



Minutes of the of the Parish Council meeting held on 24 May 2021 at 7.00pm in Elton Community Centre.

**PRESENT:** Cllrs Steve Serna (Chair), Andy Canham (Vice Chair), Christine Leith, Stephen Garrity, Pauline O'Reilly, Martin Dickinson, Margaret Lockhart, Maureen Wilson, Lynne Williams

**ALSO PRESENT:** Members of the public Camille Griffiths and Nigel Goodliffe.

#### **21.85 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs

#### **21.86 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **21.87 CHAIRS REPORT**

The Chair gave his report as follows:-

As we come to the end of a difficult and unusual 2 years, and the lock down begins to ease, it seems fitting to reflect on what we have achieved and look forward to the projects we would like to pursue in the future.

Despite the restrictions imposed on us by COVID, I feel proud of the work that we have managed to carry out.

- New Inclusive Equipment in the Play Area
- Trees made safe on the Parish Field and Car Park
- Jubilee Field cleared and almost ready to be open to the Public, with plenty of new plants and hedging.
- New Lease for the Scouts that has enable them to get the Funding for their current Fencing and Landscaping Project
- A new CIO and Lease for the Community Centre, enabling them to bring lots of volunteers together and raise over £70,000 for refurbishment
- Christmas, Easter and VE Day Celebrations and Activities, bringing the Community together.
- Helping with the Food Bank, for the most vulnerable.

- Dog Park improvements, to make it safer for the animals, and easier for wheelchair access.
- Helping the allotments and enabling them to grow as fast as their vegetables.
- Setting up CCTV around the Community Centre, to better protect the Parish Assets.
- Installing Video Conferencing, that has allowed Socially Distanced meetings through the pandemic.
- New LED lighting on the Car Park
- Community Shed for local group access as well as our Christmas Assets.

We have some dedicated, hardworking members of the public that despite not being Parish Councillors, have stepped up and taken responsibility to help us with such things as the Play Area, Jubilee Field, Trees on the Parish Field and the Website. Your commitment has not gone unnoticed and we are all very grateful.

We have done this through a time of ever changing rules and health fears, caused by a pandemic that has affected us all, and sadly taken many that we love in the village.

But we must not rest on our Laurels, nor dwell on the past, because today marks the beginning of the next phase, and there is plenty more that can and must be done.

- Jubilee Field must be open to the Public, so they can start to reap the benefits.
- We must take over and refurbish the Second Play Area on the New Estate.
- We must continue to press Cheshire West to allow us to take ownership of Pogos Wood, so that we can make it a useable asset to the community.
- We must restart the Active Elton Project, so that the Parish Field can become an asset to the village, and help improve the health and wellbeing of the Community.
- We must work with the Allotments to improve and use the area that is currently overgrown and unmanaged.
- We must help bring community groups together
- We must work with the other local Parish Councils, to see how we can improve services and reduce costs.

For us to succeed, as a Parish Council, we must learn to work together. I believe that we have a wide selection of Councillors, in terms of age and outlook, which should serve our community well, as we represent many groups within the village.

This does, however, mean that we do not always agree with one another, but we must learn to respect each other's opinions, as I think that the bickering and infighting within the Council, that has gone on for years, does not help the people that elected us, and just makes us look foolish. We should not be

posting comments and pictures on social media, that are designed to embarrass other members of the group, or are not representative of Parish Council views and I refuse to rake up old arguments involving councillors and clerks, we need to move on and put the past behind us.

Although I am mindful that COVID has affected us all in different ways, I can also not fail to notice that some Parish Councillors take on far more responsibility than others. Our electorate did not vote for us to simply turn up at meetings once a month, and not contribute or add value in-between. I understand that we all have different abilities and interests, but we need to understand what it is that we want to do for the village and in what way we can help and take action.

There is a lot of work to be done, and the burden must be shared, think not of what your village can do for you, but what you can do for your village. Over the next couple of month we must have a plan, and delegate out responsibilities, to which people are best suited.

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## **21.88 ELECTION OF CHAIR**

## **21.89 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR**

## **21.90 PUBLIC SPEAKING**

## **21.91 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meetings held on 12 April 2021 were proposed as a true record by Cllr , seconded by Cllr and subsequently approved unanimously.

## 21.92 FINANCE

(1) To note/approve payments made in April 2021

Date	For	Amount
06.04.21	HMRC (for March payroll)	£230.88
07.04.21	Elton Community Centre (refund of overcharge for CCTV equipment)	£213.90
12.04.21	Came & Company Insurance	£786.55
15.04.21	Staff Salaries	£1583.69
15.04.21	HMRC (for April payroll)	£231.28
15.04.21	Clerk's Expenses	£34.00
22.04.21	Peninsula Business (Notice period is .....)	£131.56
<b>Total</b>		<b>£3211.86</b>

(2) Income April 2021 - £44,465.00 - Precept 2021/22 received from Cheshire West & Chester Council.

(3) Balance in Bank as at 30 April 2021 £42,922.90

## 21.93 PLANNING

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

1/01569/FUL	109 Parkland Drive, Elton, Chester, Cheshire CH2 4QE – Single storey side and first floor side extension, single storey rear extension -
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(2) **Decisions** made by CWAC since the last meeting of the Parish Council - **Noted**

20/04642/FUL	23 The Paddock, Elton, Chester, Cheshire CH2 4PT – Two storey and first floor rear extension – approved – <b>Noted</b>
20/04466/FUL	4 Mimosa Close, Elton, Chester, Cheshire CH2 4RX – Single storey side extension, single storey rear extension – approved - <b>Noted</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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**21.94 POLICE REPORT**

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

During

**21.95 REPRESENTATION OF OUTSIDE BODIES**

As

**21.96 RESPONSIBILITY FOR AREAS OF WORK**

As

**21.97 PLANTERS**

As

**21.98 PURCHASE OF FILING CABINET**

As

**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**

**21.99 PROCEDURES FOR GRANTS AND LOANS TO OTHER ESTABLISHMENTS**

(i) to

(ii) to

(iii) to

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

Monday 14 June 2021 at 7.00pm in Elton Community Centre. The Chair closed the meeting at pm.