

ELSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on

Wednesday November 20th 2019 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)

1. Apologies for absence

There were none.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were none.

3. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on September 18th 2019.

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

4. Update on items from the September 2019 PC meeting

4.1. Warden Scheme

VM reported on the meeting she had attended at Fen Drayton Village Hall to discuss the scheme. A copy of her report is attached to these minutes. Whilst Councillors were positive about the potential benefits of the scheme, they discussed the financial implications of contributing to it and questioned the number of residents who might benefit from it in practice. It was agreed that more information was needed on both these matters before a financial commitment could be made. DP would approach The Samuel Franklin Fund Trustees to ascertain whether they were aware of parishioners who might benefit from the scheme and VM would ask other parishes how they had gone about establishing possible demand. A report would be made to the January 2020 meeting.

4.2. Renovation of the children's play area

RA reported that many larger play area providers specialised in design and provision rather than renovation. A meeting date with a rep from Sovereign Play had been sought to discuss repair requirements, identified in the safety inspection; following discussions with other companies, plans for new installations would be considered as a possible future project. RA would come back to the PC meeting in January with costings for both repairs and new installation proposals.

4.3. Parish Council Web site. Deferred to Item 11

4.4. Request for funding from Elsworth School. The School wished to defer the request until a new caretaker was appointed.

4.5. Request for funding from Elsworth Preschool

PD reported that he and his wife, who has 30 experience of running a preschool, met Kirstin Bicknell representing Elsworth Preschool. The Preschool is looking for funds to put in reserves in case the number of children attending does not increase in the next year or two; there are currently 17 children at the preschool, 4 of whom live in the village. The Samuel Franklin Fund had also been approached about providing some

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financial support. PD advised that the PC does not normally provide rolling annual subsidies (as originally requested) and that any case would need to be supported by income and expenditure information, projections of child numbers, etc.

4.6. Streetlight Changeover to PC

Historically, all lights in the parish came under the energy supplier that the County Council had for its own lights. The County re-billed parishes for the electricity consumed over the year by those lights for which the parishes were responsible. The County Council has now advised that it is discontinuing this service and parishes are therefore required to source a supplier themselves. Elsworth only has five such lights and most of the energy companies have either declined to quote because of the small number, or have quoted unreasonably high tariffs and extremely high standing charges. Small suppliers that are willing to quote will only do so for individual parishes and refuse to quote for an amalgamation of smaller parishes. The County Council is now looking into the possibility of small parishes being taken under the umbrella of larger ones, who would then bill for reimbursement of energy charges, much as the County used to. They are compiling a record of the number of lights in small parishes. Further information is expected to be available in due course.

4.7. Completion of works scheduled under highways LHI funding (Cllr. MS). Taken under 5.1.

4.8. Acquisition of the A14 funded MRVS (Cllr. MS). Taken under 5.1.

4.9. Bus shelter renovation (ES). Two quotes had been received for the renovation work. Councillors agreed to seek a third quotation. (JW to advise Clerk of contact details for a possible contractor).

4.10. Traffic issues in Broad End. To date no meeting has been convened.

4.11. WW1 Roll of Honour. Cllrs noted that PH would be unable to complete work on this until late 2020. They thanked him for his work to date.

4.12. Broadband provision in the village. DP apprised Cllrs of the current position and fed back information from the meetings he had attended. A copy of his report is appended to these minutes. DP agreed to investigate alternative broadband suppliers.

5. Reports from

5.1. C. Cllr. Mandy Smith. Cllr Smith updated the PC on current funding sources from Cambridgeshire ACRE and the Cultivate/Innovate fund which might be accessible to the council. Works planned for highway improvement in the village had been held up by inclement weather and the ongoing works on the new A14 section, due to open on December 9th. JW reported that flooding had occurred at the junction of Brockley Road and Smith Street and asked when the drains would be cleared as promised. He reported that County officers attending a recent meeting with the Elsworth Community Flood Group had indicated there would be funds available for this. MS to approach Brian Heffernan of the County Council's Flood Department to seek an update.

5.2. District Cllrs Howell and Wright. There were no reports.

5.3. The Fardell's Lane Committee. A report from the Chairman of the committee had been circulated as is appended to these minutes

5.4 The Elsworth Community Flood Group. The minutes of a recent meeting of the Community Flood Group had been circulated and are appended to these minutes. JW

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reported that Philip Sleightholme had offered to assist Ian Hardy, the group's convenor, in updating and finalising the electronic form of the flood plan. JW Noted that work was needed on the sluice again.

6. Clerk's Update

Highways -Works completed.

Brockley Road: Lining works from Smith Street to the business park entrance. Footway repairs from near the corner of Brockley Road and Cottrell's Lane to the garage and siding out of footway to bend.

Planned works/ repairs

- Dragons teeth markings to be installed and 40mph warning signs at entrances to the village
- Rogers Close: footway repairs o/s no 27
- Boxworth Road: relining of junction area
- Bollards replacement. Junction of Brockley Road and Smith Street
- Bollards & Repair to signage on give way feature Brockley Road
- Chevron on bend on Brockley Road on exit from the village
- Chevron on Brockley Road sharp bend towards Lawn Farm
- Potholes galore
- A request was made for reinstatement of lining on the Boxworth Rd bend near the crossroads with Brook Street.
- A14 fund for interactive speed signs. No progress on units being supplied at present.

- Tree application WYER 7, Church Lane CB23 4HU
Mature Ash tree, (T1 on plan) positioned on front boundary close to power cables and overhanging public highway of Church Lane. Works to involve removal of any dead or dying branches, but to retain trees structure.
PC response not required. Tree Warden – No comment

- Planning decision received
S/1949/19/FL Mr Alan Hutchinson14, Church Lane, CB23 4HU Granted

- Magpas. A request for a group training session in CPR had received no response. MSt to advise the Clerk of contact details of a Magpas officer who gave a talk to the WI recently.

7. Report of Monthly accounts

The following were approved (Prop DP Sec VM)

Payments

Elsworth C of E school	Photocopies of letter re Community Flood Group	10.00
Huys Grey Ridgeons	Sadolin stain + white spirit for bus shelter and village sign	103.87
BT	Phone and internet 8.10-1907.01 2020	191.55
Mrs E Sim	Reimbursement for village sign new brass plaque and brass screws	53.95
Pendrill Publicat's	Contribution to Oct/Nov ET	75.00

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Royal British Legion	PC Wreath for Remembrance Day	20.00
Society LCC &ALCC	Annual subscription 2019-2020	162.00
Neil Kenny	General maintenance 19.09.19 – 20.11.19	237.75
Neil Kenny	Verge Cut no 7	390.00

Receipts

Elsworth Sports Club	Donation towards Car Park resurfacing Grass Close	200.00
Michael Thurley	Donation towards Christmas tree lights event	15.00
South Cambs DC	Precept – second instalment	11,000.00

8. Christmas Lights. To finalise proposals for the event on 13th December 2019.

A Christmas tree had been offered free of charge by the residents of The Mill. Councillors were delighted with this offer. Neil Kenny and Tony Sim would erect the tree on site on December 9th. James Howell was to make the mulled wine. The Clerk had ordered the wine. The community shop would supply sweets and drinks for the children and would bill the Clerk direct for these items. MSt was organising beverages, refreshments and the raffle with WI members. The proceeds of the raffle would go to Magpas. The event would start at 6pm. Councillors agreed to the purchase of a small portable hob for heating the wine.

9. Planning

9.1. S/3073/19/FL & S/3074/19/LB Mr Michael Taylor Old Chapel 40, Boxworth Road, Elsworth CB23 4JQ. Retention of two dormer windows to bedroom and WC. Formed in the roof space of former schoolroom'

PC recommendation: *No recommendation. Comments submitted to SCDC*

9.2. S/2806/19/FL Mr & Mrs Plesko Ashwell House Fardell's Lane, Elsworth, Cambridge, CB23 4JE. Proposal: Single storey rear extension *PC recommendation: No recommendation.*

9.3. S/3544/19/FL Mrs K Bicknell 17, Rogers Close, Elsworth, Cambridge, CB23 4JJ

Demolition of existing ground floor rear extension and erection of two storey rear extension
PC recommendation: Support.

9.4. S/3134/19/FL Mr Adrian Albone 16, Brook Street, Elsworth, Cambridge, CB23 4HX

Change of use from Dwellinghouse(Class C3) to Office use (Class B1)

PC recommendation: Object. Comments submitted to SCDC

9.5. S/3629/19/DC Mr James Witherow Rectory Farm, Brook Street, Elsworth, Cambridge, CB23 4HX. Discharge of condition 3 (Biodiversity Management Plan) pursuant to planning permission S/2016/19/FL. *For Information Only*

9.6. S/3571/19/TC Askew 7A, Church Lane Elsworth CB23 4HU Ash T1 - currently c. 18/20 metres high and width, to be reduced by up to 30% to safeguard against over long branch collapses on to roadway and utilities below. Trunk and roots are within 1 metre of Church Lane roadway carrying vehicles/pedestrians, mains waste and clean water pipelines and branches overhang neighbourhood overhead mains electric and telecoms lines. Additionally, T1 Ash "implicated" in subsidence at 24 Church Lane opposite according to that neighbour's insurers so roots control work imperative.

Ash T2 - located on boundary with Upperfield and up to 30% reduction in height required to control drying out of clay which surrounds 7A Church Lane property and all adjacent properties.

Tree warden – No comment – No plans attached.

10. To resolve to exclude the public from the meeting. No members of the public were present.

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11. The Elsworth Times Newsletter. To consider the position concerning the editorship.

Although the ET is an independent newsletter, PD had met the publishers of the ET (Pendrell Publications) to discuss the situation following the sudden resignation of the editors. Noted that arrangements could be put in place to allow a December issue of the ET to be produced (and possibly future editions thereafter). This would allow matters such as the Christmas lights switch-on and the editorial vacancy to be publicised and, for Pendrell Publications, the prospect of meeting commitments towards advertisers. PD would send copy that was already (or would shortly be) available to the publishers and advise other contributors how to forward copy for inclusion in the December issue.

Cllrs agreed to discuss other modes of communication with parishioners at the next meeting.

12 Dates of meetings in 2020

January 15 th	Parish Council meeting
March 18 th	Parish Council Meeting
April 22 nd	Annual Parish Meeting
May 20 th	Annual Parish Council Meeting
July 15 th	Parish Council Meeting
September 16 th	Parish Council Meeting
November 18 th	Parish Council Meeting

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21:20

Signed(Chairman). Date.....