ELTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11 April 2022 at 7.00pm in Elton Community Centre

PRESENT: Cllrs Andy Canham (in the Chair), Christine Leith, Margaret Lockhart and Maureen Wilson
In attendance: Mr John Gresty and Ms Lesley Gardner (Helsby & Elton PPG), Ward Councillor Graham Heatley (part), two members of Elton Gardeners Association and two members of the public

22.59 RESIGNATION

The Chairman had received a letter of resignation from Cllr Stephen Garrity due to family and other commitments. This vacancy and that left by the resignation of Cllr Ron Reading had been advertised on 1 April on the website and Notice Boards asking whether 10 or more residents wish to call for an election to be held to fill the vacancies, this request to be made no later than 14 days (excluding weekends and bank holidays) from the date of the Notice. Due to the Easter holidays the 14 days would expire on 26 April 2022. If no request for an election was received the Parish Council would advertise the vacancies to be filled by co-option.

22.60 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Pauline O'Reilly (work) and Lynne Williams (work) and from Ward Cllr Margaret Parker
Cllr Steve Serna attended via Microsoft Teams (as he was on holiday), but he did not vote
Mrs Pauline English (Temporary Clerk) also attended via Microsoft Teams as she was isolating prior to a medical procedure
Cllr Martin Dickinson was absent from the meeting

22.61 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

22.62 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME

A resident expressed an interest in taking up one of the vacancies on the Parish Council by co-option if no request for an election was received. A form would be provided on application to the Acting Parish Clerk once the second notice had been produced (email to be provided).

22.63 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2022 be confirmed as a true record.

22.64 HELSBY & ELTON PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

Mr John Gresty (Chair) and Ms Lesley Gardner (Secretary) of Helsby & Elton Patient Participation Group (PPG) were welcomed to the meeting. Following the letter received at the last Parish Council meeting, the Council had invited their attendance in order to get more information about the sort of thing that might be supported in kind rather than simply offering a donation. Mr Gresty was asked to let the Parish Clerk have a proposed timetable of events, and what support might be needed, both financial and in kind. Suggestions were for the Parish Council to pay for the use of the Community Centre and for posters advertising the events. Several options were put forward for delivering posters to residents, including the Scouts and Community Payback.

Ms Gardner informed the Parish Council that a taster session leading up to Mental Health First Aid training was to be held on 8 May. Two places were offered to the Parish Council. Cllr Lockhart would attend, and the Clerk would let Cllr O'Reilly know about it.

The PPG was holding its AGM on 12 April, to be followed by an ordinary meeting of the PPG. Anyone who was registered at the Elton practice was welcome to attend and could put themselves forward for membership of the PPG, which could be approved there and then.
RESOLVED: That the proposals be discussed further when more information is available.

22.65 POLICE REPORT

On behalf of PCSOO Neil Flanagan Cllr Lockhart, Parish Council Police Liaison, reported that the main issue being experienced in the past month was criminal damage at the Scout Hut. Two separate incidents had been reported and CCTV footage of both incidents had been received. The two incidents seemed to involve different youths, the second one being younger children who had managed to climb over the fencing and gained access to the compound. These children had been named and their parents had been spoken too. The first incident appeared to be older children who had not gained access to the compound but had thrown items and climbed on the fencing. These youths would be spoken to with their parents. PCSO Flanagan had arranged with Elton Primary School to give an assembly talk with PC Edwards after Easter talk about behaviour both in school and in the community.

The Community Speed Watch Group had been out on Ash Road during the past month and a total of 7 motorists had been sent warning letters as a result. Over the next month the enforceable speed device would be used along Ash Road and any motorists caught travelling at excessive speed would be dealt with via the central ticket office.

As well as addressing Elton Primary School, PCSO Flanagan had offered to give talks to various groups for Elton Scouts and would call in on the Youth Club at some point to further engage with the local young people.

A survey called Resident's Voice had been set up where residents could say what issues they would like the police to focus on in their area. It was accessible by visiting www.cheshire.police.uk/residentsvoicechester. Incidents should continue to be reported by ringing 101 for non-emergency and 999 for emergency incidents. PCSO Flanagan would be attending the local surgeries with Cllr Lockhart on Wednesday 20th and 27th April.

22.66 CWaC WARD COUNCILLORS' REPORT

Nothing to report.

22.67 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It was reported that the remaining trees on the Parish Field were to be felled the following week. The work had been delayed due to the contractor contracting covid. CF Fertilisers had done some planting on the Jubilee Field, overseen by Cllr Lockhart, and they had cleared the hedges behind the play area on the Parish Field.

22.68 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr Lockhart reported that the School would be offered the option of planting in the Jubilee field. She also reported that only she and her husband were doing any work on the Dog Park as no-one else had volunteered their assistance.
It was agreed that the planters should continue to be maintained by Elton Allotments Society on the same basis as last year, i.e. £30 per planter for the year = 11 x £30 = £330..

22.69 PLANNING

RESOL
VED:
That

(1)applications received for consultation since the last meeting of the Parish Council be noted as follows:

Application No	Proposal	Location	Comments

			by
22/00791/FUL	Demolish part of existing rear extension and erection of a side and rear extension	Glendale, Ince Lane, Elton, Chester CH2 4LX	14 April 2022

(2)decisions made by CWaC since the last meeting of the Parish Council be noted as follows:

Application No.	Proposal	Location	Decision
22/00560/HHE	Single storey rear extension	18 School Lane, Elton, Chester CH2 4LN	Approved
21/04960/ADV	Hanging sign	Encirc Glass Ltd, Ash Road, Elton, Chester CH2 4LF	Approved
21/04206/HHE	Singe storey rear extension	Glendale, Ince Lane, Elton, Chester CH2 4LX	Approved

(3)it be noted that no appeals had made to CWaC or the Planning Inspectorate since the last meeting of the Parish Council, no decisions had been made by the Planning Inspectorate and no matters had been put before the CWaC Planning Committee

22.70 FINANCE

No financial information available.

22.71 CORRESPONDENCE

Cllr Canham reported that he had received an email from a resident expressing concerns about the people who advertised in the recently published booklet. The resident had recently had a bad experience with a company appointed to do some work. The Parish Council had opened entry into the directory to any tradesmen in the three villages area, but inclusion in no way represented an endorsement of their services. It was agreed that the Parish Council, should include a statement in any future directory to the effect that they were not endorsing the work of tradesmen, simply making their details available.

RESOLVED: That the resident's concerns be noted and the Parish Council include a statement in future issues of the directory that they did not endorse any organisations or products included in it.

22.72 ELTON COMMUNITY CENTRE CONSTITUTION/NEW LEASE

The Parish Council had received advice that the best way forward was to close the existing charity set up by Colin Crispin and set up a new one. The simple way forward was for him to complete the form: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/how-to-close-a-charity.

RESOLVED: That the advice be noted and the previous Trustees be asked to take this forward

22.73 ADOPTION OF CWaC CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA AT SORBUS CLOSE

Update not available for this meeting as Suzanne Woods, the officer in charge at CWaC, was on leave.

22.74 POGOS WOOD/MARSH LANE GREENWAY

Cllr Canham had spoken a PROW Officer from CWaC. She was going to send him a copy of the application made by the Parish Council in the early 2000s to make Pogo's Wood a public right of way. She would also send a list of web resources to enable someone to find any documentary evidence for it being a public right of way. This would provide evidence that the banks were part of the highway. If it could be shown that Pogo's Wood was a public right of way, CWaC would adopt it, including the banks, as far as current garden boundaries, although the Parish Council would need to keep the trees and bushes maintained.

RESOLVED: That volunteers be sought to research the history of Pogo's Wood.

22.75 QUEENS PLATINUM JUBILEE 2022

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council help promote the Jubilee and allow the use of the Parish Field for the Scouts and residents at no cost as the Events Committee would meet any costs.

22.76 JUBILEE FIELD BENCHES

Following a short discussion the proposal to use the plastic benches was put to the vote. As the result was a 2-2 draw it was RESOLVED to refer the matter for discussion at the next meeting when more Councillors would be present. .

22.77 COUNCILLOR CODE OF CONDUCT

In December 2020, the Local Government Association (LGA) had developed and published a Model Councillor Code of Conduct in association with key partners and following extensive consultation with the sector. This was in response to the recommendation of the Committee of Standards in Public life Local Government Ethical Standards 2019. The Code was a template for Local Authorities to adopt in whole and/or with amendments to take into account local circumstances. A briefing note prepared by the Cheshire Association of Local Councils (ChALC) had been circulated with the agenda.
RESOLVED: That the Code of Conduct be adopted, taking account of local circumstances.

22.78 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Members were reminded that the Annual Parish Meeting had to be held each year between 1st March and 1st June (Local Government Act 1972 Part III). It was a separate body from the Parish Council, but by default the Parish Council usually arranged it. The Annual Parish Meeting was open to all Parish electors who had the right to attend and speak on any matter of local interest.
RESOLVED: That the Annual Parish Meeting be held on Monday 16th May 2022.

22.79 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Annual Meeting - Monday 9 May 2022 at 7.00pm at Elton Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 9.03pm