



Minutes of the of the Parish Council meeting held on 7 October 2019 at 7.00pm in Elton Community Centre.

**PRESENT:** Cllrs Steve Serna, Margaret Lockhart, Maureen Wilson, Martin Dickinson, Pauline O'Reilly, Nigel Goodliffe, Stephen Garrity, Andy Canham, Lynne Williams and Ron Reading.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Ward Cllr Graham Heatley. Members of the public: Vicki Serna, Sarah Gorst, Andrew Gorst, Christine Leith and a member of Elton Allotment Committee.

**19.151 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Reading and Ward Cllr Margaret Parker

**19.152 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**19.153 PUBLIC SPEAKING**

(1) Christine Leith requested that signs be reinstated on the Village Green relating to the By-Laws in place there (no dogs, horses or ballgames). The signs had been removed some time ago when maintenance work was being undertaken but they have not been reinstated. Christine advised that the amount of dog faeces on the Village Green was getting out of hand. Cllr Lockhart advised she would liaise with Cheshire West & Chester Regulatory Services about the bylaws and look at reinstating the signage.

(2) Christine Leith said the Village Green was becoming an area for fly tipping and the trees needed to be cut. Cllr Serna said he will look at what could be done to prevent further fly tipping and at getting the trees cut back.

**19.154 MINUTES**

The minutes of 9 September 2019 and 26 September 2019 were approved by all present.

**19.155 PLANNING**

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

19/03313/FUL	Encirc Glass Ash Road Elton Chester CH2 4LF – Installation of an Electrostatic Precipitator and a Selective Catalytic Reduction equipment – <b>Noted.</b>
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19/03489/FUL	<p>Area 10B Ince Resource Recovery Park Grinsome Road Ellesmere Port – Development of a hydrogen production facility and electricity generating plant, comprising of a waste reception and handling building, gasification facility, hydrogen production facility with associated/ancillary infrastructure which includes access roads, weighbridge, fencing/gates, lighting, surface water drainage and electricity distribution plant – <b>Noted.</b></p> <p>Cllr Canham stated that this was not a green product as the production emitted CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere. There was discussion and it was agreed that the Clerk would request an extension from the Planning Department for the Parish Council to make enquiries and give further consideration in relation to commenting on this application. The Clerk will also request that the Applicant contact the Parish Council with a view to meeting with Councillors.</p>
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**(2) Decisions** made by CWAC since the last meeting of the Parish Council

19/01542/FUL	5 Laurel Farm Court Elton Chester Cheshire CH2 4RY – installation of rear conservatory – Approved – <b>Noted.</b>
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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 since the last meeting of the Parish Council

None	
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**(5) Decisions** made by the Planning Inspectorate since the last meeting of the Parish Council

None	
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**19.156 CHAIR REPORT**

The Chair reported that he had been looking into the legalities of the Covenant restricting the placing of potting sheds on the Allotment grounds. The Covenant restricts the building of anything over 1 metre in height.

**19.157 POLICE REPORT**

Cllr Lockhart stated there was nothing to report.

**19.158 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

To receive updates since the last Parish Council meeting from each of the working groups as follows:-

**(1) ECO WORKING GROUP**

Cllr Canham had been receiving the nitrous oxide readings from the Air Quality Officer at Cheshire West & Chester and was mapping these on a graph. The readings to date showed that the nitrous oxide in the atmosphere off Ash Road was well within acceptable levels.

Sarah at Elton Primary School has expressed an interest to work with the Parish Council Eco Group and it is proposed to pursue this further.

**(2) FINANCE WORKING GROUP**

The Chair advised that the Finance working group had not had the opportunity to meet since May 2019. A meeting has been scheduled for 28 October 2019.

**(3) CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA**

Andy Gorst is booked onto the training in December 2019. The Clerk had not yet received Cllr Dickinson's completed application form so has been unable to book him onto the course. Cllr Dickinson advised he would get the form to the Clerk the following day.

**(4) DOG PARK**

Cllr Lockhart said the dog park extension is complete, the gates are now open and the centre fence will be removed shortly.

**(5) JUBILEE FIELD / PARISH FIELD**

The work on the circular pathway has been started. Cllr Dickinson expressed concern that the area had been cleared. The Chair advised this was not just an environmental project, the field needs to be a managed nature area which could be used by residents. The Jubilee Field should be a showcase for the Village and Cllr Dickinson may have to make some compromises.

The Chair said that moving forward the working group should meet and produce a report for future works, possibly getting Steve Yendell involved.

**(6) LEGAL & POLICIES**

Nothing to report.

**(7) PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

Nothing to report.

**(8) COMMUNITY EVENTS**

- (1) Upcoming event - 1<sup>st</sup> Ince & Elton bonfire night on 1 November 2019 which will take place on the Parish Field.
- (2) The Christmas lights switch on event is confirmed as 1 December 2019 at 4pm. Cllr Williams agreed to design a poster for this event.

**(9) FUNDRAISING**

- (1) Cllr Canham requested that the Clerk enquire why there was not a representative on the Marshes Community Benefit Fund panel.
- (2) Cllr O'Reilly advised she had received donations of £100 from A Engineering, £200 from J H Willis & Son and a donation from local business man Frank O'Neill which would all go towards the Christmas lights switch on event and the purchase of selection boxes to hand out to local children.

Cllr O'Reilly said that the planning for this event was going really well and all the business at the shopping parade were onboard and were supporting the event as follows:-

- Jade Chippy – will be giving out free small chop suey rolls
- SJD Barbers – will be giving out free sweets
- Spar – will be giving out free hot chocolate, tea and mince pies
- The Rigger – will be giving out free hot-dogs
- The Wheelies – will be giving out free mulled-wine
- 1<sup>st</sup> Ince & Elton Scouts – will be giving out free soup
- The Church – will be giving out free cakes
- The Scouts will also be arranging Santa's Grotto.

**(10) PLANNING**

19/03489/FUL - Area 10B Ince Resource Recovery Park Grinsome Road Ellesmere Port. The Clerk will request that the Applicant contact the Parish Council with a view to meeting with Councillors.

**(11) ELTON & HELSBY GP PRACTICE**

Cllr Wilson advised that the Patient Participation Group were holding a "Healthy Elton" event on 26 October 2019 to tie in with the GP Practice Flu Clinic. The event will be open to all residents of Elton regardless of whether they are a patient at the practice or not.

Cllr Williams requested that Cllr Wilson ensure she is invited to any future meetings with the GP Practice.

**(12) ALLOTMENTS**

They Allotment Committee said they will provide a poster for placing on the Parish Council notice boards.

#### 19.159 FINANCE

- (1) To note/approve payments made in September 2019 - Noted

Date	For	Amount
11.09.19	Clerk Expenses	£47.00
13.09.19	Salaries	£1216.47
13.09.19	HMRC	£160.40
23.09.19	Peninsula Business	£131.56
30.09.19	Bank Service Charge	£18.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£1573.43</b>

- (2) To note income for September 2019 - Noted

Date	For	Amount
05.09.19	HMRC VTR	£4162.52
16.09.19	Essar Oil UK – Donation for Inclusive Play Equipment	£1500.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£5662.52</b>

- (3) To note the balance in the Bank as at 30 September 2019 £40,973.65 - Noted

#### 19.160 GRASS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

- (1) It was noted that the grass maintenance contract for 2020 is now in place with Countrywide.
- (2) It was unanimously resolved to pay for an extra cut to all grassed areas before the 1<sup>st</sup> Ince & Elton Scouts Bonfire Event and Remembrance Day.

#### 19.161 EMERGENCY CALL OUT FOR TREE SURGEON

The payment of £150 to Eco Fell Tree Surgery Ltd for the emergency call out and removal of broken tree branches was ratified by all present.

Cllr Canham stated that the school had raised concerns with him relating to the overhanging tree branches in the school car park. The Clerk will seek advice and a quotation from a tree surgeon for pollarding the trees.

#### 19.162 ELTON COMMUNITY CENTRE PROPOSED NEW CONSTITUTION

- (1) The decision by the Legal and Policies Working Group to put forward amendments to the draft Constitution which has been presented by the Trustees of Elton Community Centre was ratified unanimously.
- (2) It was agreed unanimously that Cllrs Serna and Lockhart would represent the Parish Council at “round the table discussions” with the Trustees of Elton Community Centre.

**19.163 LEASES FOR ELTON COMMUNITY CENTRE AND SCOUT HUT**

- (1) The new Lease for Elton Community Centre is currently on hold pending resolution of the proposed new ICO.
- (2) There is no update on the Lease for the Scout Hut.

**19.164 UPDATE ON THE ADOPTION OF THE TWO CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER CHILDREN’S PLAY AREAS IN THE VILLAGE**

The matter is currently waiting for Cheshire West & Chester Council to respond to the Parish Council’s request to adopt the play areas.

**19.165 CORRESPONDENCE**

- (1) It was resolved that the Parish Council would grant the sum of £200 to the Patient Participation Group (“PPG”) to support their “Healthy Elton” event. Cllr Wilson said she would liaise with Elton Community Centre in relation to the £15 per hour charge to the PPG to see if this could be waived. The Parish Council will advertise the event on the Facebook page and Website.
- (2) (a) It was resolved unanimously to approve the £2000 interest free loan to Elton Community Events Committee (“ECEC”). Cllr Garrity suggested that the loan should only become payable upon dissolution of ECEC, however this could not be resolved at this meeting.
  - (b) It was unanimously resolved that the Parish Council will purchase the first aid equipment which it could then loan to ECEC and other community groups.
  - (c) It was unanimously resolved to allow ECEC to use the Parish Field for the Elton Fete on 6 June 2020.
  - (d) It was unanimously resolved to put a link on the Parish Council Website and Facebook page advertising Elton Fete on 6 June 2020.
  - (e) It was unanimously resolved to allow ECEC sole use of the road and hardstanding between Elton Community Centre and Elton Primary School on 6 June 2020. There would be access for emergency services and the drop off and picking up of elderly/disable. The Clerk to email the Trustees of Elton Community Centre to advise them and Cllr Canham will advise Elton Primary School of the arrangements.
- (3) It was unanimously resolved that the Parish Council will purchase the fireworks for the 1<sup>st</sup> Ince & Elton Scouts’ Bonfire Event in the sum of £1000 and the Scouts will pay £400 towards this.
- (4) The Clerk has received a request from the Trustees of Elton Community Centre for a 50% contribution towards their annual insurance. This matter was deferred from the meeting on 9 September 2019 in order to seek legal advice. The Chair is seeking legal advice.

**19.166 REMEMBRANCE DAY**

- (1) A resolution was made to purchase a wreath from the Royal British Legion for £50 which will be placed in the Memorial Garden on Remembrance Day (8 in favour, 1 abstention).
- (2) It was noted that Cheshire West & Chester Council have notified the Clerk that if road closures are required for the Remembrance Day Parade then it will be the responsibility of the Parish Council to pay a private security company to support this as Cheshire Police do not have the manpower. Cub Group Leader said she will speak to Ward Councillor Graham Heatley in relation to event plans and road closures.

**19.167 ELTON ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION**

- (1) In relation to a community plot at the allotments for use by Elton Primary School Cllr Canham will speak to the school and feedback.
- (2) This matter to be deferred to the next meeting.
- (3) It was resolved unanimously to instruct the Parish Council's solicitors to investigate the Covenant in the Purchase Agreement for the Allotments which prevented structures over 1 metre in height being located on the land.

**19.168 VILLAGE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON EVENT 2019**

- (1) It was unanimously resolved to pay the electrician £85 plus VAT to attend the switching on of the Christmas lights.
- (2) The decision to purchase a 3D illuminated star for the top of the Village Christmas tree at a cost of £460 plus VAT was ratified unanimously.

**19.169 SIGNAGE FOR THE CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA AND DOG PARK**

Cllr Lockhart advised that she had checked with Cheshire West & Chester Regulatory Services and it was not necessary to have the Clerk's telephone number on the dog park signs. The signs on the Children's Play Area did have the Clerk's telephone number on them.

**19.170 GREENWAY MARSH LANE (ALSO KNOWN AS POGO'S WOOD)**

The Chair advised he had received an email from Cheshire West & Chester Council advising that they had a 12 year backlog. The Chair will circulate the email to all Councillors.

**19.171 MANCHESTER AIRPORT FUTURE AIRSPACE**

Cllr Garrity offered to act as liaison in relation to this matter and would keep the Clerk updated.

Resident, Andy Gorst, advised that Stanlow had previously been a no-fly zone

but this restriction has now been lifted.

#### **19.172 SCOUT HUT LANE MAINTENANCE**

- (1) It was unanimously resolved to proceed with the hedge cutting on Scout Hut Lane at a cost of £265 plus VAT.
- (2) The Chair agreed to speak to local contractor Andy Eardley in relation to filling in the potholes with gravel on Scout Hut Lane. The Chair will also ask him to give a quotation for the tarmacking of the full length of Scout Hut Lane.
- (3) There was a discussion in relation to the lighting along Scout Hut Lane. It was felt that once the hedges had been cut back this should improve the effect of the current lighting along the lane.
- (4) There was a discussion relating to vehicles being allowed to drive down Scout Hut Lane which Councillors thought was dangerous. It was agreed that vehicle access should be for Scout leaders only, not parents, in order to keep children safe.

At this point the Chair requested approval from the Parish Councillors to continue with the meeting past 9pm. All present were in agreement to continue.

#### **19.173 CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA INSPECTION TRAINING**

A unanimous resolution was made that the Clerk will reimburse local resident, Andy Gorst, for his mileage at 45p per mile for attending the RoSPA Play Area inspection training on 4-5 December 2019.

#### **19.174 MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

- (1) Jubilee Project lead and proposals for finishing the project.
- (2) Living Wage for Street Orderlies.
- (3) Parish Council Website and Facebook page.

**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**

#### **19.175 EMAIL CONDUCT AND HOW BEST TO AIR GRIEVANCES**

The Clerk said that she had found the recent email conduct of one of the Councillors upsetting and humiliating. The Councillor concerned had circulated amongst all the other Councillors a series of condescending and patronising emails addressed directly to her. The Clerk said she considered the Councillor was bullying her. The Councillor concerned stated that the Clerk had "slandered" him in the Minutes of January 2019. It was pointed out to the Councillor by other Councillors that the Clerk only recorded in the minutes what had happened at the

meeting in January and this could in no way be construed as the Clerk "slandering" him. The Councillor refused to accept this and would not offer an apology to the Clerk for his conduct despite being asked to do so several times by other Councillors. The Clerk said she reserved the right to take the matter further.

**19.176 APOLOGIES FOR MEETINGS**

Councillors were reminded that apologies should be given to the Clerk prior to meetings unless in case of emergency.

**19.177 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Monday 11 November 2019 at 7.00pm in the Elton Community Centre. The Chair closed the meeting at 9.45pm.