



Minutes of the of the Parish Council meeting held on 12 October 2020 at 7.00pm in Elton Community Centre.

PRESENT: Cllrs Steve Serna (Chair), Andy Canham (Vice Chair), Pauline O’Reilly, Martin Dickinson, Lynne Williams and Maureen Wilson.

20.127 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Christine Leith and Stephen Garrity.

20.128 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

20.129 PUBLIC SPEAKING

There were no issues raised by members of the public.

20.130 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2020 and 31 August 2020 were proposed as a true record of events by Cllr Canham and seconded by Cllr O’Reilly – the Minutes were subsequently approved unanimously.

20.131 PLANNING

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

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

None	Noted
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(3) **Appeals** made to CWAC since the last meeting of the Parish Council

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

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

None	Noted
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(6) Matters before the Planning Committee

None	Noted
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20.132 CHAIR REPORT

The Chair did not have a report as it had been a quiet month.

20.133 POLICE REPORT

PCSO Lauren Davies sent her apologies for tonight’s meeting. Margaret Lockhart is Cheshire Constabulary’s liaison officer and would be reporting to the Parish Council when the PCSO or PC could not attend. Margaret advised that notable incidents reported to Police were off road bikes on Frodsham marshes on 11 October 2020. There have not been any reports over at Ince & Elton this weekend. However, the Police are aware that the bikes run through from Frodsham-Helsby-Ince. Police ask that local residents report any such incidents and they will monitor.

Ongoing issues with antisocial behaviour in the Village with a small group of youths causing some issues. The Police are currently working with schools and will in turn work with parents to try and prevent such behaviour.

The Police are aware of the cashpoint being spat on at the shopping precinct. They are continuing to provide high visibility presence in this area. Police ask that residents please feedback with any names if you are to hear any through community members.

Ince & Elton train station – the Police weeks have not had any further reports of drug taking here. However, the Police have attended a couple of times in the last 2 weeks and empty bags of suspected cannabis have been left behind. They will continue to be in the area and take positive action if they are to come across anyone there taking drugs.

20.134 COUNCILLORS’ REPORTS

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

(1) ECO WORKING GROUP

Cllr Dickinson attended Cheshire West & Chester’s (CWAC) environment

meeting. Cllr Canham advised that in relation to CWAC supporting the installation and maintenance of a pond in the Jubilee Field, he had been advised that this was subject to certain conditions which he believed may not be applicable to the Jubilee Field. Further enquiries will be made by the Chair.

Cllr Dickinson advised that CWAC are encouraging public and private land owners to plant trees which they will provide and maintain.

(2) FINANCE WORKING GROUP

Nothing to report.

(3) CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

The damage to the roundabout which was reported at the meeting on 12 September 2020 has been deemed an installation fault by the company the Parish Council paid to oversee the installation. Contractors were due to attend the play area today to rectify the fault but an update has not yet been received. The Clerk will contact Sutcliffe Play for an update.

(4) DOG PARK

Margaret Lockhart advised that the middle gate between the two dog parks had been opened. However, the gate does not open right back. Another pedestrian access needs to be installed and she has requested a quote from local contractor Andy Eardley. Margaret also advised that there are ongoing issues with holes appearing in the ground. It is understood that these are being caused by dogs and squirrels. She continues to fill the holes as and when necessary.

Cllr Dickinson raised the good dog ownership scheme run by Tatton Council. He will find out more information about this scheme report back at the next meeting.

(5) PARISH FIELD

The Chair advised that the tree felling on the Parish Field had been complete and that a good job had been done.

(6) JUBILEE FIELD COMMITTEE

The Chair stated that the Committee needed to meet. However, in light of the Public Health concerns regarding Covid 19 and the new restrictions coming into force on Wednesday, this meeting may need to take place virtually and he will make arrangements for this to be set up.

(7) LEGAL & POLICIES

Nothing to report.

(8) PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Nothing to report.

(9) COMMUNITY EVENTS

Nothing to report.

(10) FUNDRAISING

Nothing to report.

(11) ELTON & HELSBY GP PRACTICE

Cllr Williams advised that the Flu Clinic will go ahead in November and would be held at the Community Centre. The Parish Council would be open to making a financial contribution towards the room hire fees.

(12) ALLOTMENTS

Nothing to report.

(13) ELTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Chair advised that the Community Centre Committee wish to have permission to install bike racks outside the Centre. They will put the request in writing and if necessary, an Extraordinary Parish Council meeting can be arranged.

(14) CF FERTILISERS

Cllr Wilson attended the meeting held on 25 September 2020 together with Cllr Reading. She gave her report and the main points as follows:-

- CF Fertilisers are classed as a critical manufacturer, which had to continue work throughout the Covid 19 lockdown. Fertilisers are part of the food chain and needed to maintain crops growth. CF Fertilisers also helped in the production of PPE. Safe working practices were adhered to and staff were placed in bubbles to help reduce risk of Covid 19.
- The site considers safety and environment impact – production won't damage the surrounding environment. Reliability and investing in the future are also important to the company.
- EHS 3 inspections during Covid all clear. Suitable procedures undertaken during Covid 19 in addition to normal safety procedures. They have a good relationship with Unions and employees and they have an employees' "Wellbeing Programme".
- Some minor issues during July 2020 on the plant regarding an ammonia plant on the site, which is now resolved. Noise is monitored regularly.
- The company has a good safety record and is one of the finalists for a

safety award for the second year, which it won in 2019.

- The company is at the heart of the hydrogen industry for the future.
- Focused on “green technology” with the new project “Hynet Project” – Carbon capture and storage is a viable next step towards zero emissions by 2050.
- The company is happy to send a representative to community groups.

20.135 FINANCE

(1) To note/approve payments made in September 2020 – Noted and approved.

Date	For	Amount
03.09.20	Countrywide – Grass Cutting	£647.72
03.09.20	CWAC (2 nd instalment of election fees for May 2019)	£1168.75
03.09.20	Clerk’s Expenses (for June, July, August and September 2020)	£153.85
11.09.20	Pursglove & Brown (Internal Audit)	£420.00
11.09.20	Pursglove & Brown (Payroll)	£72.00
11.09.20	Foodbank Shelving (reimbursement to V Serna)	£120.00
15.09.20	Staff Salaries	£1515.52
15.09.20	HMRC	£238.56
22.09.20	Peninsula Business (Notice Period is ?????)	£131.56
22.09.20	Elton Community Centre (Youth Hub Grant)	£500.00
22.09.20	Alfie Duncan t/a Tree Tops (felling of trees on Parish Field)	£5400.00
28.09.20	Elton Gardener’s Association (11 x Planters with winter flowers)	£385.00
30.09.20	Bank Service Charge (quarterly)	£18.00
	Total	£10,770.96

(2) To note income for September 2020 – Noted.

Date	For	Amount
08.09.20	National Grid	£2.17
08.09.20	Thornton Le Moors Parish Council (Foodbank Donation)	£500.00
	Total	£502.17

(3) It was noted the balance in the Bank as at 30 September 2020 was £28,897.78 of which £4,285.51 is the Covid 19 Support Group funds (Foodbank).

20.136 CORRESPONDENCE

(1) A resident of Mount Pleasant has been in touch with Cllr Dickinson regarding a tree near her property. She is concerned as children are climbing the tree and has asked if the Parish Council will pollard or fell it. There was a general discussion about whether the trees belong to the Parish Council. If they are then the Chair advised as all the Parish Council trees have been inspected

by a qualified tree surgeon recently and all the unhealthy/dangerous trees have been felled, then if it is one of the trees the Parish Council are responsible for then it would not be felled if it is a healthy tree. Cllr Dickinson said he would liaise with the resident with a view to finding out exactly which tree it was as some of the trees near Mount Pleasant are the responsibility of Cheshire West & Chester Council and not the Parish Council.

- (2) A request has been made from Elton Gardener's Association for the Parish Council to provide a skip at a cost of £225.32 (including VAT) for a large skip which holds 70-90 bin bags. The fly tipping issues were discussed and it was proposed by Cllr Dickinson that the Parish Council should pay for the skip and this was seconded by Cllr Williams. It was resolved with 5 in favour and 1 against.
- (3) Elton Gardener's Association have suggested planting daffodil bulbs around the Village. They have costed this at £50 for the Village Green and other areas can be planted up at additional cost. A general discussion about planting and grass cutting took place. Camille from Elton Gardener's Association suggested that the bulbs be purchased from the money already given to them for the village planters. It was also discussed that instead of daffodils, maybe snowdrops as they flower earlier in the year and therefore as the grass cutting season does not start until April it would probably be suitable. Therefore, a resolution was not proposed.

20.137 ELTON COMMUNITY CENTRE CONSTITUTION

The Chair advised that the new constitution was progressing and we should have a draft for approval by the next meeting on 9 November 2020.

20.138 ELTON COMMUNITY CENTRE LEASE

The Chair advised that this was tied up with the new Constitution and would therefore progress once the Constitution is agreed.

20.139 RATIFICATION OF FOODBANK

Cllr Canham proposed that the decision taken in March 2020 for the Parish Council/Clerk to administer the funds for the Foodbank be ratified and this was seconded by Cllr Williams. This was resolved unanimously.

20.140 FOODBANK

- (1) Cllr O'Reilly gave an update on the progress and plans for the future of the foodbank. This included integrating with the café and working in partnership with Ellesmere Foodbank who would donate food which could be turned into meals by the volunteers at the café and sold at a substantially reduced cost to whoever was in need. Cllr O'Reilly advised that some 60+ food parcels had been distributed so far since the foodbank was set up in March this year. Cllr O'Reilly stated that the café has been a fantastic success, selling food at bare minimum prices and one of its main focuses is combating loneliness. Thanks go to all the volunteers from the Parish Council for all the hard work to date.
- (2) It was proposed by Cllr Williams and seconded by Cllr Canham that the

Parish Council should give financial support to Elton Community Events Committee in the sum of £50 per week to cover the additional costs of running the Covid 19 Support Group Foodbank from 23 March 2020 to 12 October 2020. It was resolved unanimously to do so and this would be reviewed again at the meeting on 11 January 2021.

20.141 ADOPTION OF 2 X CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER CHILDREN'S PLAY AREAS

The Chair advised that we were still waiting to hear from CWAC and requested the Clerk to chase this matter up.

20.142 POGOS WOOD/MARSH LANE GREENWAY

The Chair advised that we were still waiting to hear from CWAC and requested the Clerk to chase this matter up.

20.143 ELTON NEWSLETTER/COLLARBORATION WITH THE CHURCH'S BI-MONTHLY PUBLICATION

The Chair advised that Cllr Garrity had done a small write up for next month's publication.

20.144 PLAQUE IN RECOGNITION OIF GRANT FROM THE MARSHES COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

It was discussed and proposed by Cllr Dickinson and seconded by Cllr Canham that if MCBF were to provide a plaque that stated MCBF part funded, in collaboration with the Parish Council, the pathway around the Jubilee Field this could be placed on the gateway into the field. It was resolved unanimously that this could be done and Cllr Dickinson will speak to MCBF.

20.145 FIRST AID BOX FOR JUBILEE FIELD

A first aid box for the Jubilee Field was discussed but it was deemed unsuitable to have in an open field and it would vulnerable to vandalism and/or misuse. The Chair will look into the cost of a disclaimer sign.

20.146 VILLAGE PLAN

It was agreed that due to the new restrictions relating to Covid 19 it would not be possible to meet as a working group but that everyone should go away and have a think about ideas and these could be shared amongst everyone via email.

20.147 PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT TO ENABLE VIRTUAL MEETINGS

It was proposed by Cllr Canham that the Parish Council purchase equipment for approximately £1000 to enable virtual meetings to take place, with Elton Community Centre contributing 50% towards this in order for them to be able to use the equipment for conferencing facilities. This was seconded by Cllr O'Reilly and resolved 5 in favour and 1 against.

20.148 RESTRUCTURE OF COUNCILLOR RESPONSIBILITIES AND REPORTS

It was agreed to defer this to the next Agenda.

20.149 TREES ON PARISH FIELD

(1) It was agreed that further pollarding/felling of trees on the Parish Field should

be discussed early next year.

- (2) The Chair advised that he had asked the contractor who felled the trees to quote for dealing with the tree stumps. Therefore, this matter is to be deferred to the next meeting.
- (3) It was proposed by Cllr O'Reilly that the Chair's decision to mend the fencing between the Parish Field and Elton Primary School as an urgent matter of health and safety be ratified. This was seconded by Cllr Canham and resolved unanimously.
- (4) It was agreed to defer discussing the planting of new shrubs and trees to replace the trees felled between the Parish Field and Elton Primary School until the next meeting. Cllr Canham said he would ask the school if they would like to be involved in discussions. The Chair asked the Clerk to contact CWAC in relation to the tree planting scheme whereby they provide the trees and also maintain them.

20.150 JUBILEE FIELD

It was agreed to defer the decision to install a new gate post and "A" frame gate to the next meeting.

20.151 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The Chair advised that there was an issue with the installation of the motifs which were usually mounted on the streetlights. CWAC may not give permission to the Parish Council this year. Negotiations are ongoing between Northwich Town Council (installers), CWAC representative, Ward Cllr Graham Heatley and the Parish Council. CWAC has indicated that wrap around lights would be allowed and the Parish Council should look at these for future use. The Clerk will investigate the costs of purchasing wrap around lights.

20.152 MATTERS ARISING FOR THE NEXT MEETING

No matters were requested at this time.

20.153 SUITABLE WAY TO RECOGNISE AND MARK 2020

Deferred to 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

20.154 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Monday 9 November 2020 at 7.00pm in the Elton Community Centre. The Chair closed the meeting at 9.07pm.