



Minutes of the of the Parish Council meeting held on 12 April 2021 at 7.00pm in Elton Community Centre.

PRESENT: Cllrs Steve Serna (Chair), Andy Canham (Vice Chair), Christine Leith, Stephen Garrity, Martin Dickinson, Margaret Lockhart, Maureen Wilson

ALSO PRESENT: Members of the public Vinny Gray, Camille Griffiths and Nigel Goodliffe.

21.67 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs O'Reilly and Williams

21.68 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

21.69 PUBLIC SPEAKING

Mr Gray wished to raise an issue in relation to the grass verges along Old Hall Lane having had plastic meshing put on them which allowed cars to be parked on the verges. Mr Gray stated he thought this made the grassed verges unsightly. The Parish Clerk advised Mr Gray to contact Cheshire West & Chester Council as they were responsible for the maintenance of verges.

21.70 MINUTES

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

21.71 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**

20/00787/HAZ	Encirc Glass Ltd, Ash Road, Elton, Chester CH2 4LF – Storage of speciality chemicals - 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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21.72 CHAIR REPORT

The Chair stated it was good that as of today everything was starting to “open up” again with the lifting of some of the restrictions from the third Covid 19 lockdown. The Chair thanked and praised everyone involved with the easter bunny parade and said he felt that it had been a huge success. In particular, the Chair thanked Cllr O’Reilly.

21.73 POLICE REPORT

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

During the last month there was one particular evening whereby a number of Anti-Social Behaviour incidents occurred. This was the evening of 27/03/21. The majority of incidents occurred in the area of the A5117 and were all of a similar nature whereby rocks/stones were thrown at moving vehicles. Damage was caused to a number of vehicles. Police believe that this may have happened to more people than actually phoned in and recorded such crimes. If this has happened to any resident or their vehicle has been damaged then please report this officially. At present Police don’t have any dash cam footage of any of the offenders causing damage and appeal to members of the public to report such incidents to allow the Police to investigate with any possible evidence given. Police will ensure they update members of the public accordingly if they do have any progression with these investigations. Police have been in touch with informants/victims to offer reassurance and check there weren’t any available lines of enquiry. Police haven’t had any progress so far.

A member of the public had also made the PCSO aware of Anti-Social Behaviour in the area of Pinewood Close in relation to a group of young people fathering and behaving in an antisocial way. Police attended this area a number of times and have not come across any youths during their patrols. The Police will keep

this on their hot spot patrolling area.

Regarding the dog attack – this is an ongoing investigation therefore Police are unable to comment at this time.

PCSO Helen Hewitt has now taken over as the PCSO for Elton.

21.74 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 has been in contact with Cheshire West & Chester Council regarding the tree planting initiative but has not yet had a reply.

(2) FINANCE WORKING GROUP

(i) The Finance Working Group met on Tuesday 6 April 2021 to agree the accounts for the internal auditors. Their recommendation was to approve the Parish Council accounts for 2020/21 for submission to the Parish Council's accountant. Cllr Garrity proposed that the accounts be approved and submitted, Cllr Canham seconded this and it was subsequently resolved unanimously.

(ii) It was proposed by Cllr Canham and seconded by Cllr Garrity to instruct the Parish Council's accountants to complete a VAT return for 2020/21 and this was subsequently approved unanimously.

(3) CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

The Chair advised that Ward Councillor Graham Heatley was liaising with Cheshire West & Chester Council in relation to permission to relocate the bins and the new collection arrangements.

(4) DOG PARKS

Cllr Lockhart said that she had carried out a temporary fix to the fencing in the dog parks. This would suffice until she could apply for a grant for new fencing. Cllr Lockhart stated that she felt the current fencing not fit for purpose.

Cllr Lockhart stated that she had not yet been able to find out who put the cows in the dog park and she would be making further investigations into this. Cllr Lockhart advised that she had cleared the dog parks of the cow muck.

(5) PARISH FIELD

The Clerk is still trying to find out from Cheshire West & Chester Council

who their recommended project manager for the Active Elton initiative was.

(6) JUBILEE FIELD

It is proposed to create a remembrance garden and to involve Jenny from the Church and Elton Gardener's Association.

(7) LEGAL & POLICIES

Cllr Garrity raised the issue of the notice period for the Parish Council's H R Advisors (Peninsula). The Chair advised he would look into this.

(8) PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Local MP Justin Madders is co-ordinating a survey. There is to be an up-grading of trains from Ellesmere Port to Helsby but this is on hold due to the Covid 19 crisis. Works are in progress on A5117 to create a foot and cycle pathway up to the Cheshire Oaks roundabout.

(9) COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Chair stated that we need to look at planning an opening of the Jubilee Field and start thinking about plans for the Christmas.

(10) FUNDRAISING

Nothing to report.

(11) ELTON & HELSBY GP SURGERY

It was agreed that Cllr Wilson would speak to the surgery regarding the new CCTV and request access to put a camera on the side of the Community Centre that abuts the surgery.

Free Covid 19 tests were available, residents can obtain these by going onto the Government website.

Cllr Leith raised the issue of payment of the invoice relating to the GP's hiring of the Community Centre for the administering of the Covid 19 vaccine. The Clerk advised that although it had previously been agreed that Parish Councillors would give consideration to paying for the hire, no formal request had been received from the GP practice.

(12) ALLOTMENTS

Elton Gardener's Association will provide a quote to replenishing the 11 Parish Council planters and it would be put on the next Agenda.

Camille stated that there were a couple of plots available (they have 31 plots altogether now). Camille will provide contact details for the Parish Council website and notice boards.

Cllr Garrity enquired if consideration could be given to keeping bees on the allotments and Camille stated she would put it to Elton Gardener's Association for a vote.

(13) ELTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Community Centre will be opening on 21 March 2021 for takeaway tea and coffee.

The work on the new kitchen was almost finished and the CCTV has been installed.

There is the possibility of having a bereavement counsellor attend the Community Centre for residents who may be in need.

Possibility of offering work experience in the café.

(14) COMMUNITY EVENTS

Cllr O'Reilly said the Easter Bunny Parade through the village had been a huge success and has generated positivity within the village for children and their families. Easter eggs had been handed out to residents and this had resulted in an uplifting feeling amongst all residents both young and old.

(15) FUNDRAISING

Nothing to report.

(16) ELTON & HELSBY GP PRACTICE

Nothing to report.

(17) 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 this would be put on tonight's Agenda. This will be discussed further in the meeting.

21.75 FINANCE

- (1) To note/approve payments made in March 2021 – the Chair proposed to approve the expenditure and Cllr Leith seconded. It was subsequently resolved 6 in favour to approve all payments, there was 1 abstention – **Approved.**

Date	For	Amount
08.03.21	HMRC	£230.88
08.03.21	Clerk's Expenses (Feb & March)	£68.00
15.03.21	Staff Salaries	£1377.09
15.03.21	Alfie Duncan (Tree Tops) – Pollarding	£200.00

22.03.21	Peninsula – Notice Period to be advised	£131.56
31.03.21	Bank Service Charge (quarterly)	£18.00
	Total	£2025.53

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

Date	For	Amount
08.03.21	Elton Community Centre (Recharge for CCTV)	£1283.38
	Total	£1283.38

(3) To note the balance in the Bank as at 31 March 2021 was £1604.03

21.76 CORRESPONDENCE

Elton Gardeners Association have requested consideration be given to them creating a new car park at the Allotments. They have received a quote for the works and propose to fund this from grants and are seeking approval from the Parish Council as Landlords to conduct these works. It was proposed by the Chair to approve the creation of a new car park, this was seconded by Cllr Leith and subsequently approve unanimously.

21.77 ELTON COMMUNITY CENTRE CONSTITUTION

The Chair advised that he had not received an update from the solicitors.

21.78 ELTON COMMUNITY CENTRE NEW LEASE

The Lease is with the solicitors and they will register this at HM Land Registry.

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

This matter is still with Cheshire West & Chester's Asset Transfer Department. CWAC have carried out a consultation which may result in the decommissioning of 1 play area and therefore the Parish Council may only adopt the remaining play area.

21.80 POGOS WOOD AREA/MARSH LANE GREENWAY

No further progress.

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

No update.

21.82 EASTER EGGS

(i) It was proposed by Cllr Canham to ratify the decision to purchase cream eggs for the Easter Bunny Parade organised by Cllr O'Reilly. This was seconded by Cllr Serna and approved unanimously.

(ii) It was proposed by Cllr Garrity to reimburse Elton Community Centre for the purchase of the cream eggs on behalf of the Parish Council. This was

seconded by Cllr Serna and approved unanimously.

21:83 MATTERS ARISING FOR THE NEXT MEETING

As the legislation providing for the conduct of virtual Council meetings was due to end on 7 May 2021 it was noted that unless this legislation was extended then no further virtual meetings would be possible and that this would therefore be the last virtual meeting.

A request was made from the Chair that the Clerk should show a breakdown of her expenses on the Agenda and Minutes in order for Councillors to know what they were approving. The Clerk stated that the breakdown should not go on the Agenda and Minutes because there was already a breakdown in the accounts, which she brings to the meetings and are available for Councillors to look at. There was a lengthy discussion and objections from some Councillors that the Clerk must show a breakdown on the Agenda and Minutes. The Clerk will seek advice from ChALC but she felt extremely uncomfortable that this matter had been discussed in the presence of members of the public and frustrated that Councillors did not understand the protocols for the accounting and audit process.

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

21.84 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Monday 10 May 2021 at 7.00pm in Elton Community Centre. The Chair closed the meeting at 8.30pm.