



Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 17 January 2022 at 7.00pm in Elton Community Centre  
PRESENT: Cllrs Steve Serna (in the Chair), Andy Canham, Martin Dickinson (90 mins), Christine Leith, Margaret Lockhart, Pauline O'Reilly (40mins), Lynne Williams and Maureen Wilson  
In attendance: Cheshire West & Chester (CWaC) Ward Councillors Graham Heatley and Margaret Parker and four members of the public

#### **22.01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillor Ron Reading (dispensation). The Parish Clerk was unable to attend due to illness.

#### **22.02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

#### **22.03 WARD COUNCILLORS' SPEAKING TIME**

Ward Councillors Graham Heatley and Margaret Parker had contacted Sarah Dobbins regarding the section 106 money and would be in touch very soon.

A ward walk had taken place with representatives from CWaC Your Streets and the police. A number of issues were discussed, including flooding, verges and dogs.

#### **22.04 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME**

No issues raised

#### **22.05 MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2021 be confirmed as a true record (Proposed Cllr Andy Canham, seconded Cllr Pauline O'Reilly)

#### **22.06 PLANNING**

RESOLVED: That in relation to applications in Elton since the last meeting of the Parish Council it be noted that

- (1) no applications had been received by CWaC;
- (2) no decisions had been made by CWaC;
- (3) no appeals had been made to CWaC; ;
- (4) no appeals had been made to the Planning Inspectorate;
- (5) no decisions had been made by the Planning Inspectorate; and
- (6) no matters had been put before the CWaC Planning Committee

#### **22.07 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman wished Councillors a Happy New Year. He hoped to complete outstanding projects in 2022.

#### **22.08 POLICE REPORT**

Apologies were received from PCSO Davies who was soon to become a police officer. A new PCSO would be appointed in due course. Cllr Lockhart gave the police report to the Parish Council.

#### **22.09 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

RESOLVED: That the following updates from working groups received since the last Parish Council meeting be noted:

##### **(1) Finance**

A meeting had been held the previous week to discuss the budget and precept (see Minute 22.16 below)

(2) **Dog Park**

Funding had been received from the Marshes Community Benefit Fund for the fencing. Mid-Cheshire would be completing the work when the weather improved.

(3) **Parish Field**

Andy Eardley had removed the large tree that had fallen, and the wood had been donated to the School woodland project.

Glass – one solution would be to provide the street orderlies with the necessary equipment to remove glass; the alternative would be to call CWaC Your Streets

Active Elton were looking at ways of raising the funds to complete the parish field project. Local industries had been approached to get them on board with the work and to request funding. Section 106 money was available (see Minute 22.03 above). Once it was known how much was available from these sources, grants would be sought to complete the project. A committee would then be formed to plan the final project.

(4) **Jubilee Field Committee**

Cllr Lockhart had bought 12 trees and Steve Yandell would be supplying more. Another planting session was scheduled for the coming weekend. Allotment members were thanked for their assistance.

(5) **Community Events**

Matters relating to Easter (15-18 April) would be discussed at the March meeting.

(6) **Fundraising**

The Chairman was looking at fundraising for the Active Elton project.

(7) **Allotments**

Plans had been approved and the clearance work would start when the weather improved. More applications for allotments had been received. Protos were thanked for their grant which had now been received.

(8) **Elton Community Centre**

Regular users were starting back after the Christmas break and other bookings were now coming in. New groups such as genealogy, crafting and CAB face to face were welcomed. Monthly events were planned.

## 22.10 FINANCE

(Proposed Cllr Canham, seconded Cllr Garrity) and RESOLVED that

(1) the following payments made in December 2021 be noted/approved

Date	For	Amount
07.12.21	Sutcliffe Play Ltd – Play Area Repairs/Maintenance	£161.70
07.12.21	WLCS (PC Laptop, CCTV)	£1,665.50
07.12.21	HMRC (Nov 2021)	£231.36
13.12.21	Parish Clerk Expenses	£34.00
13.12.21	Consumables	£11.20
13.12.21	Northwich Town Council	£2,970.00
15.12.21	Staff Salaries	£1,517.88
15.12.21	HMRC (Dec 2021)	£231.36

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22.12.2 1	Peninsular Business HR	£131.56
31.12.2 1	Bank Service Charge (quarterly)	£18.00
	Total	£6,741.20

(2) The income for December 2021 be noted as follows

Date	For	Amount
14.12.2 1	Marshes Community Benefit Fund (Dog park fencing)	£7,568.00
	Total	£7,568.00

(3) The balance of £30,376.52 in the Bank on 31 December 2021 be noted

#### **22.11 CORRESPONDENCE**

None received.

#### **22.12 ELTON COMMUNITY CENTRE CONSTITUTION AND NEW LEASE**

CIO was in the final stages. Solicitors were dealing with the transfer and any concerns from the Charity Commission would be discussed with them.

#### **22.13 ADOPTION OF CWaC CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA AT SORBUS CLOSE**

Cllr Graham Heatley reported that it was hoped to resolve this matter by the end of the year.

#### **22.14 POGOS WOOD/MARSH LANE GREENWAY**

Reports had been received from members of the public of fallen trees. These had not been cleared by Andy Eardley as arranged with Johnny Haven. Denise Haven agreed to speak to Johnny and update the Parish Council. The Parish Council could not take responsibility for it.

#### **22.15 ELTON NEWSLETTER/COLLABORATION WITH THE CHURCH'S PUBLICATION**

An update was provided by Cllrs Garrity and Leith. Lots of information had been received which was being collated.

#### **22.16 PRECEPT 2022-2023**

The Finance Working Group had met on Monday 10 January 2022 to discuss the precept for 2022-23. They recommended it be increased by 4.7% to £47,000, mainly due to the anticipated increases in minimum wage and contracted work due to inflationary pressures. It was proposed by Cllr Leith and seconded by Cllr Williams that the recommendation of the Finance Working Group be adopted. With five in favour, one against and two abstentions it was RESOLVED that the precept of £47,000 be agreed.

#### **22.17 ELTON COMMUNITY CENTRE**

A defibrillator had been donated to the Community Centre and they were seeking a £500 donation in order to purchase a waterproof housing to enable it to be mounted on an outside wall to be accessible outside Community Centre opening times. Councillors Heatley and Parker offered a grant from their Members' budgets to cover the cost.

RESOLVED: That an application be made to CWaC by the Community Centre volunteers for a grant of £250 each from the Members' budgets of Councillors Heatley and Parker.

#### **22.18 QUEENS PLATINUM JUBILEE 2022**

This item had been deferred from the last meeting. The Parish Council discussed ideas for marking the Queens Platinum Jubilee to be held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2022 to Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022. Ideas included a Beacon, fireworks, a big picnic, fete, Centre music and bar. Cllr Canham agreed to get details and to ask the Scouts if they would like to be involved.

RESOLVED: That a Beacon be purchased at a cost of approximately £500.

#### **22.19 JUBILEE FIELD BENCHES**

This item had been deferred from the meeting on 13 December 2021: Cllr Canham had obtained prices of the different types of bench that could be bought for the Jubilee Field and

had circulated suggestions to all Councillors in December 2021. Councillors were asked to consider whether to purchase and install one or two benches on the Jubilee Field.

RESOLVED: That the final decision be made at the next meeting in February 2022

#### **22.20 STANDING ORDERS**

Standing Orders had been amended.

RESOLVED: That the amended Standing Orders be approved

#### **22.21 MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE NEXT MEETING**

Cllr Leith – Tree at the front of the Community Centre still needs removing – Chairman to speak again to Andy Eardley.

Cllr Leith – Contact Cllr Heatley to see if the land on the green and the bushes are parish land, so that can be cut back asap.

#### **22.22 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would take place on Monday 14 February 2022 at 7.00pm at Elton Community Centre.

#### **22.23 RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED: That in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item on the grounds that it relates to matters relating to staffing.

### **Part 2 – Matters considered in the absence of the Press and Public**

#### **22.24 STAFF COSTS**

A review of staff costs was undertaken with the help of a specification supplied by ChALC.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Clerk be requested to complete a time sheet on a monthly basis, as did the other Parish Council employees, in order to monitor staff costs.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm