

ELSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes

Elsworth Parish Council meeting held online via zoom
7.30pm Wednesday 20th January 2020

PRESENT

Chairman Peter Deer (PD)
Councillors Alison Broolls (AB) Victoria McNeil (VM) David Pope (DP) Margaret Stevenson (MSt) James Witherow (JW)
Rob Askham (RA)

Clerk Mrs E Sim (ES)

In attendance D Cllr Nick Wright
D Cllr Mark Howell
C.Cllr Mandy Smith
1 Parishioner

2021/01-1 To receive and approve apologies for absence

None

2021/01-2 To receive declarations of interest & requests for dispensations

- 2.1 To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda. None
2.2 For declarations of interest received, Councillors to inform the Chairman if they wish to speak on the matter at the agenda item prior to discussion. None.
2.3 To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any). None
2.4 To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate. None.

2021/01-3 Public Participation/Forum – 10 minutes

To allow members of the public to raise comments on items for future agendas or on items that are on the current agenda. To allow any members of the public and Councillors declaring an interest to address the meeting in relation to the business to be transacted at that meeting. Following this members of the public are not permitted to take part in the discussion.

Forum was adjourned until Item 6.4 was taken at 20:16

2021/01 -4 To sign & approve the Minutes of the Council meetings dated 18th November 2020

It was proposed, (VM) seconded (MSt) and unanimously *approved* that the Chairman sign the Minutes with no amendments.

4.1 Matters to Report from the previous minutes.

None

4.2. To receive the Clerk's Update.

- A letter of thanks has been sent to Edward Quince and Kate Middleton for kindly donating the Christmas tree.
- Flooding. This has become a major issue since the floods at the end of December. A new ditch has been dug behind the school which is now channelling the water into the ditch that feeds Water Lane. This new ditch has cut across the public footpath. County Rights of Way officers have done a site visit and feedback is awaited. The ditch on Brockley Road has been cleared by E Davison and County Highways subsequently cleared out the drains running from the culvert near the bend, which were badly silted up. E. Davison is proposing clearance of ditches to the west of the village on Brockley Road towards Cambourne which currently flooding over the road at times of heavy rainfall. In addition, he is proposing to install a pump to divert water from flooding Avenue Business park into the ditch that runs down Brockley Road to the junction of Smith Street.
- The Defibrillator has been returned from the US after servicing, following its malfunction after being soaked. A new cabinet and new electrical connection have been installed on the wall of the Poacher in a position which will not catch the water from the leaking guttering. The loan defibrillator is to be returned. EAAS has been informed of the current location and details of the defibrillator updated. Clara Davies has kindly agreed to be a stand-in for regular checks.
- Highways' issues. County Highways have been chased over the number of faults reported that have not been rectified.
- SCDC has provided hand sanitisers for the community shop, the sports pavilion and the hairdressers. These are for external installation.
- Outreach post office at the pavilion. Complaints have been received about the irregularity of this service and notification of closure. The service has not been available for some weeks. Papworth Everard post office is to close.
- Dog doo doo. A new dog bin has been installed on the footpath in Brook Street. Complaints have been received about the amount of excrement in black bags being thrown into ditches and hanging from tree branches near Avenue Business Park.
- 4no new flat swing seats have been delivered and fitted by RA.
- Tree Applications received. *Tree warden and Parish Council :No comments for all.*

Reference: 20/2471/TTCA Lordship Cottage 1 Fardell's Lane Elsworth

Reference: 20/2496/TTCA41 Brook Street Elsworth Cambridge

Reference: 21/0027/TTCA 9 Cotterells Lane Elsworth CB234JR

- Item of Urgent Busines. Assets of Community Value. Renewal of the District Council's Community Asset certification for the Sports Pavilion, the Sports Field and the Community shop were required. Councillors agreed unanimously that all these assets should be renominated.

Elsworth Parish Council Chairman - Mr Peter Deer

Clerk to the Council: Mrs Elizabeth Sim. Mercia Cottage, Brockley Road Elsworth CB23 4JS
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2021/01-5 County Council and District Council Business

5.1 County Council Update.

Cllr Smith reported that she has requested the County Council and the Environment Agency to look into flooding issues in Elsworth. The Chairman noted that extensive amounts of information had been passed to the County Council by the Community Flood Group but that it had not been acted upon. The Chairman requested that organisations cooperated with each other and with local farmers to update information on flooding issues and provide improved maintenance of drains and culverts. Cllr Howell advised C19 Legislation had been passed down to Parish Councils re: awarded watercourses. Elsworth Brook is not an awarded watercourse and the DC would not want to take on a watercourse. DCllr Howell agreed to contact Pat Matthews, a former DC officer who dealt with issues relating to the brook. Cllr Smith agreed to contact the County flood officers.

5.2. District Council update.

Cllr Howell updated the Parish Council on the three different proposals for transportation routes (A 428 upgrade, east west rail proposals and autonomous metro) from Cambourne to Cambridge. He advised the Council of the serious outcome of a station for the East West Rail being sited north of Cambourne, in terms of parking facilities and future housing developments. The Chairman reminded councillors of the representations that had been made to the various consultations held to date and to the Member of Parliament about this impact on Elsworth. Cllr Wright advised the Council that he had recently taken over as the Chairman of the Elsworth School Governors. The School suffered from flooding before Christmas and a new ditch had been dug to divert the flow of water and a culvert unblocked. The school was still operating with about a quarter of its pupils being those of key workers.

Cllr Wright left the meeting at 20:15

2021/01-6 Planning To Note

The Dovecote at Browns Farm has been added to the Buildings at Risk register, South Cambridgeshire for Greater Cambridgeshire Shared Planning Service

Tree Works Applications received.

Reference: 20/2471/TTCA Lordship Cottage 1 Fardell's Lane Elsworth

Reference: 20/2496/TTCA41 Brook Street Elsworth Cambridge

Reference: 21/0027/TTCA 9 Cotterells Lane Elsworth CB234JR

Tree warden and Parish Council: No comments for all

Planning Applications dealt with

6.1 20/04952/LBC

2 Brook Street Elsworth Cambridge Cambridgeshire. Mr Richard Hyde
Replacement of 1 No. bathroom window. Noted: *PC recommendation: Support + Comments*

6.2. 20/04831/LBC

1 Brook Street Elsworth CB23 4HX Mr Peter Rylance.
Replacement of timber frame elements, replacement of modern cement render and installation of French drain
Noted: PC recommendation: Support + Comments

20:16 the Chairman opened the public forum.

One member of the public present. Item raised. Agenda Item 6.4 20/04791/FUL

Resident: Thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak on the proposed Construction of 2 No. detached dwellings, including demolition and re-construction of existing former shop and replacement of demolished barn to form a garage

Resident: commented that the proposed application

- Constituted an overdevelopment of the site
- Proposed dwellings should retain the same size and volume as original two cottages on the site
- Outbuildings proposed size is considerably larger than original buildings
- Proposed roof heights are out of character with existing buildings adjacent to the site
- Concern about possible exacerbation of flooding from run off contributing to flooding problems in Brook Street

The Chairman thanked the resident for their comments and Council would discuss this within the Agenda.

Public forum closed at 20:20 in order for the Parish Council meeting to recommence.

Applications to consider

6.3. 20/04919/HFUL

14 Church Lane Elsworth CB23 4H Thirteen One Limited
Single storey rear extension, erection of front porch, replacement of windows and render to the external walls.
The Council considered that the Planning Authority needed to satisfy itself over changes that had been made following original approvals and that this application was intrinsically linked to the application 20/04791/FUL. PC: recommendations would be contained in comments to the Greater Cambridge Planning Authority

6.4. 20/04791/FUL

Land to The South Of 29 Brook Street Elsworth CB23 4HR Crispflint Limited
Construction of 2 No. detached dwellings, including demolition and re-construction of existing former shop and replacement of demolished barn to form a garage.
PC recommendation: object. Extensive Comments to be sent to Great Cambridge Planning

All Comments on planning applications may be viewed on the Great Cambridge planning portal

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- 2021/01-7 Finance**
- 7.1 To approve payment of accounts. Councillors unanimously approved the invoices detailed in Appendix 1. (Prop DP Sec VM)
- 7.2 Notice of receipts received Noted . Detailed in Appendix 2
- 7.3 To note receipt of External Audit. Noted.
- 7.4 To agree a precept request of £23,000.00 for the financial year 2021 -2022. Councillors unanimously agreed to request a precept of £23,000.00 (Prop PD Sec JW)
- 2021/01-8 Village Matters**
- 8.1 To receive a report from the Village Tree Warden on village tree maintenance requirements.
Paul Harding the Village Tree warden presented an enhanced report entitled "*Assessment of obstructions to Elsworth Brook (Smith Street to Reservoir spillway) in relation to perceived risks of flooding*"
Councillors thanked Paul Harding for his extensive and thorough report, a copy of which is appended to these minutes. (Appendix 3) They noted the problem of fallen trees that were contributing to flooding issues. JW proposed that the Council should take note of what needed doing and pay for this work to be undertaken. He offered his assistance.
- 8.2 To receive a report from the Fardell's Lane Management Committee. The Chair reported that PH would present a report on tree issues around the village to an early meeting of the PC.
Councillors noted the report, a copy of which is appended to these minutes. (Appendix 4). The Clerk advised the Council that Berry Kenny was standing down as Chairman of the Fardell's Lane Reserve Committee and a vote of thanks was proposed to Mr Kenny for his long and valuable contribution to the work of the Committee.

Date of next Parish Council meeting. (online) March 17th 2021

Dates of future meetings in 2021. May 19th (Annual Parish Council Meeting) July 21st September 15th November 17th
Annual Parish Meeting (if held) TBC

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 21:42

Signed(Chairman).

Date.....

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Parish Council Meeting January 20th 2021. Appendix 1

Payments

Supplier	Net	VAT	Total
Viking. Stationery	5.99	1.20	7.19
Ladbrook Insurance	171.20	0.00	171.20
Viking. Stationery	79.32	15.86	95.18
Society of Local Council Clerks. Annual Subscription	126.00	0.00	126.00
PKF Littlejohn LLP. External Audit Fee.	240.00	48.00	288.00
Zoro UK Ltd. Defibrillator.	54.97	11.00	65.97
Netwise UK. PC website production.	914.00	0.00	914.00
Parish Council. Clerk's remuneration Nov 2020	601.20	0.00	601.20
Society of Local Council Clerks. Charles Arnold Baker	123.80	0.00	123.80
Leif Meyer. Delivery of Council information leaflets	5.00	0.00	5.00
Pendrill Publications. Elsworth Times Nov 2020 edition	75.00	0.00	75.00
Thomas Harris. Delivery Elsworth Times Nov 2020 edition	30.00	0.00	30.00
HP Inc UK Ltd. Ink and printing	37.47	7.49	44.96
Parish Council. Clerk's remuneration Dec 2020	601.20	0.00	601.20
A H electrical (Cambridge) Ltd. Defibrillator reconnection	265.00	53.00	318.00
GB Sport & Leisure. 4No flat swing seats	135.00	27.00	162.00
HP Inc UK Ltd. Ink and printing	2.91	0.58	3.49
BT. Telephone and internet	143.15	28.63	171.78
Information Commissioners Office. Data protection fee	40.00	0.00	40.00
Total	3,651.21	192.76	3,843.97

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Receipts

	Date	Net	Total
Interest Main accounts	30/11/2020	0.08	0.08
Interest Section 106 The Causeway	30/11/2020	0.02	0.02
Interest Wakelin Donation account	30/11/2020	0.08	0.08
Interest Section 106 The Drift	30/11/2020	0.02	0.02
Interest Main accounts	02/12/2020	0.17	0.17
Interest Section 106 The Drift	31/12/2020	0.02	0.02
Interest Wakelin Donation account	31/12/2020	0.08	0.08
Interest Main accounts	31/12/2020	0.06	0.06
Interest Section 106 The Causeway	31/12/2020	0.02	0.02
Interest Main accounts	02/01/2021	0.18	0.18
		0.73	0.73

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Parish Council Meeting January 20th, 2021. Appendix 3

Assessment of obstructions to Elsworth Brook (Smith Street to Reservoir spillway) in relation to perceived risks of flooding

Flooding events in late December 2020 and early January 2021

Heavy rainfall (circa 30 mm) around 23 December 2020 resulted in flooding in various parts of the village (Brook Street to Paddock Row, and Broad End and Fardell's Lane to Paddock Row). Subsequently several residents expressed concern to me that obstructions (by trees) in the Brook, downstream from the Fardell's Lane bridge/culvert, were a contributory factor to flooding in Paddock Row and exacerbated the flooding in Fardell's Lane. There was another flooding event (Brook Street and Fardell's Lane and Broad End) on 14 January 2021 after over 20mm of rain fell in 24 hours.

Flooding, vulnerable residents and the School

The recent flooding events included the entire length of Fardell's Lane ¹ and also included a considerable length of Broad End, from Water Lane to Fardell's Lane.

The flooding in Broad End restricted access to the School, but there was also considerable run-off from the School playing field into Broad End, adding to the flooding that originated from Water Lane.

It is essential to note that access to properties providing sheltered housing in Franklin's Close and Broad End was restricted by flooding during these events.

Character of the Brook

The Brook is a good example of natural topographical drainage, with a fall from over 55 metres near its sources, to about 15 metres near Wash Bridge (Conington). This natural drainage is interrupted (probably impeded) by man-made structures such as the Brook Street sluice and re-routing via a culvert under part of Brook Street. Culverts under Smith Street and Fardell's Lane are also locations where flood debris ² can impede the flow.

Assessment method

I examined the extent to which obstructions in the Brook, downstream from the Smith Street bridge/culverts, might contribute to flooding ³. This assessment is based entirely on my observations in December 2020 and January 2021 and is intended to provide some contextual information in relation to risks of flooding as perceived by some local residents. I examined the course of Brook to the spillway just north of the Reservoir, following the route of the public footpath to Conington. All measurements are approximate.

My assessment of separate sections of the Brook, from Smith Street to the Reservoir spillway are included in the Appendix.

Ivy on trees

The growth of ivy on many trees throughout the length of the Brook, from Fardell's Lane to the kissing gate south of the Reservoir, is a potential problem. Ivy adds to the weight and wind resistance of the trees that it clads. Many of the ivy-clad trees are dead or dying elm

¹ The probable causes of regular flooding along the length of Fardell's Lane must be familiar to the Parish Council.

² Flood debris is anything that is naturally washed downstream during a flood event – such as branches and loose vegetation, but also loose domestic items such as a wheelie-bin and its contents.

³ **Flooding in Brook Street is not considered here.** Elsworth Parish Council has considered the results of numerous surveys and reports over many years.

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suckers⁴ and/or are growing on very steep banks with unstable roots. Most of the 10 fallen trees mentioned earlier are ivy-clad, where although the tree or branch may be dead, the ivy is likely to continue to grow.

In my opinion, ivy growth on trees compounds the issue of wholly unmanaged trees along the Brook, where many of the trees are dead, dying or unstable.

Who is responsible for the Brook?

My understanding is that the Brook is an unawarded watercourse. Whilst accepting that the Parish Council probably has no legal responsibility for the maintenance of the Brook (disregarding its actions in Brook Street), flooding is a contentious issue for residents.

Riparian owners may have responsibilities along the Brook from Smith Street to the Reservoir spillway. These may include: SCDC, Pitt Dene Farm, Dale Farm, Bill Knibbs, Ed Quince, the owners of Ashfield House, Brookside and properties on the western side of Paddock Row. Church Field may be the property of the church. Several of the fields alongside the Brook are tenanted by a grazier.

Conclusions

- SCDC should be encouraged to manage the west bank of the Brook, between the Smith Street and Fardell's Lane bridges.
- Although there are currently at least 10 fallen trees in, or bridging, the Brook, downstream from Fardell's Lane, there is no definite evidence to suggest that in either of the recent flood events these caused blockages that were sufficient to cause flooding upstream.
- The trees along the Brook from Fardell's Lane to the Reservoir spillway are unmanaged and the condition of many is generally poor, with many carrying heavy burdens of ivy. Their condition is unlikely to improve without significant management. With increasing age, elm suckers are likely to fall.
- Some evidence of bank erosion was noted; the roots of several trees are being undermined.

APPENDIX

Smith Street bridge to Fardell's Lane bridge

The east bank of the Brook is well maintained and clear, but vegetation on the west bank is unstable and has in past caused blockages. Ivy-clad trees (many of which are dead elm suckers and overgrown hawthorns) which are potentially vulnerable to wind-throw), brambles and clumps of sedge, either overhanging the watercourse or are growing into it. Flood debris collects at the culvert under the Fardell's Lane bridge, causing obstructions to the flow.

Fardell's Lane bridge

The Brook enters three 1 metre diameter culverts under Fardell's Lane. The bed of the Brook is less than 1.5 metres below the brink at this culvert headwall. There is possibly a slight mismatch between the carrying capacity of the culverts under Smith Street and those, downstream, at Fardell's Lane. Consequently, more water may flow downstream from Brook Street than could pass through the Fardell's Lane bridge culverts. This may be a contributory

⁴ Following Dutch Elm Disease (DED) in the 1970s, which effectively killed most of the mature elms in the parish, suckers have grown from the surviving root systems. These suckers rarely live for more than 40 years before succumbing to DED, and gradually rot at the roots. If they are ivy-clad, the ivy may keep them upright for longer, but eventually they fall, often as a result of strong winds.

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factor to flooding in Paddock Row, especially when the Fardell's Lane culverts are blocked with flood debris.

In both the December and January flood events, water was upwelling from a manhole on the Fardell's Lane/Paddock Row junction. It appeared not to be sewage.

Fardell's Lane bridge to Paddock Row footbridge

The downstream side of the Fardell's Lane bridge culvert flows into a narrow pool. Water from the Water Lane/Broad End/Fardell's Lane drainage merges with Elsworth Brook in this pool over the concrete spillway. The bed of the Brook is less than 1.5 metres below the top of the downstream headwall of the culvert.

In this length the depth of the course of the Brook (bed to brink) increases from about 1.5 metres (at Fardell's Lane) to about 2 metres at the Paddock Row footbridge. The banks are covered with many young elm suckers and young ash trees, some of which are heavily clad with ivy (q.v.). Two ivy-clad dead elms had fallen and reportedly caused an obstruction during the December flood. One has already been removed (by Bill Knibbs) and the other is due to be removed but is difficult to access safely – the riparian owner at Ashfield has accepted responsibility.

Paddock Row footbridge to footpath kissing gate south of the Reservoir

Through much of this length the bed of the Brook is usually at least 2 metres below the brink, so the Brook is running through a steep-sided, natural cutting. The Brook, even in minimal winter flow, is fast flowing due to natural topographical drainage towards the north. The sides and banks of the Brook carry numerous trees, including several mature ashes and elms. There are also many smaller trees – elm suckers, ash saplings, elder bushes and hawthorns. Many are ivy-clad.

Between the two flooding events, when water levels were low, at least 10 fallen trees or large branches (most covered with ivy), were noted in this length. These could effectively create small dams, with flood debris washed down from upstream. On 14 January, when the Brook was in spate i.e. at least 1 metre above the bed at the Paddock Row footbridge, the rate of flow was such that any damming effect appeared to be minimal, with the rapidly flowing water going over or around these obstructions. In places where trees grow in the bed of the Brook, there was little accumulation of debris.

Although the Brook was in spate on 14 January, the surface of the water was at least 1 metre below the brink throughout this length. Any suggestion that standing surface water in the fields alongside the Brook was due to the Brook over-topping its banks can be discounted.

Kissing gate to Reservoir spillway

In this length the bed to brink height is less than 2 metres. There is a large, single tunnel culvert under a concrete farm bridge half way along the length. A large multi-stemmed willow has collapsed over and into the Brook, but neither it nor the culvert appeared to impede the flow.

On 14 January the flow was such that the spillway could hardly be discerned.

Paul T. Harding MBE, CBiol, MRSB
Elsworth Tree Warden
16 January 2021

ELSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting January 20th 2021 Appendix 4

Fardell's Lane Nature Reserve Report to Parish Council meeting 20 January 2021

A recent report on the Reserve was published in *Elsworth Times* (Issue 20-06, December 2020/January 2021, p12).

Subsequent updates

- One volunteer work party was held on 8th December. Thanks are due to Bridget Gaskill, Terry Gutsell, Ian Hardy, Ian Maddison and Dave Martin for all their hard work. Ian Maddison and Ian Hardy got on well with spreading chippings on the paths and subsequently Ian Maddison has completed all the paths. Neil Kenny and I concentrated on felling and clearing several fallen or dangerous blackthorns in the Spinney.
- Plans for further organised work parties have now been put on hold owing to the current Covid-19 regulations.
- Elsworth Pre-school's Forest School in the Reserve has not been able to begin as intended because of reduced hours at the Pre-school due to the current Covid-19 regulations.
- After a recent gale Neil Kenny has felled an ivy-clad elm which had lodged dangerously near the Forest School.
- I have several young trees that are due to be planted out on the Reserve this winter. All are in containers, so there is no immediate urgency to plant them out, but I shall probably wait until it is possible to organise another work party.
- One Dutch Elm Disease resistant elm tree has been delivered to me from the Tree Council. This has been provided as part of a larger Tree Council scheme to commemorate 30 years of the national tree warden scheme. It will be planted on the Reserve in a suitable location.

Paul T Harding
Secretary, FLNR Committee
17 January 2021