



ELTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 March 2019 at 7.00pm in Elton Community Centre

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

19.32 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Nigel Goodliffe and Ian Miller

19.33 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest.

19.34 PUBLIC SPEAKING

Member of the public, Vicki Serna representing 1st Ince and Elton Scouts, asked if the Parish Council would consider supporting the Scouts by buying the plants for the village planters from the Scouts this year. Vicki explained that the Scouts purchase the plants in bulk directly from a nursery and sell them locally at a small profit to raise funds. Cllr Wilson said that unfortunately the arrangements for this year's planters had already been made with contractors, which included the plants and maintenance of the planters for the year. Vicki asked if consideration could be given to supporting the Scouts in future years? Cllr Wilson raised concerns of health & safety and public liability. Vicki advised that risk assessments would be done by the Scout Leaders. Cllr Ackroyd suggested that the maintenance contract be put on April's Agenda. Cllr Wilson agreed to put in on April's Agenda but highlighted that as the Parish Council is now in purdah, the current Councillors would be unable to make any decisions. Following the Election in May it would be a matter for the new Parish Councillors to make a decision for the following year. Cllr O'Reilly said she would take one of the Scout's leaflets to the next Allotment Committee meeting and Cllr Wilson agree to put the information on the Parish Website.

19.34 POLICE REPORT

Cllr Lockhart said it had been very quiet and had nothing to report.

19.35 MINUTES

Cllr Dickinson objected to the final paragraph of point 19.30 in the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 18 February 2019. He felt his words had been misconstrued or taken out of context. He said he had not called Cllr Wilson “silly” but he had told her that what she had said was silly. In respect of the comment he made of “liar” this was in relation to Cllr Wilson stating she had not had an email Cllr Dickinson said that he had sent to her. Cllr Wilson said that Cllr Dickinson’s objections would be noted. The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 11 February 2019 and the Extraordinary Meeting on 18 February 2019 were therefore approved.

19.36 FINANCE

(1) To note/approve payments made in February 2019

Date	For	Amount
11.02.19	Dog Park works	£1250.00
11.02.19	Play Inspection & Maintenance Services Invoice ELT038	£48.00
11.02.19	CWAC Ellesmere Port Lord Mayor Charity Ball Tickets	£60.00
15.02.19	Staff Salaries	£1146.40
15.02.19	HMRC	£177.20
15.02.19	Street Orderly Work Boots	£30.00
22.02.19	Peninsula Business	£131.56
25.02.19	Ron Reading expenses – Building Materials for base for WW1 memorial. Printing and laminating.	£60.11
25.02.19	Clerk expenses – phone allowance, printer ink, paper and postage	£129.26
Total	February 2019	£3,032.53

- (2) Income February 2019 - £2,500 from Essar (£2,000 for Christmas Lights, £500 for Children’s Play Area).
- (3) Reimbursement from Countrywide Ground Maintenance for invoices 25037 and 38431 in the sum of £411.40
- (4) Balance in Bank as at 28 February 2019 £34,920.35

Cllr Dickinson asked who was attending the Mayor’s Charity Ball? Cllr Wilson explained that one of her duties as Chair was to represent Elton Parish Council at this event. Cllr O’Reilly raised concerns that the invite is normally sent out to all Parish Councillors but they had not received their invites this year. Cllr Wilson had an email from the Civic Office received today, which she circulated amongst the Councillors. The email apologised for the omission in contacting the Councillors and explained that this was due to a database error. However, they confirmed that if any of the Parish Councillors wished to attend then they would hold the deadline open until tomorrow, Tuesday 12 March. Cllr Wilson asked Councillors to let the Clerk know this evening if they wished to attend.

Cllr Serna asked if the £1,250 for the works to extend the dog park was the full cost for the extension. Cllr Wilson advised that £1,250 was the cost for the first phase of the works. The second stage of the works, seeding of the paddock, has been delayed due to the wet weather. Cllr Dickinson asked what the total overall cost of the expansion was. Cllr Wilson said it was expected to be £3,000 in total but an application for a grant had been put forward to Protos Community Benefit Fund. Cllr Dickinson stated that as a member of the Community Benefit Fund Committee he had noted that Cllr Wilson had stated a cost of £400 per annum for grass cutting and asked if this was correct. Cllr Wilson said that this had been an estimated sum and she will bring a copy of the quote to the next meeting.

19.37 PLANNING

(1) Applications received by CWAC since the last meeting of the Parish Council

19/00560/S73	Orchard Park Caravan Park, Orchard Park Lane, Elton, Cheshire – Application for removal of Conditions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 of Planning Permission 2/3/6908 – Parish Clerk to lodge comments objecting.
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(2) Decisions made by CWAC since the last meeting of the Parish Council

None	
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(3) Appeals made to CWaC since the last meeting of the Parish Council

None	
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(4) Appeals made to the Planning Inspectorate

APP/A0665/W/18/3213090	<p>Plot 8 Ince Resource Recovery Park Grinsome Road Ellesmere Port Cheshire - Removal of Condition 13 (railway line into the site) of planning permission 16/03074/FUL (Energy for Waste Facility) - Protos LLP – An Appeal has been made to the Secretary of State against CWAC’s decision to refuse to grant planning permission. Appeal start date 2 January 2019. The appeal will be determined on the basis of a hearing and as such a venue has been chosen for the above appeal hearing. The location of the venue is: Council Chamber Chester Town Hall Northgate Street Chester Cheshire CH1 2HJ for 1 day on 20 March 2019 at 9.30am.</p>
APP/A0665/W/19/3220115	<p>Orchard Park Caravan Park, Elton, Chester, Cheshire - Description of development: Variation of Condition 1 (approved plans) on 03/00034/S73 Application reference: 18/02938/S73 Appellant’s name: Wyldecrest Parks (Management) Ltd Planning Inspector ref: APP/A0665/W/19/3220115 Appeal reference: 19/00020/REF Appeal start date: 15 February 2019. Written representations must be received by 22 March 2019 – The Parish Council have already lodged their comments of objection in relation to this matter.</p>

19.38 CHAIR REPORT

(1) Update on road safety concerns on Meadow View raised at the December 2018 meeting.

Cllr Wilson said a response had been received to concerns raised following the fatal road traffic accident on Meadow View in November 2019. The response was from Stuart Bateman (Principal Engineer) at Cheshire West and Chester Highways Department. He advised that the location is currently being monitored whilst they await the results of the Police report into the accident. Once received a formal assessment will be undertaken and he will provide a response on the findings in due course.

Cllr Wilson said Ward Councillor Ste Smith had emailed to advise he fully supported Elton Parish Council with its request that safety be reviewed along this stretch of road.

(2) Guidance for Parish Councillors for May 2019 Election.

All Councillors were given an election pack at tonight's meeting. There were several members of the public attending the meeting who were also interested in standing for Parish Councillors at the Election. They were each given an election pack and Cllr Wilson went through the process and critical dates. Cllr Wilson advised Candidates to contact the Clerk for proposer and seconder electoral numbers as she had a copy of the Electoral Register.

Cllr Wilson briefly went through the process which would take place after the Election such as electing a new Chair and Vice Chair and the assignment of priorities/responsibilities.

19.39 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

(1) Jubilee Field

Cllr Dickinson has received confirmation that the Wildflower Trust will be supplying a seed pack for the Jubilee Field.

(2) **Protos**

Cllr Wilson reported that due to a late application to the Protos Community Benefit Fund, Protos would only agree to fund one of the two projects that the Parish Council had applied for. They had asked the Parish Councillors to decide themselves which project would get the grant, either the dog park extension or the purchase of the inclusive play equipment for the play area. Cllr Wilson said she was in favour of the inclusive play equipment. Cllr Wilson said that if the grant went to one project then the Parish Council would support the other project to ensure that both projects could go ahead. Cllr Wilson motioned for the Children's Play Area inclusive swing and roundabout receive the grant of £4,000 from Protos. Vote of 8 in favour.

Cllr Wilson said that Protos have advised that they will be continuing with the Community Benefit Fund grants for the foreseeable future. A grant of up to £4,000 per annum can be applied for by any group or organisation in and around the Village. It was agreed that this information would be shared on the Parish website and Facebook page with a link to the Application form.

(3) **Children's Play Area**

Cllr Reading confirmed that one of the swings had been removed for health and safety reasons because one of the chains had broken. The swing has been stored away until repairs can be carried out and the swing reinstated. Repairs to the multi-play and slide also need to be undertaken and we are waiting for a quote for these works from the contractors.

19.40 PLANNING

(1) **Protos Plot 8 Ince Resource Recovery Park.**

A hearing is to be held on 20 March 2019 at Council Chamber Chester Town Hall Northgate Street Chester Cheshire CH1 2HJ for 1 day on 20 March 2019 at 9.30am. Cllr Wilson said that due to a prior engagement she would be unable to attend but if any Councillor would like to attend either in the role of Parish Councillor or in a personal capacity then could they advise the Parish Clerk at least 1 week before the hearing. The Parish

Council have already submitted written comments objecting in detail therefore no further action would need to be made in this regard.

Cllr Ackroyd requested that information regarding this hearing be shared with residents via the Parish Council Website and public media. Cllr Wilson asked Cllr Reading to do this.

Cllr Wilson advised that Protos had informed her that they had recently submitted another Planning Application in relation to Plot 10 (a clean energy facility) and to expect notification of this through the planning process shortly. Protos have advised that they are well aware of the Parish Council's and Elton Residents' concerns in relation to the recent Planning Applications.

(2) **Wyldecrest Parks (Management) Ltd Orchard Park Caravan Park.**

Cllr Ackroyd expressed her concerns that Wyldecrest Parks and their agents seemed to be bombarding Cheshire West and Chester Planning Department with continuous applications to remove or vary conditions in a way that suggested they were trying to wear down the Planners in an avalanche of paperwork. Cllr Ackroyd asked if it was possible to raise our concerns regarding persistent applications with CWAC. The Clerk confirmed that she had already done this.

19.41 PLAY AREA INCLUSIVE SWING

Cllr Serna confirmed that Encirc had agreed to donate £2000 towards the inclusive play equipment. This brought the total donations to £17,500. The quotes received for the inclusive swing and roundabout totalled approximately £18,210. All the Councillors agreed that Cllr Serna had done an excellent job fundraising for this project. It was agreed by Councillors that the Parish Council would fund the shortfall in the sum of £710 in order to commence the work immediately. The Clerk would instruct the contractor and request a schedule of works and closure dates. Notices would be put around the community and on the Parish Website advising residents of the closure of the play area. Once the works were completed it was agreed that there would be a grand re-opening to which all the companies who had donated towards the inclusive equipment would be invited. Cllr Wilson suggested that when the new signage was ordered that the logos of all the contributing companies be added to this in recognition of the

kind donations. It was also agreed that the Clerk would send letters of thanks to all the companies who had donated. Cllr Serna will provide the Clerk with details.

19.42 COUNCILLOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Cllr Lockhart requested clarification regarding responsibilities and asked Cllr Wilson if she and Cllr Crispin checked the dog park regularly. Cllr Wilson said that she regularly checked the current dog park perimeter but was unable to access the extension as current works did not enable this.

Cllr Wilson said that regardless of individual Councillors' responsibilities/priorities if any of the Councillors become aware of an issue anywhere within the Parish she would expect them to alert herself and/or the Councillors or the Parish Clerk in relation to their concerns.

The Chair Closed the Open meeting and requested that members of the public leave as there was to be a closed session.

AGENDA PART 2 – MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC

19.43 PARISH CLERK'S CONTRACT

Cllr Wilson asked that consideration be given to increasing the Clerk's contractual hours from 6hrs per week to 8 per week due to the increase in the volume of work. Cllr Wilson motioned for approval of the increase, which was seconded by Cllr Crispin. Vote of 8 in favour. Motion passed. Cllr Wilson said the Clerk's Contract will be amended accordingly.

19.44 OTHER MATTERS

Cllr Wilson said that from April 2019 the National Minimum Wage would increase. This meant that the Street Orderlies' salaries would increase to £8.21 per hour. Cllr Dickinson asked for consideration be given by the Parish Council to adopting the Local Living Wage which was thought to be £8.75 an hour. Cllr Serna pointed out that there were a lot of residents in the Village who themselves were only earning the National Minimum Wage and consideration would need to be given as to how fair it would be to them. Cllr Dickinson requested it be put on next month's Agenda. Cllr Wilson said that it could be put

on April's Agenda but as mentioned earlier in the meeting, the Parish Council is in purdah so were unable to make any decisions such as this until after the Election.

Cllr Dickinson said that at the Extraordinary Meeting on 18 February 2019, as members of the public were leaving, one of them leant towards him and said "you are making enemies". Cllr Dickinson said that although he had not mentioned it at the time, he had felt threatened. Cllr Dickinson asked if there could be a signing in register for members of the public at future meetings. Cllr Crispin advised he would speak to ChALC regarding this and make sure it did not breach GDPR.

Cllr O'Reilly gave her apologies for the meeting in April 2019.

19.45 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Monday 8 April 2019 at 7.00pm in the Elton Community Centre. The Chair closed the meeting at 8.50 pm.