

**Minutes of Eltisley Annual Parish Meeting held on
Tuesday 10 May 2011 at 7.30pm in Newton Community Primary School**

Present: 39 members of the public including 32 parishioners and Parish Council members and also Cllrs M Loynes, C Hudson and A Elcox (District Councillors), M Smith (County Councillor) and Ms Catherine Shilton (Action for Communities in Rural England (ACRE)) and Ms Caro Pottinger (Granta/ Metropolitan Housing) and Mrs G Stoehr (Clerk).

Cllr Roger Pinner presided.

1. Apologies for absence and Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 11 May 2010

Apologies were received from Mr R Thrower (Head Teacher, Newton Primary School), and Mr John Edwards (Metropolitan Housing).

A statement was read by a resident regarding aspects of the Parish Council's report presented at last year's APM. The Clerk asked for a copy of the statement so that the resident's statement could be accurately recorded.

The minutes of the last annual parish meeting on 11 May 2010 were approved as a true record ^(Prop Martin Lines 2nd Mervyn Loynes) and signed by the Chairman

2. Matters Arising

Item 7 – following the complaint at the meeting the resident had written alleging a breach of the Charity Act 1960. The Charity Commission had written to say that there was no requirement for the charity's accounts to be laid before the annual parish meeting.

3. Housing Needs Survey results

Ms Catherine Shilton (ACRE) reported on the results of the Housing Needs Survey undertaken in the village and presented her report which all present either had a copy of or sight of. She indicated that Metropolitan Housing was interested in developing a site of 10 units in various sizes on a site of approximately half an acre to meet the need identified in the report.

Residents had an opportunity to ask questions and seek clarification on aspects of the report and the analysis.

A question was asked as to why four bed room houses should be built when people could not afford them. It was noted that a mix of housing, part rented and part equity share, would be included. It is only possible to buy a maximum of 80% of the house.

A resident enquired whether the funds had to be provided immediately or whether it was possible to save up. It was explained that the cost of the housing was lower than market value housing and it was only possible to buy a proportion of the house, thus keeping the cost down. Examples were provided of other developments in other villages.

In response to a question whether development would be on an estate or integrated into the village, it was stated that there would be a street or a block of 10 houses together.

Concerns were expressed that 10 dwellings on a half acre site would not be in keeping with the rest of the village and questions were asked about how many parking spaces would be provided on site.

A resident expressed the view that affordable housing was not wanted. Another asked whether, if development were adopted, the Parish Council would have a say in the design. Ms Shilton's response was that the first stage was to find land for a site then sketch a plan.

Concerns were expressed that housing might be filled with people who were from outside the village. The difference between the village envelope and exception sites, and the operation of a nominations agreement giving priority to people with strong connection to the village were explained.

A resident questioned the process of selecting Eltisley for the survey as opposed to a different village Ms Shilton explained that the survey had been undertaken with the support from the Parish council.

Another resident sought clarification on the presentation of the figures and if this was based on per capita or per household. Ms Shilton explained the figures to the resident and answered further detailed questioning. She indicated that based on her experience the figures as presented were correct.

Concerns were expressed that the survey was only answered by five people, three from the village and the rest not and that it was dangerous to draw conclusions from the figures.

There were concerns from several residents that the village should stay as it was with no further growth. A number of years had been spent trying to protect the village from further development and that this was not welcomed.

It was asked which half-acre had been identified and Ms Shilton explained that no site had been identified as yet. The process that might be followed including advertising on the website, in the newsletter etc. inviting interested landowners to come forward.

A resident expressed the view that the return was too low to progress development. Ms Shilton indicated that in her opinion the return received was considered a strong level of support in village.

Ms Shilton and Ms Pottinger were thanked for attending the meeting and they left shortly afterwards.

The Chairman drew attention to the copies of the Parish Plan Action Plan which were available in the meeting papers.

4. To receive:

4.1 Report of the Parish Council for the last year

The Parish Council's report was presented by Cllr Pinner and is appended in full to these minutes.

There followed a lively discussion and debate about matters raised in the report and whether the increased costs experienced by the village during the last couple of years and the resulting increase in the precept this year was due to the increased Freedom of Information requests and other complaints mainly by one resident or the Council's conduct and its contracts and payments to its clerk and its admin support company.

When the motions were considered and the vote taken those present who were not electors stood to the sides of the room leaving 32 residents present to vote. Cllr Mandy Smith was appointed as teller to count the votes. As two of the motions had to be recounted the Clerk clarified voting procedures and that any non votes would be taken as an abstention.

A vote of confidence in the Parish Council (Prop Margaret Oldfield, 2nd Andy Doland) was carried by 27 votes in favour, 0 votes against with 5 abstentions.

A proposal (Prop David Lee, 2nd David Hill) that the situation with the resident be resolved without incurring any additional cost and that the Parish Council publish its minutes and any information in the public domain on the village website and/or notice board was withdrawn after the meeting could not arrive at a practical way this could be achieved.

The proposal as amended (Prop Martin Lines 2nd Carol Moser with amendment Roger Pinner) that, the meeting asks the Parish Council to continue to take any reasonable actions it thinks appropriate to prevent any single resident being a drain on village money as this is not in the best interest of the village or its residents; including supplying any further information under the Freedom of Information Act, was carried with 22 votes in favour, 5 votes against and 5 abstentions.

There was a general consensus that the Parish Council should not reply to any further communications from this resident and this was applauded by the Meeting. The Meeting asked to be kept informed and was assured by the Chairman that another parish meeting would be convened if necessary.

- 4.2 The presentation of the Parish Council's audited accounts for FY 2010
The audited accounts from year ending 2010, as appended, was presented by Mrs Stoehr Responsible Financial Officer to the Council. The audit had been all clear as indicated in the Chairman's report. Inspection of the 2011 accounts was invited either by appointment or by inspection of the accounts this evening's meeting.
- 4.3 Report from the Community Beat Officer
Not present.
- 4.4 The report of the District Councillor
District Cllr Mervyn Loynes introduced fellow District Cllrs Clayton Hudson and Alison Elcox.
- 4.5 The report of the County Councillor
County Cllr Mandy Smith reported on the County Council's responsibilities and activities during the year. The remit and benefits of the Police Neighbourhood Panel was discussed.
A resident asked if she would take up his concerns regarding the lack of road markings in Caxton End and Cllr Smith indicated that she would do this.
- 4.6 The report from the Newton Community Primary School
The report was read by Mr Mike Cropley in Mr Thrower's absence. The report detailed the School's busy and successful year which included alongside normal lessons visits to places in the region, fundraising and the installation of gardening equipment and new toilets. Yellow lines had been extended in front of the school to improve safety and the police had visited on several occasions to talk to parents about parking. Mr Thrower reported that he was leaving the school to take a headship elsewhere and notified the appointment of Mrs Alana Brown as the new head teacher from September.
- 4.7 Other
None.

5. Collection of annual allotment rents

It was reported that the allotments were operating very well at the moment. Anyone interested in becoming an allotment holder was asked to contact either the Chairman or the Clerk.

6. **To consider:**

6.1 Resolutions and matters of which written notice has been given

6.1.1 Eltisley Parish Council – Freedom of Information (FOI) strategy consultation

Residents were invited to comment on the draft (FOI) strategy drawn up by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils (CPALC) which all present either had a copy of or sight of.

The proposal ^(David Hill, 2nd Sheila Childerley) that the draft minutes are published within 3 weeks was carried with 12 in favour, 9 against and 7 abstentions. The Chairman indicated that the Parish Council would consider this further at a future meeting.

The Chairman encouraged residents to write to the Council with any other comments on the draft strategy.

6.2 Other resolutions arising from the meeting

None.

7. **Any other Parish Matters**

A resident expressed concern at the condition of the road by the Village Green by Cross Path caused by residents parking on the road rather than in their driveways. Another resident explained that some residents had nowhere else to park. It was noted that a bollard was missing again.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 9.35pm. The Chairman extended an invitation for residents to stay on for the Parish Council's Annual meeting.

Signed _____ (Chairman) _____ Date