



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

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

ALSO PRESENT: Police Liaison Margaret Lockhart, John Gordon and Nigel Goodliffe.

21.47 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Ward Cllrs Margaret Parker and Graham Heatley.

21.48 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

21.49 CO-OPTION

3 applications had been received for the casual vacancy for a Parish Councillor. 2 Candidates were present at tonight’s meeting; Margaret Lockhart and John Gordan. Both candidates expressed why they wished to become a Parish Councillor and then a secret ballot was hosted. The outcome of the vote was 5/2 in favour of Margaret Lockhart.

The Chair thanked Mr Gordon for his interest and stated he was welcome to become involved in assisting the Parish Council as a volunteer with any of their projects.

21.50 PUBLIC SPEAKING

None.

21.51 MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 8 February 2021 were proposed as a true record by Cllr Serna and seconded by Cllr Canham and subsequently approved unanimously.

21.52 PLANNING

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

20/03987/FUL	4 Mulberry Close, Elton, Chester CH2 4RN – Single storey side extension - noted
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(2) Decisions made by CWAC since the last meeting of the Parish Council -
Noted

None	
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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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21.53 CHAIR REPORT

The Chair advised he was filled with optimism and confidence today as there were positive reports in the media regarding the battle with Covid 19. The Chair expressed his wishes to make headway on several projects within the village this next 12 months.

21.54 POLICE REPORT

Cllr Margaret Lockhart gave the Police report from PCSO Lauren Davies as follows:-

As a result of a large number of criminal damage and antisocial behaviour incidents throughout January and the early part of February in Elton, and more specifically Brackendale, was selected to be the focus of the Police "Street a Week Campaign". This campaign offers a targeted presence of officers over the week to deal with various issues.

During the week - addresses in Brackendale were attended and a leaflet posted to ask about any issues in the area. As a result, the Police were able to direct their patrols during this time. Officers attended and often conducted extensive foot patrol throughout the village. The main area of concern raised by residents was the multiple alleyways that run through Elton. Therefore, allowing people to make off after any such criminal damage or ASB.

These alleyways were patrolled extensively on foot and it has allowed officers to gain a good understanding of the geography of such alleyways in terms of where they lead. This should help in the future if officers from out of area are to attend such incidents.

During the time the Police delivered the campaign many officers commented about how welcoming people were in the village and how the Police presence was much appreciated.

I am pleased to report there has been a reduction in the last few weeks of ASB and criminal damage throughout the village. However, I would still urge any members of the local community to please report any incidents that happen in the village. This allows Police to direct officers and target those hotspot areas. If Police only find out some time later through social media etc, it gives them less scope regarding evidence such as CCTV and does not allow them to send officers to the right areas.

21.55 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 there was nothing to report.

(2) FINANCE WORKING GROUP

The next finance meeting will be held on Tuesday 6 April 2021 to agree the accounts for the internal auditors.

(3) CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

A written inspection report was received from Andy Gorst; 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 the brambles and the Clerk has already contacted a contractor to deal with the bearings and gate issues. The main silver/purple play equipment top bearing has completely snapped and needs replacing. The issues with the foundations of the inclusive roundabout have re-occurred. This has been reported to Sutcliffe Play who have advised this will be dealt with in the second week in March 2021.

(4) DOG PARK

Cllr Lockhart reported the fencing around the dog parks was unsatisfactory and she would like to apply for a grant in order to make improvements.

(5) PARISH FIELD

The Chair stated that this year he hoped the Parish Council could prioritise

the Active Elton Project which had been put on hold since last Spring due to the Covid 19 Pandemic. The Chair advised he hoped to make contact with a project manager recommended by Cheshire West & Chester Council very shortly.

(6) JUBILEE FIELD COMMITTEE

The Jubilee Field Committee have not met yet. Cllr Dickinson agreed to arrange the next Committee meeting before the next Parish Council meeting in April.

(7) LEGAL & POLICIES

Nothing to report.

(8) PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Nothing to report.

(9) COMMUNITY EVENTS

Cllr O'Reilly said there was lots of activities planned over the Easter period and these would be advertised on Facebook.

(10) FUNDRAISING

Nothing to report.

(11) ELTON & HELSBY GP PRACTICE

Nothing to report.

(12) ALLOTMENTS

The Clerk advised that Elton Gardeners Association had advised her they had received a quote for extending the existing car park. The Clerk has advised them that approval will need to be sought from the Parish Council and that it would be put on the next Agenda.

(13) ELTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

Cllr O'Reilly advised the new doors had been installed separating the main hall from the café area and the new CCTV system was also in the process of being installed. Cllr O'Reilly said special thanks go to A & E Engineering who installed the flooring free of charge.

21.56 FINANCE

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

Date	For	Amount
08.02.21	NW Security Group – CCTV	£1860.00
08.02.21	Staff (Work boots)	£20.00
08.02.21	Cestrian Signs Ltd (social distancing sign for dog park)	£24.00
10.02.21	A J Eardley (construction of pathway in 2 nd dog park)	£150.00
10.02.21	Elton Community Centre (balance of Covid-19 Support Group Foodbank funds)	£4244.69
16.02.21	Staff Salaries	£1377.09
22.02.21	Peninsula Business (HR) – Notice period is	£131.56
	Total	£7807.34

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

Date	For	Amount
	Total	£0

(3) To note the balance in the Bank as at 28 February 2021 was £2102.02

The Chair noted in the bank were 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.

21.57 CORRESPONDENCE

(1) It was agreed to defer this to the next meeting whilst clarification is sought on who is organising the event.

21.58 ELTON COMMUNITY CENTRE CONSTITUTION

The CIO was resolved at the AGM on 23 February 2021 and is awaiting final signature.

21.59 ELTON COMMUNITY CENTRE NEW LEASE

Once the new CIO is signed this will also resolve the new Lease which the solicitors will register at HM Land Registry.

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

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

20.61 POGOS WOOD AREA/MARSH LANE GREENWAY

The Chair advised we are still waiting to hear from the Parish Council 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.

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

It was agreed that Cllr Garrity would liaise with Trish Edwards.

20.63 PARISH FIELD TREE STUMPS

A quote of £200 has been received from the tree surgeon for the tree in relation to the tree stump and root eradication in an environmental and ecological manner Cllr Garrity proposed to accept the quotation and this was seconded by Cllr Canham and approved unanimously.

20:64 PARISH COUNCIL'S INSURANCE RENEWAL

The cover within the renewal letter was discussed. It was proposed as follows:-

- Remove general contents insurance
- Include outside equipment in relation to street furniture
- Remove gates and fences insurance
- Remove mowers and machinery as the Parish Council did not own any
- Keep other surfaces insurance for car park and children's place area

The Clerk will ensure that there is Employer's liability insurance included within the renewal quotation.

21.65 MATTERS ARISING FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Nothing requested.

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

21.66 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Monday 12 April 2021 at 7.00pm in Elton Community Centre. The Chair closed the meeting at 9.04pm.