



Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 18 February 2019 at 7.00pm in Elton Community Centre

**PRESENT:** Councillors Maureen Wilson (Chair), Colin Crispin (Vice Chair), Margaret Lockhart, Ron Reading, Steve Serna, Ruth Ackroyd, Martin Dickinson, Pauline O'Reilly

#### **19.29 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillors Nigel Goodliffe and Ian Miller

#### **19.30 DOG PARK/JUBILEE FIELD**

This Extraordinary Meeting has been called at the request of Cllr Dickinson to further discuss the layout of the Jubilee Field and Dog Park extension, even though a motion to extend the Dog Park had already been carried at the Meeting of the Parish Council on 25 June 2018.

There were 10 members of the public present this evening, some dog owners and some none dog owners, all giving their support for the Dog Park extension. They expressed their frustration and could not understand why this meeting had been called when approval for the extension had already been given by Parish Councillors in June 2018. They were very frustrated at the long delay that had already taken place. They said the Dog Park extension would be of huge benefit to the Village and it is what residents (both dog owners and none dog owners alike) want. One member of the public advised Councillors she did not own a dog but was in support of the extension to the Dog Park as she felt this would help with the current issue in areas of the village which are blighted by dog faeces. She said with the extension more dog owners would be able to use the facility. Cllr Dickinson responded that dog owners would also be able to use the Jubilee Field. A member of the public pointed out that he would be reluctant to take his grandchildren to play in the Jubilee Field if it was used by dogs as a toilet and would prefer it if this was done in a separate area.

A member of the public asked who had authorised the cutting of the pathway in the Jubilee Field in January 2010. He was most concerned that it was encroaching into the designated area for the Dog Park extension and questioned who would be paying for this mistake. Cllr Dickinson said that funding had been given to the Parish Council by Ward Councillor Ste Smith to fund a circular pathway around the Jubilee Field. Members of the public became very angry that tax payers' money had been wasted digging a path which obviously encroached into the Dog Park extension and this pathway would now have to be partly re-dug, also at tax payers expense.

Cllr Dickinson said that a species of butterfly had been discovered in the Jubilee Field and he felt the extension to the Dog Park would be detrimental to the habitat of this butterfly and referred to Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 and the S41 list used to guide decision-makers such as public bodies. Cllr Dickinson stated he felt the Parish Council should give further consideration to extending the Dog Park into the Jubilee Field.

There was a general discussion about the cinnabar moth. This is not a protected or endangered species and there were plenty of green spaces around the Village where this species of moth can live and thrive. Members of the public expressed concern that they would not take their children or grandchildren into an area where there was a toxic plant or caterpillar. General discussion about the health concerns and the Parish Council's duty of care to residents. Also, it was felt that using a small section of the Jubilee Field to extend the Dog Park would have minimal impact to the Cinnabar Moth or its habitat.

Cllr Ackroyd therefore proposed a motion that having given further consideration to this matter, the motion carried at the June 2018 Parish Council meeting for the Dog Park extension to go ahead should be upheld. Cllr Lockhart seconded this motion. A vote of 6 for and 1 against. Motion carried.

At this point Cllr Dickinson became aggressive towards Cllr Wilson calling her "silly" and "a liar". Cllr Wilson asked Cllr Dickinson to leave but he refused, at which point Cllr Wilson brought the meeting to a close.

### **19.31 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Monday 11 March 2019 at 7.00pm in the Elton Community Centre. The Chair closed the meeting at 8.05pm.