

# Elton Parish Council

**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council** held on Monday 13 June 2016 at Elton Community Centre

**Present:** Councillors Tony Mills (in the Chair), Ruth Ackroyd, Ryan Cash, Neil Hughes and Margaret Lockhart

**In Attendance:** Pauline English (Parish Clerk), PC Rob Boulton and one member of the public

## 16.75 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors Martin Dickinson, Nicola Stubbs, Claire Thornton and Maureen Wilson.

## 16.76 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

## 16.77 OPEN FORUM

Three issues were raised. The grass on the playing field was in need of cutting. This was contracted to Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC) Council and the lack of attention had been registered with them. Trees were overhanging the pavement on Ince Lane (opposite Lynton House) and were obstructing clear passage along the pavement. It was known that the resident in whose garden the trees were situated was handicapped and unable to cut back the trees. The Chairman would look into the possibility of CWaC doing the work. With regard to litter picking, it was suggested that the Parish Council appoint a fourth person to assist with this and a suitable candidate was suggested. It was confirmed that the Parish Council were about to review the work of the street orderlies and this suggestion would be borne in mind.

## 16.78 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 May 2016 were confirmed as a correct record.

## 16.79 VACANCY FOR A PARISH COUNCILLOR

No applications had been received to take up the vacancy. Councillor Hughes would put the advertisement on the Parish Council's Facebook page as well as the website.

## 16.80 AUDIT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The internal audit of the Parish Council's affairs for the year to 31 March 2016 took place on 18 May 2016 and the internal auditor's report had been received. He had also completed the internal audit section of the Annual Return. The Annual Return, including the Annual Governance Statement, was approved and signed and would now be submitted to the External Auditor

## 16.81 PLANNING

(1) **Applications Received:** None:

(2) **Decisions:**

16/01972/HHE	Single storey rear extension at Roughshoot, Station Road, Elton, Chester, Cheshire CH2 4NJ – PRIOR APPROVAL NOT REQUIRED
--------------	--

(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
16/01006/FUL	Change use of the bakery and sandwich shop (A1) to A5 in the evening for a hot food take way at 5 Elton Shopping Precinct, Ince Lane, Elton, Chester, Cheshire CH2 4QB

## 16.82 HIGHWAYS, RIGHTS OF WAY AND STREET CLEANING

(1) It was reported that progress was being made by the Parish Council in taking over responsibility for and ownership of "Pogle's Wood" at the bottom of Marsh Lane. The site had been cleared and it was resolved to accept the offer made earlier in the year by a resident who would keep the site tidy for the sum of £50 per annum.

- (2) With reference to grass cutting, it was confirmed that only the Village Green and the Parish Field belonged to the Parish Council and these were cut by CWaC under contract. All other grassed areas in the Village were CWaC's responsibility.
- (3) It was agreed that a review meeting should be arranged with the Street Orderlies as soon as possible. The Chairman and Clerk would attend.

### 16.83 UPDATE REPORTS FROM MEMBERS

- (1) **Police Update:** PC Boulton reported that the gentleman who had been causing some concern by his recent behaviour outside the shops and elsewhere in the Village had been taken into the Countess and would probably be there for some time. PC Boulton thanked Councillor Lockhart and others for looking after him. There were still protestors on Pool Lane who were causing problems for residents at certain times of the day. It was not known how long the protest would continue. PCSO Jake Connolly was congratulated on being accepted into Cheshire Constabulary as a regular PC, although he would be greatly missed as PCSO for Elton ward by the Parish Council and residents. It was not known when (and if) a new PCSO would be appointed.
- (2) **Community Centre:** (a) The AGM had taken place on 18 May and a new Committee of some 10/11 people had been established comprising both Trustees and representatives. The AGM had discussed issues relating to fire safety and a quotation for the work required to bring the Centre up to standard was being sought. (b) The Chairman had discussed the area around the rear entrance that was used by the Football teams and a quotation was being sought to build a concrete platform rather than putting down paving stones. (c) It was resolved that with effect from the year 2016-17 the Parish Council should pay the sum of £200 a year for use of the Community Centre for all Parish Council meetings and for casual use for Working Groups etc. (d) The Parish Council had entered the "Community Spirit" competition, run by Cheshire Community Action, and had progressed through the first round. An informal review meeting was to be held on 24 June 2016 and CCA had asked for confirmation of the venue. It was agreed that this should be the Community Centre. Councillor Hughes would confirm this with CCA and let those involved know of the arrangements. The more people who could attend the better, although it was recognised that this might cause difficulties for some as it was during the daytime.
- (3) **Play Area / Parish Field / Jubilee Field:** The Parish Council had organised the repair of some of the fencing to the rear of the Parish Field, but it was recognised that there might be more to repair in the future and a grant might be needed to help meet the cost. Councillor Dickinson was holding around 450 saplings in his garden ready for planting in the Jubilee Field. The Woodland Trust were willing to do the work on the Jubilee Field but not until November, which was quite late in the season. The Chairman suggested that the Parish Council should get a quote for clearing the land and flattening it. The Scouts had indicated that they would be happy to do the planting. This was agreed.
- (4) **Shops:** People were still driving their vehicles over the pavement to get in and out of the car parks at the shops. The Chairman and Councillors Lockhart and Wilson had met on site to discuss the positioning of a number of heavy duty planters along the perimeter, but the cost would be prohibitive to cover the area required. Glasdon had been invited to make some suggestions as to how the Parish Council might achieve the required result and had suggested putting some planters along the perimeter with bollards between them. A representative had been invited to visit the site to discuss the proposal. The Clerk was asked to contact Benmill again to ask whether they would be prepared to meet some of the cost.

- (5) **Encirc/Essar/CF Fertilisers:** There had been no meeting at Encirc (formerly Quinn Glass) for about 18 months. A meeting was due at Essar. The Clerk had received a request from CF Fertilisers for confirmation of the Parish Council's representation at their meetings and it was agreed that this should be Councillor Lockhart as well as the Chairman.
- (6) **Protos:** A meeting had been held on 25 May. The meeting had focused on Energy from Waste (EfW). Covanta were once again partners in the enterprise, which had been substantially downgraded from the original application. A new planning application was to be submitted in July and it was hoped to have a decision on this by the end of the year so that construction could begin in 2017, It was noted that Covanta did not yet have any waste contracts but that local authority contracts were being talked about. As reported earlier, the protest was continuing and was still causing problems for residents whose access to and egress from the village was compromised. No reason had been given for the protest.
- (7) **Frodsham Wind Farm:** Nothing to report.
- (8) **Thornton Science Park:** Another meeting was anticipated.
- (9) **Allotments:** Elton Gardeners Association thanked the Parish Council for agreeing the monthly mowing of the pathways. A request was made for a direct debit to be set up for the monthly payments so that there was no need to keep sending an invoice each month but the Clerk explained that Parish Councils were only permitted to set up direct debits for utility bills. The Clerk would investigate the possibility of setting up a standing order
- (10) **Website/Social Media/Newsletter:** Issues raised on the Parish Council's Facebook page were mainly about litter picking, dog fouling and the use of the speed gun. The latter were referred to Councillor Lockhart. Councillor Hughes had intended to organise a litter pick in June but this would now have to take place in July or August. The deadline for inclusion of items in the next Newsletter was 22 June and delivery would take place around 15 July.
- (11) **Parish Council and Police Surgeries:** The Parish Council surgery had recently raised issues relating to poor grass cutting and potholes. Speedwatch was going well and it was noted that Essar had donated a speed gun for use in Elton.

## 16.84 FINANCE

- (1) **National Pay Award:** The National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) had reached agreement on new pay scales for 2016-17 to be implemented immediately and backdated to 1 April 2016 and new pay scales for 2017-18 to be implemented from 1 April 2017. Using the new hourly rates for part-time Clerks, the Clerk's salary should be increased from £10.836 to £10.944 per hour with effect from 1 April 2016.

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

BACS	Staffing costs	1,030.99
BACS	Parish Clerk – expenses	21.44
S/O	Igoe – Monthly website hosting fee	6.99
BACS	Hollytree Accounting Services – Internal Audit fee	130.00
BACS	Morris & Co – Processing P60s	31.80
BACS	Village Homes & Gardens – Grass Cut Allotments x4	80.00
BACS	AJE – Repair fencing to rear of Parish Field	575.00
BACS	AJE – Repair broken bollards in Community Centre car park	275.00
76	SLCC – Contribution to membership fee for 2016-17	55.00

- (3) **Receipts:** Bank Interest - £19.53
- (4) **Balance:** The balance at 13 June 2016 was £60,065.74

**16.85 ISSUES RAISED BY COUNCILLORS FOR INFORMATION/NEXT MEETING**

The Clerk circulated a copy of CWaC's consultation paper on the Mobile Library Service which would be discussed further at the next meeting.

The Chairman reported that Councillor Wilson was progressing well following her recent operation but that she would probably be out of action until the September meeting.

**16.86 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Monday 11 July 2016 at 7.00pm at Elton Community Centre