45 Brook Street. CB23 4HX

*(PC Tree Warden – No comments on above applications)*

**A428 Consultation**

DP reminded councillors that the consultation on the A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbett Improvements would close on 28 July and that a particular issue for Elsworth was the omission of a slip road from the A1198 onto the A428 which could encourage drivers to continue to rat run through the village.

**There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 9:42 p.m.**

**Dates of future meetings in 2019**

September 18<sup>th</sup> 2019 and November 20<sup>th</sup> 2019

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