

ELSWORTH PARISH

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

April 18th 2018 at 7.30pm

The meeting was chaired by Mr Paul Solon, Chairman of the Parish Council.

Those present

Forty parishioners attended the meeting along with District Councillors Howell and Wright.

1. Apologies for absence:

Cambridgeshire County Councillor Miss Mandy Smith

Cambridgeshire Constabulary PCSO Thomas Baugh.

The PCSO provided a written summary of crimes and incidents that have affected Elsworth over the past year.

2. Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting 2017

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

3. Chairman's address to the meeting

Paul Solon highlighted the activities of the Parish Council over the past year, in terms of its contribution towards "outside" activities including

- Consultations on the A428 upgrade
- The Local Development Plan. A late request had been received from SCDC to nominate local Green Spaces and those put forward for protection offered by PVAA status. The PC had prioritised the retention of the rural aspect of the village.
- The Greater Cambridge City Deal, a central government initiative to give Cambridge and the surrounding area a substantial amount of money for transport initiatives.
- The Coalition of Parish Councils, 19 in total, who were lobbying as a group
- Cambridgeshire County Council Community Flood Group, founded to gather local knowledge on drainage and flooding issues in order to update the County Council's maps and enable greater assistance to parishioners in areas affected as well as County Departments requiring such information.

And "inside" activities

- Maintenance matters
- Brook clearance
- Footpath clearance
- Liaison with County Highways over road flooding and surface deterioration

Mr Solon thanked all his fellow councillors and the Clerk for their continued efforts throughout the year. He advised that Annie Howell, Alan Farrow and he himself would not be seeking re-election at the coming local elections in May.

Peter Deer thanked Mr Solon for his eight years of Chairmanship of the Council.

4. Summary of Elsworth's income and expenditure

Liz Sim, the Parish Clerk, presented a summary of income and expenditure for the financial year ending March 2018, a copy of which is appended to these minutes.

In answer to a parishioner's question regarding Section 106 monies, the Clerk responded that this money is detailed separately from the main Parish Council funds and interest is

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added to the amounts retained. These funds are available for a limited period of time and if not spent are returned to the individual or organisation which paid them. Expenditure on the funds is limited to capital expenditure. The donation given by a parishioner for costs towards regaining full postal facilities was kept in a separate account. This project was difficult to achieve as the criterion for the reinstatement of increased post office facilities was greater footfall. The community shop would possibly benefit from having the post office facilities as it could bring commercial advantage. This had to be considered in relation to security measures that would be needed.

5 Question Time

A parishioner raised the question of dogs not being permitted on the playing field and questioned the legality of the notices that had recently been posted banning dogs from the field.

The Chairman clarified that although there was a public footpath across the field on which parishioners were legally entitled to walk their dogs on a leash, this passed straight across the cricket wicket and through the children's play area. There has always been an unwritten understanding that dogs would not be taken on to the playing field for this reason. The health and safety aspect of dogs being on the field had been highlighted during inspections of the site over the past few years and for this reason new signs had been erected.

It was noted by the meeting that the footpath at the back of the school had yet again been ploughed up and that the footpaths around the village were being eroded.

The Chairman declared the formal meeting closed at 20:20 and invited parishioners to put questions to the representatives of organisations during the informal social chat with refreshments that followed.

Signed _____(Chairman). Date _____