



Minutes of the of the Parish Council meeting held on 8 February 2021 at 7.00pm in Elton Community Centre.

PRESENT: Cllrs Steve Serna (Chair), Andy Canham (Vice Chair), Christine Leith, Pauline O'Reilly, Lynne Williams, Maureen Wilson and Ron Reading.

ALSO PRESENT: Ward Cllr Graham Heatley, Police Liaison Margaret Lockhart, Police Sergeant Andrew Collinson (Rural Beat Management), Rob Charnley from Cheshire West & Chester Council Planning Department, Claire Jakeman (Clerk to Thornton Le Moors Parish Council). Members of the public: Nigel Goodliffe, Andy & Sarah Gorst.

21.28 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Ward Cllr Margaret Parker and Cllr Crosswaite. Cllr Garrity experienced technical issues which prevented him joining the meeting virtually.

21.29 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

21.30 PUBLIC SPEAKING

None.

21.31 MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on:-

- (1) 11 January 2021 were proposed as a true record by Cllr Canham and seconded by Cllr Williams and subsequently approved unanimously.
- (2) 28 January 2021 were proposed as a true record by Cllr O'Reilly and seconded by Cllr Williams and subsequently approved unanimously.

21.32 PLANNING

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

21/00149/FUL	Encirc Glass Ltd, Ash Road, Elton, Chester CH2 4LF – Installation of one portable cabin and retention of one portable cabin – closing date for commenting 28 February 2021 – Noted
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(2) Decisions made by CWAC since the last meeting of the Parish Council -
Noted

19/03963/S73	Woodlands Place, Old Hall Lane, Elton, Chester CH2 4NY - Variation of conditions 2 and 4 and removal of conditions 3 and 7 of 14/03785/S73 (Appeal Ref: APP/A0665/C/15/3129147) to allow for the increase of pitches on site from 2 to 6 consisting of 1 caravan per pitch of which no more than 3 shall be static mobile homes – Approved - Noted
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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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(6) Matters before the Planning Committee

None	
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- (7)** Rob Charnley from Cheshire West & Chester Council Planning Department was in attendance to discuss the planning issues relating to Little Meadow's, the traveller site off the A5117. He advised that an Enforcement Notice was served on 18 January 2020 for planning breaches and he is waiting for prosecution. Rob advised that due to current restrictions because of the Covid-19 pandemic things are moving very slowly through the Courts. Claire Jakeman expressed her frustration as there should only be 10 caravans on the site but that 70 have been counted. She said the travellers have taken more land and erected floodlights. Claire stated the residents of the site were constantly fly-tipping and had dug trenches on land they don't own. Claire said she feels this is a contributing factor to the constant flooding on A5117. Rob said it would be up to the land owner where the trenches have been dug to address this issue and not the Planning Department. Rob will speak to the Highways Department about the flooding. Claire state that the residents of Thornton Le Moors feel that their village is being eroded by the site and its residents. Ward Cllr Heatley advised he would liaise with Cheshire West & Chester regarding the site owners failing to comply with their site Licence.

21.33 CHAIR REPORT

The Chair advised that the tree on the Community Centre car park had been removed as an emergency due to health and safety concerns as its branches were growing up around the telephone wire. The Chair advised that regrettably Cllr Denise Crosswaite had today tendered her resignation due to an increase of work in her employment. The vacancy for a new Parish Councillor will be advertised on the Parish Council website.

21.34 POLICE REPORT

PCSO Lauren Davies sent her apologies for tonight's meeting. Margaret Lockhart is Cheshire Constabulary's liaison officer and she read the Police report. Notable incidents reported to Police this last month are:-

05/01/21 – Vehicle parked up in Manley View. Vehicle had stones thrown at it whilst parked up, causing the windscreen to completely shatter.

11/01/21 – Vehicle parked up in the car par at Elton Community Centre and Elton Primary School. During the time it was left parked a rear window was smashed.

11/01/21 – Vehicle parked up on Pinewood Close. Whilst the vehicle was parked up windscreen has been smashed. Nothing has been stolen.

20/01/21 – Brick or stone has been thrown at a rear window of a residential property causing the window to smash.

24/01/21 – A5117 at the junction with Cryers Lane a vehicle has been driving past and has stones thrown at the vehicle. Unknown if any damage has been caused.

28/01/21 – Bedroom window of a residential property on Greenfield Gardens has been broken. The outside pane of glass has been smashed, believed to be by a catapult.

01/02/21 – Parkland Drive – Back door has been smashed. However, this appears to be a burglary rather than antisocial behaviour.

02/02/21 – Brackendale – Conservatory door smashed at the back of a residential property. Unsure if this is criminal damage or attempt at a burglary.

05/02/21 – Antisocial behaviour reported at the Duke of Wellington Pub car park. Regarding a vehicle that had been at various places in the village playing loud music and breaching Covid restrictions. I attended – but search made no trace on my arrival. Officers have since patrolled on the evenings after this at this location to offer some hi visibility presence.

The above incidents have all been reported since the turn of the year. Cheshire Police are aware there may be more incidents within the Elton community. We really do urge those people who have been victims of crime to come forward. We are also appealing for any witnesses to any of the incidents, or anyone who has any CCTV or dashcam footage of any offences committed to contact us. Contact can be made via 101 or via our website

As a result of the above incidents there has been an increased officer presence in the village. A number of Police Officers have been on foot patrol ensuring the alleyways were a main target. Police urge any members of the community who witness such acts to please contact us on 101 or 999 in an emergency. If crimes are reported officially this will allow the Police a greater opportunity to deal accordingly there and then.

Sergeant Collinson advised he will look at problem solving. In relation to the nitros oxide canisters being left around the village, Sergeant Collinson advised that because it was not illegal to be in possession of these then the only offence that the Police can deal with this is littering.

21.35 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 he had received the latest No2 monitoring information and these were well within the permitted limits.

(2) FINANCE WORKING GROUP

The next meeting will be held on 6 April 2021.

(3) CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

Andy Gorst gave his Inspection Report as follows:-

Hedges and brambles need cutting back and the chain link fences needs repairing and making safe – The Chair advised he would ask Andy Eardley to deal with these matters.

Main swing gate needs dampener repairing and the inclusive roundabout has failed again. Also, the main silver/purple play equipment top bearing has completely snapped and needs replacing – the Clerk will liaise with Sutcliffe Play.

There are regular signs of drug use within the play area and Andy removes what he finds. It was agreed that hopefully with the installation of the CCTV this should solve the problem. The Chair asked the Clerk to purchase signage advising CCTV in operation.

(4) DOG PARK

Margaret reported the dog parks were extremely muddy due to all the rain we have had. The path in the second dog park has now been laid. Margaret has concerns that it needs to be brought out further and she advised that the fencing in the second dog park needs replacing.

(5) PARISH FIELD

The Chair is waiting for a quote from the tree surgeon in relation to killing the tree stumps. The Chair advised he would chase this up.

(6) JUBILEE FIELD COMMITTEE

The Jubilee Field Committee have not met yet. The Chair asked the Clerk to write a letter of thanks to Steve Yandell as he had undertaken a large amount of work on the Jubilee Field.

(7) LEGAL & POLICIES

Nothing to report.

(8) PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Nothing to report.

(9) COMMUNITY EVENTS

Cllr O'Reilly said she would be interested in co-ordinating a socially distanced easter egg hunt and maybe a parade similar to the one done at Christmas. Cllr O'Reilly will meet with the Clerk to go through some ideas.

(10) FUNDRAISING

Nothing to report.

(11) ELTON & HELSBY GP PRACTICE

It was discussed using Elton Community Centre as a vaccination hub. The Chair asked Cllr Wilson to liaise with the GP Practice Manager and advise them that the Parish Council would be happy to support this by paying the rental charge for use of the Centre.

(12) ALLOTMENTS

Nothing to report.

(13) ELTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

Cllr Williams advised that lots of work had been undertaken at the Centre – new flooring and carpet gone down and the installation of a new kitchen was underway. New cupboards had been built in room 2. The old kitchen had been donated to Romanian refugees in Frodsham. The old dishwasher had been sold.

The AGM will be held on 23 February 2021 at 7pm and there are currently 10 proposed Trustees. It is hoped that the CIO can then be signed.

21.36 FINANCE

- (1) To note/approve payments made in January 2021 – Cllr Canham proposed to approve the expenditure and Cllr Williams seconded. It was resolved unanimously to approve all payments.

Date	For	Amount
04.01.21	Northwich Town Council – Christmas Lights	£1676.40
04.01.21	Clerk's Expenses	£43.12
06.01.21	Elton Community Events Committee (Balance of £4,000 loan agreed in the Minutes 09.03.20)	£2000.00
12.01.21	Changing Lives Together (From Foodbank Fund)	£250.00
12.01.21	Mrs P O'Reilly (Foodbank Fund)	£85.21
13.01.21	One Garden (Storage Shed)	£444.99
15.01.21	HMRC	£271.65
15.01.21	Staff Salaries	£1464.39
20.01.21	Pursglove & Brown (Payroll)	£72.00
20.01.21	Clerk's Expenses	£124.43
22.01.21	Peninsula Business (SS to find out Notice Period)	£131.56
	Total	£6563.35

- (2) To note income for January 2021 - **Noted**

Date	For	Amount
	Total	£0

- (3) To note the balance in the Bank as at 31 January was £10,153.52 of which £4244.69 is the Covid-19 Support Group funds (Foodbank).

The Chair advised that by the end of March 2021 the funds in the bank would be below the £5000 recommended contingency. However, considering this has been a very difficult and exceptional year due to the Covid-19 global pandemic, he felt satisfied that this could be justified to the Parish Council's auditors if needed.

21.37 CORRESPONDENCE

- (1) It was noted that a resident of Old Hall Lane had raised concerns regarding speeding and the littering of nitros oxide gas cannisters near his home. The Clerk confirmed she had reported the issues to Margaret Lockhart and also signposted the resident to the appropriate contacts for future concerns.
- (2) It was noted that a resident of Pinewood had raised concerns regarding possible unauthorised works on the public highway. The Clerk confirmed she had contacted Planning at Cheshire West & Chester Council in relation to this and also signposted the resident to the appropriate department at Cheshire West & Chester Council for any future concerns.

21.38 ELTON COMMUNITY CENTRE CONSTITUTION

It is hoped that the CIO would be signed at the AGM on 23 February 2021.

21.39 ELTON COMMUNITY CENTRE NEW LEASE

Once the new CIO is signed this will also resolve the new Lease.

21.40 JUBILEE FIELD GATE

It was agreed to wait for the 2021/22 Precept to be paid before progressing with the installation of the new gate.

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

This matter is still with Cheshire West & Chester's Asset Transfer Department.

20.42 POGOS WOOD AREA/MARSH LANE GREENWAY

Ward Cllr Heatley advised that Cheshire West & Chester Council would not progress this further until the Parish Council had attempted a first registration. The Clerk explained the legal reasons a first registration would not be successful. The Chair requested that the Clerk contact the Parish Council's solicitors to find out how much it would cost to make an attempt at first registration then a decision can be made regarding doing this.

20.43 ELTON NEWSLETTER/COLLABORATION WITH THE CHURCH'S BI-MONTHLY PUBLICATION

It was agreed that Nigel Goodliffe would liaise with Cllrs Garrity and Leith to progress this matter.

20.44 PARISH COUNCIL'S INSURANCE RENEWAL

The cover within the renewal letter needs to be investigated. The Clerk will liaise with Came & Company and put it on the March Agenda

21.45 MATTERS ARISING FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Easter event.

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

21.46 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Monday 8 March 2021 at 7.00pm in the Elton Community Centre. The Chair closed the meeting at 8.53pm.