

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 8 May 2017 in Elton Community Centre.

Present: Councillors Tony Mills (in the Chair), Maureen Wilson (Vice Chair and Minute Secretary),

Ruth Ackroyd, Ryan Cash, Colin Crispin, Martin Dickinson and Margaret Lockhart,

In attendance: PCSO Sue Keers and two members of the public

17.50 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Councillor Tony Mills was proposed by Councillor Maureen Wilson and seconded by Councillor Ruth Ackroyd. There being no further nominations, Councillor Tony Mills was elected Chairman of the Parish Council for 2017-18.

17.51 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Councillor Maureen Wilson was proposed by Councillor Tony Mills and seconded by Councillor Margaret Lockhart. There being no further nominations, Councillor Maureen Wilson was appointed Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council for 2017-18.

17.52 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Ian Miller, Pauline O'Reilly and Ron Reading and the Parish Clerk

17.53 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Colin Crispin and Martin Dickinson declared an interest in issues relating to Elton Community Centre as they were Trustees.

17.54 OPEN FORUM

Concerns raised at the last meeting regarding the increase in the Parish Council's precept were discussed and Finance Sub Group Chairman, Councillor Maureen Wilson, explained how the Parish Council had reached the decision to raise the Precept and by what percentage. A formal written reply outlining the procedure would be sent to the member of the public who raised the issue when the Chairman had all the relevant paperwork from Cheshire West & Chester Council (CWaC) and had taken advice from the Clerk. The same member of the public also wished to know the name of the Parish Council's internal auditor.

The increase in the number of councillors from eight to 10 was also discussed and the Chairman explained that this was due to a Community Governance review undertaken by CWaC some three years previously. The same member of the public expressed concerns regarding the closure of the Oil Sites Road to the public. The Chairman explained that this was a decision taken by Essar for a number of reasons including security of the Essar site and the previous number of accidents on the road, mainly due to excessive speed. There was a moveable barrier

which meant that the road could be opened to the public when there was an accident or heavy traffic on the A5117.

The same member of the public expressed concerns regarding the number of Heavy Goods Vehicles travelling through the village.

Another member of the public raised concerns over the lack of grass cutting on both CWaC and Parish Council land, in particular the Parish Green on Ince Lane. The Chairman explained that the Parish Clerk was trying to sort out the contract.

The same member of the public asked for more information regarding the projects the Parish Council would be undertaking. It was agreed that Councillor Martin Dickinson should write a report on the plans for and progress with the Jubilee Field. With regard to the work on the CF Fertilisers road, the Chairman explained that Protos had sent out information to every household in the area and that this project was not within the Parish Council's remit.

The Chairman agreed that the Parish Council needed to keep residents up to date and the Parish Clerk and Councillors would use the website, Facebook and the Newsletter to do this and ensure the Notice Boards were kept up to date.

A query was raised about the public right of way at Encirc. The Parish Council would make enquiries on the resident's behalf.

17.55 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 10 April 2017 were confirmed as a correct record.

17.56 FINANCE

(1) **Payments:** The following payments were noted:

Method		Amount
BACS	Staff costs	1,077.40
S/O	Igoe – website hosting fee	6.99

(2) **Receipts:** Elton Gardeners' Association – Plot fees £13.00

(3) **Balance** as at 8 May 2017 £70,333.14.

17.57 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

This item was deferred to the next meeting

17.58 ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

This item was deferred to the next meeting

17.59 REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS, FINANCIAL REGULATIONS, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

This item was deferred to the next meeting

17.60 PLANNING

(1) **Applications Received** for consideration and comment: None

(2) **Decisions** since the last meeting of the Parish Council:

17/00785/FUL	Two storey side extension at 33 Ryecroft, Elton, Chester, Cheshire CH2 4LR – APPROVED
17/00455/FUL	Proposed Single Storey Extension to front of dwelling at 53 Parkland Drive, Elton, Chester, Cheshire CH2 4PG - APPROVED

(1) Notifications:

17/01734/DSM	Installation of 1no. equipment cabinet plus minor ancillary works (Your ref: CHE103 - ELTON SHOPPING PRECINCT) on land adjacent to 11 Elton Shopping Precinct, Ince Lane, Elton, Chester CH2 4QB
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17.61 HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

No further issues raised.

17.62 REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES/RESPONSIBILITY FOR AREAS OF WORK

This item was deferred to the next meeting

17.63 UPDATE REPORTS FROM MEMBERS

- (1) **Police:** PSCO Sue Keers reported that fly tipping was an issue at Marsh Lane, Kinsey Lane and Old Cryers Lane. It was proposed to block off one end of Old Cryers Lane with bollards and it was confirmed that this would not interfere with any Public Right of Way. There had been Incidents of stone throwing on the A5117. One incident had involved a School Bus and could have had serious consequences. The parents of the children involved had been informed and hopefully no further incidents would occur. Councillor Margaret Lockhart had accompanied PSCO Keers on Training for Road Safety to undertake at a future date at Elton Primary School along with a School Charter educating parents and other adults about Car Safety. Parents should be advised to let children out onto the side of a car facing the pavement and not onto the road and there should be no parking on the zigzag lines. There was an issue regarding parking in the Dairy Bank lay-by. Bike Marking to help deter theft had been a success and would be repeated at a future date. PSCO Keers reported that she had helped to organise a Football Event in June. She walked around the village on her beat as often as possible to be seen and for the villagers to get to know her.
- (2) **Protos:** The Chairman would attend the AGM on 14 June. An update would be available in August.
- (3) **Frodsham Wind Farm:** No meeting had been held and there was

little to report. The Community Benefit Fund had used its allocated money for 2016-17. Meetings would now be held quarterly.

- (4) **Elton Community Centre:** Councillor Martin Dickinson (Chairman of Elton Community Centre Management Committee) reported that progress was being made. The accounts for 2015-2016 had been sent to the Charity Commission along with an up to date list of Trustees. The grant from Essar was to be used for updating doors etc. The late arrival of posters to advertise Wear Purple Craft Sessions had limited the time available to the Community Centre to alert people to the Sessions.
- (5) **Essar:** Councillors Lockhart and Mills had attended a meeting the previous week when it was reported that a complete shut-down was due next January and that the deadline for noisy work carried out on the site was 7.00pm.
- (5) **CF Fertilisers:** No meeting had been held for some time
- (6) **Thornton Science Park:** The meeting was to be reset
- (7) **Allotments:** Nothing to report
- (8) **Parish and Police Surgeries:** Councillor Lockhart reported that there had been complaints about grass not being cut, litter and speeding, especially on School Lane. A request would be made for a Mobile Speed Unit to come to the village. There were queries about the kind of speed bumps to be installed in the village
- (9) **Website/Facebook:** Both the website and the Facebook page were currently under review
- (10) **Jubilee Field:** Councillor Martin Dickinson updated on progress being made with work on the Jubilee Field. Three quarters of the field was to be planted with trees and wild flowers to become an area of conservation and the other quarter was to be fenced off as an area for dog walkers.
- (11) **Shops:** It had not yet been confirmed that the village would have a Post Office at any time soon. Justin Madders MP and Ward Councillor Ste Smith were involved in discussions with the relevant parties. Councillor Wilson requested funds for new plants for the planters as some of the existing ones had died and some appeared to have been taken. This was agreed.

17.64 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 12 June 2017 at 7.00 pm at Elton Community Centre

