



Minutes of the of the Parish Council meeting held on 13 January 2020 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, Ron Reading and Maureen Wilson.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Ward Cllr Graham Heatley, Members of the public: Sarah Gorst, Andy Gorst, Janet Ninnis-Jeal, Vicki Serna, Steve Cordall, Steve Spencer and a member of the Elton Allotment Committee who did not give her name.

**20.1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Lynne Williams

**20.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**20.3 PUBLIC SPEAKING**

(1) Steve Cordall advised he had seen blueprints for cycle path proposals on the Cheshire West & Chester website and that there were no proposals to improve cycle routs around Elton. He wanted to know why that was and what the Parish Council were going to do about it. Ward Cllr Heatley advised that United Utilities were involved in improving the cycle path along the A5117. He also advised that he would liaise directly with Mr Cordall regarding this issue.

(2) Steve Cordall expressed his reservations regarding dogs being allowed on the Parish Field and other public spaces within the Village. Mr Cordall stated that Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) were being used successfully throughout the Country and he felt that it was a good way forward in relation to tackling the issues experienced within the Village with dog fouling and anti-social behaviour of dogs and their owners. Mr Cordall said that whilst the Parish Council had provision for dog owners by way of a dog park, he felt it unacceptable for dog owners to use a public space such as the Parish Field to exercise/toilet their dogs. Mr Cordall feels that with a PSPO this would send a clear message to dog owners that it is unacceptable to have their dogs off lead in public spaces. Cllr Lockhart advised that she would be starting the “pink poo campaign” very soon in order to try and tackle the issue of dog fouling within the Village. Cllr Lockhart also advised that she was in the process of arranging a “walk-a-bout” with Regulatory Services. Cllr Lockhart will discuss the matter raised by Mr Cordall when she speak to Regulatory Services. Cllr Lockhart will request PSPOs are placed on the

Agenda for the next Parish Council meeting to be held on 10 February 2020. Mr Cordall advised he would forward information to the Clerk in relation to PSPOs. Ward Cllr Heatley expressed that he felt PSPOs should be given consideration for the Parish Field. The Chair advised that this would form part of a discussion for the Parish Field Working Group Project that is proposed to be set up if the Parish Council decides this evening that it will move forward with the Active Elton Master Plan on the Parish Field.

- (3) Steve Cordall raised his concerns regarding double decker buses travelling along School Lane. Mr Cordall gave his reasons for raising this matter and discussed at length the width of the road on the “original bus route” along Parklands Drive of 7.3 metres wide being a “trunk road” and School Lane being only 5.5 metres wide and classed as a “residential road”. Mr Cordall also gave his concerns that the pavements along School Lane were not suitable for pedestrians whilst buses were travelling along School Lane. Mr Cordall advised that he would like to see the risk assessment that should have been done before the Department for Transport allowed buses to travel this route. Ward Cllr Heatley advised that he would liaise with Mr Cordall in relation to this matter.
- (4) Sarah Gorst raised the matter of Elton Community Centre’s AGM. Cllr Reading (who is a Trustee and Vice Chair of Elton Community Centre) advised that notice of the AGM would be posted in the next week or two on the notice board outside the Community Centre and on the Elton Community Centre’s Website.

**20.4 MINUTES**

Cllr Wilson referred to point 19.232 of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9 December 2019 and asked the Chair why he thought it was “illegal” for a Parish Council to pay for a War Memorial. The Chair advised that he would email Cllr Wilson the information relating to this.

The minutes of 9 December 2019 were approved.

**20.5 PLANNING**

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

None	
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(2) **Decisions** made by CWAC since the last meeting of the Parish Council - **Noted**

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 – <b>Awaiting Decision</b>
19/03948/FUL	79 Holme Drive Elton – Two storey side extension – <b>Approved</b>

(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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**(6) Matters** before the Planning Committee

None	
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**20.6 CHAIR REPORT**

The Chair wished everyone a happy New Year. Following the Christmas period during which Councillors from Elton, Ince and Thornton Le Moors had enjoyed a festive social gathering at The Duke of Wellington in Ince. The Chair and Vice Chair had attended the Church to give a talk to them about the social impact and uplifting community spirit the Village had experienced leading up to the festive period with the “angels” and Christmas trees decorations being left around the Village for residents to find. The Chair stated that as the Parish Council had recently lost both Nigel Goodliffe and Ruth Ackroyd in the last 12 months, it felt as though the Parish Council no longer had such strong links to the Church. It was hoped that this could be rectified in the near future.

The Chair advised that the Church had expressed an interest in Elton Parish Council utilising their bi-monthly publication for Parish Council news instead of the Parish Council producing and circulating a separate newsletter. Their publication is currently distributed to some 3000 households in Elton, Ince and Thornton Le Moors. The Chair expressed that he thought it would be an excellent idea for not only the Parish Council to join forces with the Church in their publication but also other community groups such as the Scouts and Elton Community Centre if they were interested. Cllrs Garrity and Leith both expressed an interest in meeting with Nicola Brown, who is a representative of the Church, to discuss a collaboration on the publication. They will liaise with her and report back at the next Parish Council meeting.

Cllr O'Reilly left the meeting.

**20.7 POLICE REPORT**

Cllr Lockhart advised there was nothing to report as it had been very quiet over the festive period. However, Cllr Lockhart advised that due to the PCSO being offered the opportunity to become a Police Officer this meant that Elton would be

getting a new PCSO whom she would be meeting tomorrow.

## **20.8 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 advised that the Eco Working Group had not met since the last Parish Council meeting.

Cllr Canham advised that the Local Authority were organising a Climate Change Emergency meeting which was to take place next week. Ward Cllr Heatley advised that this would take place at Wyvern House in Winsford and members of the public could attend if they wished.

### **(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, recommendations from which the Finance Working Group would be making proposals to be discussed at Extraordinary Parish Council meeting on 27 January 2020.

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

Andy Gorst advised that he had completed his inspection and had rectified 80% of the defects found, which had been quite a big job. He raised the issue that the service gate to the play area was not locked. Andy was advised by the Chair to purchase a coded padlock from Hammer & Tong on the Parish Council's account.

Andy raised a concern relating to the brambles along one side of the play area, which abuts the back fences of residents' gardens. He advised one way to address this issue was to remove the brambles and then in order to preserve the security of residents' gardens a chainmail fence could be installed. This would not only improve the safety of the play area but would also reduce costs to the Parish Council for the continual pruning back of the brambles.

Andy raised a matter which had been suggested by a local resident on social media relating to laying bark on the ground surface of the play area. Andy did not think this was suitable and also did not think that it would solve the issue of mud in the play area.

Andy advised that the bench in the play area needed repairing. He will address this before the next Parish Council meeting.

Andy advised that he would email the Clerk with his inspection report and remedial works.

Andy advised that he had visited the children's play area at Redwood Drive, which the Parish Council are proposing to adopt. Andy advised that it was in a very poor state of repair, most of the wooden equipment was rotten and other equipment (such as the swings) were missing. Andy advised that he had not yet had the opportunity to visit the play area known as Ladybird Park, which the Parish Council were also looking to adopt from Cheshire West & Chester Council. Ward Cllr Heatley advised that CWAC had advised him that they would make good both play areas before the adoption by the Parish Council took place.

**(4) DOG PARK**

Cllr Lockhart advised she had closed the dog park for health and safety reasons due to potholes near the gate and some dog owners not picking up dog foul. She is keeping an eye on the condition of the dog park and the potholes had now been backfilled. However, due to the muddy condition of the dog park it remained closed. It was hoped that the dog park would be open again soon. The Chair advised that the Parish Council would look at re-seeding the dog park in the spring.

**(5) PARISH FIELD**

The Chair advised that he was still waiting for the quote regarding the pollarding/removal of the trees on the Parish Field. Cllr Canham advised that he would chase this up. The Chair stated that due to the size and costs of these works it may be necessary to carry out the urgent works first and that the less urgent work could be scheduled over the next few years. The Chair also stated that some of the work could possibly be incorporated into the plans for the Active Elton Masterplan.

Cllr Canham advised that he had liaised with Elton Primary School and they had no issues with the trees abutting the school car park being felled. However, the school would wish to retain a barrier between the school car park/playground and the Parish Field.

**(6) JUBILEE FIELD COMMITTEE**

The Jubilee Field Committee is due to meet again on 20 January 2020 at 8pm at Elton Community Centre. Cllr Lockhart advised that she had produced a site plan and had received a quotation for these works from the current contractor employed for the most recent works. Cllr Lockhart stated she could apply for a grant for these works and would be discussing further at the meeting.

**(7) LEGAL & POLICIES**

Nothing to report.

**(8) PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

Nothing to report.

## **(9) COMMUNITY EVENTS**

Cllr Leith advised that Elton Community Events Committee (ECEC) were in the process of organising a VE Day Celebration which would take place on 8 May 2020 and Elton Fete 2020 which would have a VE Day theme and would take place on 6 June 2020 on the Parish Field. The next meeting of ECEC would take place on 28 January 2020.

## **(10) FUNDRAISING**

Nothing to report.

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

Cllr Wilson advised there was nothing to report. The Chair asked Cllr Wilson to liaise with the GP Practice in relation to the recent tree survey which had taken place before Christmas. This had raised concerns in relation to a tree very close to the GP Surgery which the tree surgeon considered dangerous. The Chair requested Cllr Wilson liaise with the GP Practice and ask them if they wished to have the tree removed themselves or if they wished the Parish Council to have this done as part of the works in and around the Parish Field and then the GP Practice would make a contribution towards costs. Cllr Wilson advised that she would speak to the Practice Manager.

## **(12) ALLOTMENTS**

The next meeting of the Elton Allotment Association will take place on 3 February 2020.

At the last Parish Council meeting Elton Allotment Association raised concerns regarding a house opposite the allotments which had left rubble nearby the allotments. Elton Allotment Association understood that the Parish Clerk would write to the household concerned and they wanted to know if this had been done. The Clerk advised that as she had not received the address of the household concerned from the Allotment Association she had been unable to do this but if they provided the address to her then she would indeed write to the resident concerning this matter.

## **20.9 FINANCE**

(1) To note/approve payments made in December 2019 – **Noted**

<b>Date</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Amount</b>
04.12.19	Grant to Elton Gardner's Association towards Eco loo	£330.00
06.12.19	Chair's Allowance	£150.00
06.12.19	Andrew Gorst (Expenses for attending training course)	£100.80
06.12.19	ThenMedia (Parish Council Website hosting and	£352.80

	emails for 12 months)	
10.12.19	Elton Community Centre Events Committee Loan	£2,000.00
11.12.19	Playsafety Ltd (Play Area Inspection Training for Andy Gorst)	£576.00
13.12.19	HMRC	£201.22
13.12.19	Staff Salaries	£1,309.72
19.12.19	Northwich Town Council (Christmas Lights & Tree)	£7,974.00
23.12.19	Peninsula Business (HR Services)	£131.56
31.12.19	Quarterly Bank Service Charge	£18.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£13,144.10</b>

(2) To note income for November 2019

Date	For	Amount
19.12.19	Essar Oil UK Ltd (donation towards Christmas Lights)	£300.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£300.00</b>

(3) To note the balance in the Bank as at 31 December 2019 £19,415.97

## 20.10 VILLAGE PLANTERS

Discussion regarding the 10 Village planters; who will plant and maintain them. To resolve whether to instruct Northwich Town Council to refill the planters in the spring (£595 plus VAT) or to make alternative arrangements. Elton Allotment Association stated they would present a quote to the Parish Council before the next meeting on 10 February in relation to planting twice yearly and maintaining the planters throughout the year. Sarah Gorst requested that consideration be given to the colour of the plants for 2020 in relation to the VE Day celebrations (red, white and blue flowers). It was therefore proposed by Cllr Garrity and seconded by Cllr Lockhart and resolved unanimously that the Parish Council will give consideration to Elton Allotment Association planting and maintaining all 10 village planters, subject to their quotation.

## 20.11 JUBILEE FIELD COMMITTEE

Following the meeting of the Jubilee Field Committee (the Committee) on 25 November 2019, the Committee have requested an interim budget of £500. Discussion around what the money would be used for and clarification given by Cllr Lockhart that it would only be used if absolutely necessary and to save calling an Extraordinary Parish Council meeting. It was therefore proposed by Cllr Garrity and seconded by Cllr Lockhart. A vote of 5 in favour and 1 against – therefore it was resolved to grant an interim budget.

## 20.12 DOG PARK WASTE BIN/COLLECTION

There was extensive discussion regarding installation of a new dog foul bin/multi use bin or moving the dog foul bin on Meadow View closer to the dog park. It was eventually agreed that this matter could not be resolved at this meeting and that Cllr Garrity would seek a quote from a private waste disposal service and Cllr Lockhart would speak further to Sarah Dobbins at CWAC regarding what she considered “excessive charges”. Cllr Lockhart advised that she had originally been quoted £76 per annum and was shocked to discover that this had now

transformed into a £780 per annum charge. The Chair thanked Ward Cllr Heatley for his support in offering to use a portion of his Member's Budget to purchase a new bin but as a decision could not be concluded at tonight's meeting the Parish Council would have to decline his financial support. This matter would be deferred to the next Parish Council meeting scheduled for 10 February 2020.

### **20.13 ELTON COMMUNITY CENTRE PROPOSED NEW CONSTITUTION**

The Chair advised that the Parish Council Solicitors were still awaiting to hear from the Community Centre's solicitors in relation to the suggested amendments to their proposed new Constitution.

### **20.14 PARISH FIELD – ACTIVE ELTON PLANS**

The Chair advised that the layout on the Masterplan was not set in stone and would be open to discussion if the Parish Council decided to move forward with the Project.

- (i) It was proposed by Cllr Lockhart that the Parish Council should move forward with the Active Elton Project, this was seconded by Cllr Garrity. A unanimous vote was made to move forward with the Project.
- (ii) As the Parish Council have now resolved to move forward with the Project:
  - a. It was proposed by Cllr Canham and seconded by Cllr Garrity to invite John Seiler from Total Environment to meet with the Parish Council in relation to the Project. A vote of 4 in favour and 1 against, it was therefore resolved to invite John Seiler to meet with the Parish Council.
  - b. Ward Cllr Heatley explained where the Section 106 money had come from and what it could be used for. The Chair stated that if the Parish Council managed to secure the Section 106 money towards the Project then it would be a very good start to obtaining grants. It was proposed by Cllr Canham and seconded by Cllr Lockhart that the Parish Council should make an application to CWAC in relation to using the Section 106 money in the sum of approximately £46,000 towards the Active Elton Project.
  - c. It was proposed by Cllr Canham and seconded by Cllr Garrity that an Active Elton Working Group be formed. It was resolved unanimously that a working group be formed.

### **20.15 CORRESPONDENCE**

- (i) Cllr Garrity proposed that the Parish Council should grant 1<sup>st</sup> Ince & Elton Scouts a donation of £400 towards their Bonfire Night firework display they hosted for the Village. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Canham and a vote of 4 in favour and 1 against was made. It was therefore resolved that the Parish Council would grant the Scouts £400 towards their firework display they put on for residents.
- (ii) Cllr Canham will liaise with the Clerk to Thornton Le Moors Parish Council in relation to the cycle path improvements along the A5117 to Cheshire Oaks.



Cllr Wilson left the meeting.

- (iii) a. Cllr Garrity proposed to grant Elton Community Events Committee £450 to cover the costs of a Samba Band to attend Elton Fete 2020 on 6 June 2020. This was seconded by Cllr Lockhart. Cllr Canham advised that he would be abstaining from the vote because he knew a member of the band. A vote in favour to grant the sum of £450 to Elton Community Events Committee was unanimous and it was therefore resolved to make the grant.
- b. It was discussed and agreed that the Parish Council would give due consideration to the power supply to the Parish Field as part of the Active Elton Project, which could also benefit any future events held on the Parish Field, although this would in all likelihood not be in time for the Fete this year.
- (iv) It was discussed and agreed that the Parish Council would give due consideration to lighting for the Parish Field as part of the Active Elton Project, which could also benefit any future events held on the Parish Field, although this would in all likelihood not be in time for the Fete this year.
- (v) Cllr Garrity raised his concerns regarding the Liverpool John Lennon Airport (LJLA) Airspace Transition. Cllr Garrity advised that although there didn't seem to be any proposals at the moment, it seemed to be that an awful lot of money was being expended if there were no future plans to increase flights or add an additional runway. Cllr Garrity stated he didn't want the Parish Council to be caught on the back foot and thought that advice should be sought in relation to this matter. The Clerk advised that Hale Parish Council were involved with LJLA in relation to future airspace and it may be mutually beneficial to both Parish Councils if they were to join forces. The Clerk said she would contact Hale Parish Council to see if they would be open to a joint collaboration.

It was 9pm and the Chair asked if everyone was happy to continue further and all agreed.

**20.16 ADOPTION OF THE 2 CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER CHILDREN'S PLAY AREAS**

The Chair had not received an update from CWAC. Ward Cllr Heatley advised he would chase this matter up.

Andy Gorst advised that the play area at Redwood Drive was in a very bad state of disrepair and he had concerns regarding the Parish Council's adoption due to the possible implication of costs and liability to the Parish Council. Ward Cllr Heatley reassured that CWAC had agreed to invest in the 2 children's play areas before the Parish Council adopted them.

**20.17 POGOS WOOD AREAS**

It was proposed by Cllr Garrity and seconded by Cllr Canham to instruct the Parish Councillor's solicitors to proceed with a first registration of Pogo's Wood. Ward Cllr Heatley confirmed that CWAC had agreed to invest in clearing the area once the Parish Council had adopted it. A vote was taken and all present were in

favour. It was therefore resolved to instruct the solicitors accordingly.

**20.18 SIGNAGE**

It was proposed by the Chair and seconded by Cllr Canham that a resolution be made in relation to the wording on the sub-plates of the 2 new "Welcome to Elton" signs be "Please drive carefully through our Village". A vote was taken with all in favour.

Cllr Lockhart asked for questions regarding why the wording on the signage had not been brought before the Parish Council previously be put on the Agenda for February's meeting.

**20.19 DEFIBRILLATOR**

Cllr Lockhart advised that the newly installed defibrillator was up and running. Training for 20 residents would be taking place on 28 January 2020 and the training was fully booked. Cllr Lockhart hoped to secure a further training date in the near future for those who were unable to gain a place on the initial training session.

Cllr Lockhart expressed her disappointment that following a request from the Clerk in relation to guardianship of the defibrillator, nobody had responded. Cllr Lockhart and O'Reilly will be the guardians; Cllr Lockhart being the main guardian and Cllr O'Reilly was the back-up.

**20.20 FOLLOW UP ON THE ENCIRC GLASS PLANNING APPLICATION 18/04948/S73**

The Chair advised that there was currently no update regarding this matter.

**20.21 NEWSLETTER**

Cllrs Leith and Garrity will liaise with Nicola Brown from the Church in relation to a collaboration with their bi-monthly publication.

**MATTERS ARISING FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

**The Chair requested that members of the public leave before the commencement of Part 2**

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

**20.23 RECOMMENDATIUBN FROM THE STANDARDS COMPLAINTS PANEL HEARING**

The Chair stated that as neither party were present, this matter be deferred to the next meeting.

**20.24 CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINT**

The Chair stated that as neither party were present, this matter be deferred to the next meeting.

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

Monday 10 February 2020 at 7.00pm in the Elton Community Centre. The Chair closed the meeting at 9.45pm.