



Minutes of the of the Parish Council meeting held on 9 December 2019 at 7.00pm in Elton Community Centre.

PRESENT: Cllrs Steve Serna (Chair), Margaret Lockhart (Vice Chair), Pauline O’Reilly, Stephen Garrity, Andy Canham, Christine Leith and Lynne Williams.

ALSO PRESENT: 12 members of the public who did not give their names.

19.215 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Ron Reading, Maureen Wilson and Martin Dickinson and Ward Cllr Margaret Parker

19.216 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

19.217 PUBLIC SPEAKING

(1) Several members of the public raised the recent Encirc Planning Application reference no 18/04948/S73 to increase HCV movements. There was an extensive discussion by residents and Councillors in relation to the issues raised. There were several hauliers present and they expressed their concerns on the amount of HCV movements. There were also 2 Health & Safety Managers who agreed that even now with the current amount of HCV movements it was an accident waiting to happen let alone with any increase in HCV movements. One of the H&S Managers advised that when his employers were investigating purchasing the site for their business, he had done a risk assessment on their behalf and the risk was very high showing that there could be a death within 6 years. The company based their risk assessment on a lot less HCV movements that Encirc were proposing.

The main issues of concern put forward at tonight’s meeting were:

- Health & Safety - School children waiting for school bus on Ash Road. HCV drivers driving on the wrong side of the road, HCV drivers driving too fast. Cyclists and cars have had near misses with HCV’s on Ash Road as HCV’s cut the corner at the junction of Ash Road/Ince Lane.
- HCV’s stopping on Ash Road sometimes parked up on the pavement (sometimes overnight) which meant residents had to go onto the road to get past. Just recently a HCV driver had park up on the pavement and even when Encirc’s own security asked the driver to move, the driver refused. This particular incident has been reported to Cheshire Police.

- The constant repairs needing to be carried out to the road/drains/surrounding manholes.
- HCV's getting lost in the Village and driving down residential roads and roads unsuitable for HCVs.
- Pollution
- Anti-social behaviour of HCV drivers along Ash Road – Urinating at side of Ash Road and in bottles and throwing them out of their cabs along Ash Road, HCV drivers have been seen fly-tipping along Ash Road.
- Residents feel if permission to increase HCV's Encirc will not have an incentive to pursue alternative access solutions.
- Long waiting periods to exit onto Ash Road from Holme Drive estate and Orchard Park Lane.
- Noise – The proposed acoustic road surface was unproven and Encirc cannot guarantee it will work.
- Long waiting periods to exit the junction of Ash Road onto Ince Lane.
- HCV's blocking the junction of Orchard Park Lane whilst waiting to enter Encirc's site through the contraflow that operates under the railway bridge at the bottom of Ash Road.
- Distrust of Encirc due to previous promises made which never materialised. Residents feel that Encirc are only offering some solutions now in order to push their Planning Application through.
- Residents are unhappy at how Encirc are going about the issues raised; the fact that Encirc are not proactive speaks volumes. Also, Encirc does not appear to show any empathy for residents.

The Chair explained the Parish Council's position regarding planning; that the Parish Council could lodge a comment letter on behalf of residents but that it was important the residents make their own comments to Cheshire West & Chester Planning Department either via the Planning Portal or by email to the Planning Officer who is Nick Smith nicholas.smith@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk The Chair advised that residents should write to their Ward Councillors Graham Heatley and Margaret Parker. Residents should also write to their MP Justin Madders.

Cllr Garrity stated he would like to see Encirc's risk assessment relating to the increase of HCVs.

Cllr Garrity suggested a Residents Association. It was agreed that one should be formed but that it would probably be too late in relation to this recent application.

A resident enquired if the Parish Council had sought support from Thornton Le Moors; it was agreed that the Parish Council would consider this.

The residents present agreed to rally round residents to encourage them to comment on the Planning Application.

The Chair stated that the Parish Council would support the residents' and object to the Planning Application.

Residents thanked the Parish Council for extending the public speaking time this

evening in order for residents to discuss their concerns.

(2) Ian McKay thanked Councillors, on behalf of the shops, in relation to organising the Christmas Lights Switch-on Event earlier in the month.

19.218 MINUTES

(1) The minutes of 11 November 2019 were approved by all present.

(2) The Minutes of 25 November 2019 were approved by all present.

19.219 PLANNING

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

18/04948/S73	Encirc Glass Ltd Ash Road Elton Chester CH2 4LF - Variation of condition 4 (HCV movements) of planning permission 17/01820/S73 to remove requirement to reduce movements over time – Comments before 17 December 2019 – Agreed that the Parish Council would represent residents' objections to this Application and would write to Planning.
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(3) **Decisions** made by CWAC since the last meeting of the Parish Council

19/03313/FUL	Encirc Glass Ltd – Ash Road, Elton, Chester CH2 4LF - Installation of an Electrostatic Precipitator and a Selective Catalytic Reduction - Approved
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(4) **Appeals** made to CWAC since the last meeting of the Parish Council

None	
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(5) **Appeals** made to the Planning Inspectorate since the last meeting of the Parish Council

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

None	
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(7) Matters before the Planning Committee

None	
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19.220 CHAIR REPORT

The Chair wished to thank Cllr O'Reilly for all her organising and pulling together the Christmas Lights Switch-on Event and those who were also involved and supported her.

19.221 POLICE REPORT

Cllr Lockhart gave the Police Report since November 2019. She said it had been fairly quiet but there have been a few incidents:

- Damage to the Parish Council gate at the bottom of Scout Hut Lane.
- Anti-social behaviour by males on a scrambler on the CF Fertilisers grounds.
- 2 females shoplifting at Martins Newsagents at Elton Shopping Precinct.
- 2 males seen flying a drone over the Essar Stanlow site.
- Public Order offence at Elton Shopping Precinct involving a taxi driver.
- Criminal Damage to a vehicle in Lime Grove.
- Anti-social behaviour in Lime Grove.

19.222 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 received the latest nitrous oxide readings from the Air Quality Officer at Cheshire West & Chester and added these to the previous results. The trend of the increasing readings was evidenced again in the October readings but was still well within acceptable levels.

(2) FINANCE WORKING GROUP

The Finance working group's next meeting will be held on 20 January 2020 at 7pm Elton Community Centre. Items on the Agenda were the budget for the coming year and the Parish Precept would be discussed and agreed.

(3) CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

Andy Gorst was now fully trained to carry out children's play area inspections.

The Chair advised he has given the local contractor, Andy Eardley, instructions to carry out some minor repairs at the play area and he will start these next week.

(4) DOG PARK

Cllr Lockhart advised she was keeping an eye on the condition of the dog park due to all the wet weather. She said the dog park is very popular,

however it may be necessary to close it for a period to prevent the ground conditions becoming too muddy.

(5) PARISH FIELD

The Chair said that the Parish Council will be meeting with Cheshire West & Chester Localities Officer on 16 December 2019 to discuss plans for the improvements to the Parish Field in relation to the Active Elton Plan. This was to be a closed meeting for Councillors.

The Chair had carried out an inspection of the trees on the Parish Field along with local expert Steve Yendall. There is an awful lot that needs to be done but he is confident that the work can be done in stages. The Chair is meeting with a tree surgeon on Saturday. The Chair stated concern in relation to 2 trees on the land surrounding the doctor's surgery; there is a silver birch tree that needs to be lowered as a matter of urgency as it is very near to the powerlines. There is also a tree which looks to be growing right next to the doctor's surgery. The Chair said that if the Parish Council are having some work done on trees on Parish Council land it would make financial sense for the Parish Council and doctors to have all the work done together and the doctors to make a contribution to the costs. It was agreed that Cllr Williams would liaise with Mr York, the GP's Practice Manager.

(6) JUBILEE FIELD COMMITTEE

The first Jubilee Field Committee meeting was held on 25 November 2019.

Cllr Lockhart reported that she is due to meet with the contractor on Saturday. She has requested a quotation for the installation of an "A" gate into the Jubilee Field to make access easier for wheelchair users and the less able bodied.

Cllr Lockhart has spoken with the Mersey Forest; she is going to send them some information about the Jubilee Field Project. They are very interested in supporting the project.

The Chair expressed concern that the surface of the new circular pathway was not hardening as was expected. Cllr Lockhart advised that she had spoken to the contract who had advised that this was due to all the wet weather and that once it dried out the surface would harden.

The next Committee meeting would be 20 January 2020 at 8pm in Elton Community Centre.

(7) LEGAL & POLICIES

Nothing to report.

(8) PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Cllr Canham advised that Encirc are looking to open the railway line for use by employees.

(9) COMMUNITY EVENTS

- (1) The Elton Lights Switch-on Event on 1 December 2019 was very successful and it was agreed it was enjoyed by all. Cllrs O'Reilly and Lockhart had raised £2610 in donations towards the lights and all the food and drinks had also been donated.

Cllrs O'Reilly and Lockhart have been asked to go and speak to the ladies at the Church in relation to the "angels" that they had knitted and then they had been left around the village for residents to find leading up to the lights switch-on event. Lots of residents had "found" angels and had expressed, by social media, that it had an up-lifting feeling when finding one. The response has been overwhelming.

- (2) The next upcoming event would be the Elton Village Fete on 6 June 2020. Cllr Leith confirmed that Elton Community Events Committee had now opened a bank account and had provided these details to the Parish Clerk. The Clerk confirmed she would arrange to transfer the £2000 loan from the Parish Council as agreed in the meeting of 7 October 2019 and recorded in the minutes at point 19.165 (2)(a).

(10) FUNDRAISING

The Parish Council's grant application to the Marshes Community Benefit Fund ("MCBF") in relation to Pogo's Wood had been unsuccessful. However, Cllr Lockhart's application to MCBF for the defibrillator has been successful. MCBF have given a grant in the sum of £2768 and the funds have been received into the Parish Council's bank account. This sum covers the cost of purchase and installation.

(11) ELTON & HELSBY GP PRACTICE

Nothing to report.

(12) ALLOTMENTS

Elton Allotment Association have sent a thank you email to the Parish Council for the grant of £330 which they have now received into their bank account.

19.223 FINANCE

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

Date	For	Amount
01.11.19	Northwich Town Council – Hedge cutting on Scout Hut Lane	£636.00
06.11.19	Clerks Expenses	£120.05
06.11.19	ChALC – Councillor Training	£35.00
11.11.19	Northwich Town Council – Grass cutting 16.10.19 and Play Area Inspection	£565.20

	22.10.19	
11.11.19	Cllr O'Reilly Expenses	£158.78
14.11.19	AED Locator EU Ltd – Heartsafe Defibrillator and Cabinet Full Package	£2518.80
14.11.19	Hammer & Tongs -	£7.68
15.11.19	Staff Salaries	£1401.62
15.11.19	HMRC	£201.22
22.11.19	Peninsula - HR	£131.56
	Total	£5775.91

(2) To note income for November 2019 - **Noted**

Date	For	Amount
12.11.19	CF Fertilisers – Donation for the purchase of 3D star for the top of the Christmas tree	£500.00
19.11.19	Grant from Marshes Community Benefit Fund for the purchase and installation of a Heartsafe Defibrillator and Cabinet Full Package	£2768.00
21.11.19	GP Surgery - Rent	£10.00
	Total	£3278.00

(3) To note the balance in the Bank as at 30 November 2019 £32,260.07 - **Noted**

19.224 CHILDRENS PLAY AREA INSPECTIONS

As Andy is now fully trained to carry out children's play area inspections. It was therefore resolved unanimously to cancel the monthly inspections carried out by Northwich Town Council and Andy will take over this task for the Parish Council free of charge.

19.225 CORPORATE MULTIPAY

It was resolved unanimously that the Clerk should make enquiries in relation to obtaining a corporate multipay card for the Parish Council's bank account.

19.226 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON EVENT

It was resolved to ratify Cllr O'Reilly's expenses claim payment for £158.78.

19.227 ELTON COMMUNITY CENTRE PROPOSED NEW CONSTITUTION

The Chair advised that at the round the table meeting on 15 November 2019 with Elton Community Centre Trustees, amendments had been suggested to the Constitution to include the community element. The Parish Council's solicitors have chased the amendments and it is hoped to have an amended Constitution shortly.

The Chair requested that the Clerk contact Elton Community Centre Trustees enquiring when the Community Centre AGM would take place.

19.228 LEASE FOR SCOUT HUT

The Lease for the Scout Hut is scheduled to be signed by all parties on Friday 13 December 2019.

19.229 CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence from residents in relation to the Encirc Planning Application 18/04948/S73 to increase HCV movements were noted and taken into account in relation to the Parish Council’s decision to write a letter to the Planning Officer to object to the application.

19.230 SIGNAGE

Residents had been extremely unhappy about the subplates to the new signs which had been erected at the end of November 2019. Cllr Lockhart wanted to know why Cllr Wilson had approved the wording on the subplate “Home of UK Glass Making” on the new signs without bringing it before the Parish Council for discussion. The Chair requested that the Clerk put this matter on the next Agenda for the meeting in January 2020.

The Chair asked that if Councillors had any specific requests for the wording on the new footplates. If they could let the Clerk know their suggestions by 2 January 2020. The matter can then be put on the next Agenda for a vote.

19.231 DEFIBRILLATOR

Cllr Lockhart advised that she had spoken to the owners of Hammer & Tongs again regarding locating the defibrillator on the side of the Spar. The owners had objected to the defibrillator being placed there as they use the space to put the compost and shelves. Cllr Lockhart had explained to them that the defibrillator would be better being installed under the canopy of the shops. Unfortunately, they still refused and therefore the defibrillator will have to be installed on the front wall of the Spar.

Cllr Lockhart advised that she is meeting with the electrician on Wednesday 11 December 2019 and she hoped to get a date for installation.

Cllr Lockhart advised that she will be the “guardian” of the defibrillator and that there is a lot involved with the weekly checks that will need to be done.

Cllr Lockhart said that there is a free St Johns Ambulance course which will take place in January 2020 and if anybody was interested in taking the course to let her know.

19.232 WORLD WAR II AND LATER CONFLICTS MEMORIAL

The Chair stated that this agenda item had been requested by Cllr Wilson who was not at tonight’s meeting. However, the Chair advised that it is illegal for a Parish Council to pay for a War Memorial and therefore this item could not be considered.

19.233 MATTERS ARISING FOR THE NEXT MEETING

(1) Village planters and discussion regarding planting.

(2) Follow up on Encirc Planning Application 18/04948/S73.

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

19.234 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Monday 13 January 2020 at 7.00pm in the Elton Community Centre. The Chair closed the meeting at 9.05pm.