

Elton Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 11 April 2016 at Elton Community Centre

Present: Councillors Tony Mills (in the Chair), Ryan Cash, Martin Dickinson, Neil Hughes, Margaret Lockhart, Nicola Stubbs, Claire Thornton and Maureen Wilson

In Attendance: Pauline English (Parish Clerk), Ward Councillor Stephen Smith and PC Rob Boulton (called away at start of meeting)

16.43 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillor Ruth Ackroyd

16.44 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

16.45 OPEN FORUM

Councillor Smith was invited to present a report to the meeting on the work he had been doing on behalf of the parish.

When the trench dug by Scottish Power had been infilled it had left a newly dug area next to Prevan Place into which the occupants had planted a row of hedging conifers which were very close to the road. There were other issues at the site with which Dawn Taylor, the Cheshire Partnership Gypsy Traveller Co-ordinator, and her team would deal through the enforcement process, but it would take time. The appeals made against the grant of planning permission and the Enforcement Notice issued by CWaC in June 2015 had been partly upheld and allowed the permanent stationing of one static mobile home and one touring caravan, the permanent parking of one touring caravan not used as residential accommodation when on the site and the temporary siting, for a maximum period of three years, of two touring caravans occupied by named people.

The flooding at the junction of the A5117 and Pool Lane had first been noted on Boxing Day and had been reported a number of times since then. Exploratory work would be undertaken in the next few weeks to try to identify the cause. The problem had possibly been caused by United Utilities during their recent work along the A5117.

A meeting was held with Sharon Marshall (CWaC Localities Officer) to identify sites where bollards were needed. The following sites were considered:

- Parkland Drive opposite Meadow View (by the Allotments)
- The junction of Parkland Drive and Mulberry Close
- Firbank, adjacent to Pinewood

The bin replacement programme was almost completed. All of the old concrete bins had been removed and new style bins had been substituted. These were multi-purpose bins which collected dog waste as well as litter. Two new bins had been ordered for Orchard Park. Councillors were asked to report any remaining concrete bins.

A survey had been done of the use by HGVs of Orchard Park Lane and the result was awaited. It was possible that a weight restriction could be placed on the lane.

Ash Road resurfacing would take place. There was to be a programme of renewing road markings.

An on-street surgery had been held with Justin Madders MP in Orchard Park. A number of issues were raised, including HGVs

A litter pick had been undertaken on the A5117 and numerous bags had been left for collection.

Construction of the pedestrian crossing on School Lane had started that morning.

16.46 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2016 were confirmed as a correct record.

16.47 PLANNING

- (1) **Applications:** No applications received
- (2) **Decisions:** No decisions received

- (3) **Awaiting Decision:**
16/00626/OUT – 8 or 9 dwellings including demolition of existing house and garage (Outline) on land at The Willows, Ince Lane, Elton, Chester, Cheshire CH2 4QB
- (4) **CWaC Planning Consultations:** CWaC were proposing a change to the way in which planning applications were dealt with. The proposal was that an email would be sent informing the Clerk that an application had been received and was on their website and the Parish Council would have to download the documents. The deadline imposed for a response to the consultation would be more strictly adhered to with extensions being refused if the request was based solely on awaiting the next Parish Council meeting. A “conversation” would be held by CWaC with Parish Councils about how to deal with plans.

16.48 HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

- (1) **Parking outside Elton primary School:** The gate and bollards at the entrance to Scout Hut Lane had been erected and the double yellow lines were now required to ensure enforcement of the parking restrictions.
- (2) **Zebra Crossing:** The crossing had been started as promised
- (3) **Ward Walk:** On 4 April 2016 the Chairman had attended a Ward Walk with the Ward Councillor, representatives from Cheshire West and Chester Council’s Highways, Streetscene and Housing services and Sharon Marshall, Localities Officer. The Clerk had also attended. A number of issues had been discussed. Following the walk, copies of the calendar of both the Environmental Services and Highways Departments had been circulated to Councillors. These gave a summary of the services that were handled by each Department.

16.49 PLAY AREA

An inspection had been carried out by Phil Davies (PIANDMS) on 30 March and the following issues had been identified:

- (1) All four chains on the flat swings needed attention due to wear and the cost of repair would be £115.00 plus VAT. This would include shortening the chains slightly as the seats hang a little too low. It was resolved that this expenditure be approved.
- (2) There were a number of hollows on the Parish Field that needed to be filled and re-seeded. The Parish Council would do this work.

16.50 FENCE BETWEEN MOUNT PLEASANT AND PARISH FIELD

Complaints had been received from residents about the condition of the fence between Mount Pleasant and the parish Field, which was owned by the Parish Council. It was claimed that the fence was in very poor condition and had in places collapsed altogether, leaving residents without a rear boundary. The Chairman had inspected the fence and spoken to some of the residents and it was agreed that some work was necessary to reinstate the boundary between the houses and the Parish Field. A quotation had been sought to replace five fence panels.

16.51 PREVAN PLACE, OLD HALL LANE

(See also the Open Forum above) A complaint had been received from a resident that No.1 Old Hall Lane (known as Prevan Place) appeared to be “expanding”. It was claimed that over the past year land further down the lane had been claimed by the creation of accesses to the land and the erection of stables. More recently the fence line had been moved and a row of conifers had been planted very close to the road in the newly dug ground left by United Utilities. The last application for the construction of stables in 2010 had been refused on the grounds that the site was in the Green Belt and the proposed development would have a detrimental impact on the surrounding area due to its size. If stables had been built, then it would appear to be without the benefit of

planning permission. The Ward Councillor had told the Parish Council that an officer from the Gypsy Traveller liaison team was looking into this matter.

16.52 UPDATE REPORTS FROM MEMBERS

- (1) **Police Update:** PC Boulton had been called away from the meeting and would provide a written update at a later date.
- (2) **Community Centre:** The Parish Council was happy to continue to contribute a grant of half the sum of the Community Centre's insurance, subject to receipt of a copy of the insurance policy. Quotations should be sought for construction of a path to the rear of the Community Centre.
- (3) **Play Area / Parish Field / Jubilee Field:** The National Grid had confirmed that they were happy for trees to be planted on the site owned by the Parish Council on the corner of Pool Lane/Parkland Drive known as the Jubilee Field. The only issue that would need to be resolved was that of the pipeline that crossed the site. This was no longer in use but would have to be avoided when the planting was done and advice was needed, and presumably permission was also needed, from the appropriate agency about this. The Woodland Trust had offered to clear the site but it would not be ready until around November. Councillor Dickinson reported that he had 450 small trees in his garden and it was agreed that these should be heeled into one of the plots on the Allotments while they were waiting to be planted. Councillor Dickinson was asked to follow up on the permission from the appropriate agency(ies).

Councillor Lockhart asked whether an area of land could be set aside and fenced in as a dog walking area where dogs could be safely let off the lead. Benches would be provided for dog owners who were less able to walk their dogs. It was agreed to look at options for this project.

The possibility of the Parish Council taking on responsibility for the garage site at Whitefields would be explored further.
- (4) **Shops:** Councillor Wilson had asked the Parish Council to consider purchasing a number of large planters to place along the boundary of the car park at the Shopping Parade to prevent cars from being driven over the pavement into the car park and to provide a colourful display which would be visually attractive. The Clerk had written to Benmill, the owners of the Shopping Parade, asking for their views and a reply was awaited. The Scouts would be asked to do the planting and Councillor Thornton had volunteered to keep them weeded and watered. Councillor Wilson was asked to bring a costed proposal to the next meeting.
- (5) **Encirc / Essar / CF Fertilisers:** No meetings had been held at any of these establishments for some time.
- (6) **Protos:** A meeting had been held on 6 April. The temporary improvements to Grinsome Road had been completed and the road was now being widened and resurfaced to provide the main access route to the site. Protos were working with the University of Chester's Thornton Science Park to attract investment to the area and boost skills and were a feature of a newly-created Enterprise Zone.
- (7) **Frodsham Wind Farm:** The last meeting had been held on 8 April. Councillors Mills and Wilson had attended. The contractor, Cheetham Hill Construction Limited, had been available to respond to questions. It was reported that delivery of the first turbine components to the site was due to commence on 12 April 2016 and it was agreed that in future members of the Liaison Committee would be given a week's notice of such deliveries.
- (8) **Thornton Science Park:** Two meetings a year had been promised and a meeting was now overdue. The Chairman had left messages but had not yet received a response.

- (9) **Allotments:** it was confirmed that there would be no Show this year.
- (10) **Website / Social Media:** There had been quite a lot of messages on the parish Council's Facebook page this month, in particular a complaint from a resident about having a speed gun pointed at him when he was not speeding. It was confirmed that any vehicle found to be speeding would have its registration number taken and passed to the police who would, if appropriate, issue a warning letter. The police would decide how to deal with any repeat offenders. Councillor Hughes was asked to investigate the cost of hosting the website and to ask Tim Igoe to monitor the amount of work he did for Ince Parish Council.
- (11) **Parish Council and Police Surgeries:** Once again the inclement weather was having an effect on Parish Council surgeries. The main issues raised were potholes, litter and dog poo. It was noted that some patching had been undertaken with mixed results. Police surgeries continued to be popular, hosted by both PC Rob Boulton and PCSO Jake Connolly.

16.53 CORRESPONDENCE

Publications: Clerks and Councils Direct – March 2016

16.54 FINANCE

- (1) **Payments:** The following payments were approved

Cheque No.		Amount
S/O	Staffing Costs	1,030.79
BACS	Parish Clerk – expenses	39.20
BACS	PIANDMS – Repairs to Play Area	1,055.94
BACS	Igoe – Website updates	15.00
BACS	A J Eardley – Fit Bollards and Gate – Scout Hut Lane	402.00
71	Glasdon – Bollards	1,305.36
72	Cheque void	
73	Morris & Co – Payroll	91.20
74	Cheshire Community Action – Subscription	50.00
75	Cheshire Association of Local Councils – Affiliation fee	970.90
S/O	Igoe – Monthly website hosting fee	6.99

- (2) **Receipts:** None
- (3) **Balance:** The balance in the bank at 11 April 2016 was £39,705.59
- (4) **Projects for 2016-17:** It was agreed that money should be set aside for capital projects including £2,000 for the Parish Council's contribution to the pedestrian crossing on School Lane, £4,000 for planters and £500 for fencing work to the rear of Mount Pleasant. The cost of fencing for the dog walking area on the Parish Council's site off Pool Lane would be costed when it was decided whether or not to go ahead with this scheme.

16.55 ISSUES RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

- (1) Councillor Hughes reported that a man had been seen begging outside the shops.
- (2) Ward Councillor Smith reported that a proposal to change the priority at the junction of School Lane and Parkland Drive was being considered. This would make Parkland Drive the through route. Consultations would need to be undertaken and the new route, if approved, would need to be carefully signed.
- (3) The issue of the future maintenance of Pogle's Wood was raised once the site had been transferred to the Parish Council. An offer had been made some time ago by a resident to keep the site tidy for an agreed annual sum and it was agreed to check whether this offer was still on the table. A stile on the site was broken and would be repaired.

16.56 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Annual Meeting – Monday 9 May 2016 at 7.00pm at Elton Community Centre