

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF ELTISLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 12th JANUARY 2021 at 7.00pm

The meeting will be open to the public unless the Council otherwise directed.

For the health, safety and well-being of our community as a result of Covid-19 and following the instruction of the Prime Minister's address on 23rd March 2020 all Parish Council meetings will be held remotely until further notice.

Eltisley Parish Council will use Zoom to facilitate the holding of meetings

PRESENT:

Cllr R Pinner (Chairman)
Cllr M Cropley
Cllr A Weldon
Cllr S Ellis
Cllr J Pettifor
Cllr M Lines
Miss J Bowd (Parish Clerk)

IN ATTENDANCE:

4 members of public.
County Cllr M Smith
District Cllr N Wright (from 7.16pm)
Mr J Ayres SCDC Community lifeline team.

The Chairman opened the meeting by wishing those present a Happy New Year.

44. Apologies.

To receive and accept Apologies for Absence.

None

45. Declarations of Interest.

To receive Declarations of Interest – Personal and/or prejudicial and the nature of those interests relating to items on the agenda.

Clerk confirmed that all Councillors have been given dispensation to discuss the Precept (item 55).

Cllr Pettifor – The Cade

Cllr Weldon – The Cade

46. Minutes.

To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th November 2020.

Resolved: That the minutes be signed as a true and correct record. All in favour (Prop Cllr Weldon, 2nd Cllr Pettifor)

47. Public Forum

To allow any member of the public to address the council. Time Allowed 10 minutes

A member of the public spoke advising that he is in the process of buying a property in the village and that he was seeking confirmation with regards to letters dated October 2019 in his legal pack from the Parish Council regarding access across The Green. He was seeking a level of comfort with regards to right of access. The Chairman confirmed that right of access is not the issue but registration of the land with land registry was the issue as the Council is custodians of the common land. The new owner agreed to contact The Clerk so that the matter can be dealt with. Cllr Pettifor also suggested that the new owner familiarise himself with the bylaws relating to The Green.

Mr J Ayres spoke regarding the community lifeline scheme. He outlined how the scheme works and advised that the cost is £240 per annum per lifeline.

The objective of the lifeline is to provide peace of mind to the vulnerable should they fall or become ill. He asked Council to consider if there were any residents who may benefit from the scheme and if the Parish Council would sponsor the cost.

Cllr Pettifor asked if there were other sources of funding such as grants or social services.

Cllr Pinner thanked Mr Ayres for his time and agreed to pass on Councils decision in due course.

48. District and County Councillor Reports

To receive verbal reports from district and county councillor.

District Councillor Wright advised there was little news from the Christmas period other than Covid-19 regulations. The volunteer scheme is back in operation for those who require assistance. There is an enquiry into the operation of planning services with 25 recommendations for improvement being considered.

Cllr Pinner asked if District had a view on the proposal from Luton airport regarding the flight paths. Cllr Wright confirmed that this will have a big impact on the Parish and encouraged the Parish Council to complete the consultation when available. He also stated that he had information from a pilot regarding the changes, the main impact being noise, which he would share.

County Councillor M Smith advised of the County Council Covid hub who can be contacted on 0345 045 5219.

She also asked to be advised of any flooding over the Christmas period as CCC is collating information. Cllr Pinner confirmed that the village drainage had worked effectively.

Cllr Pinner thanked CCC for the pothole repairs.

Cllr Pettifor asked if litter could be cleared from the verges as you leave the A428 towards Waresley. Clerk to request from SCDC.

Bridleway 3 towards Caxton has suffered from excessive use and require repair. Cllr Smith agreed to report.

Cllr Pinner asked for progress on the relocation of the mile marker from A428. Cllr Smith agreed to follow up.

49. To consider applications for Co-option

Cllr Pinner thanked the 2 candidates and asked members if there were any questions prior to voting.

The Clerk explained the process for voting under in the zoom meeting by way of private message to the meeting host.

The Clerk declared that Mrs E Painter be co -opted onto Council by 4 votes to 2.

50. Matters arising from previous meeting

(i) A428

Cllr Pinner stated that there had been no developments since the November meeting. Cllr Pettifor stated that he considered that the views of the Parish Council and residents are not being listened to as a result Cllr Pinner asked CC M Smith to arrange a village meeting with representatives of Highways England.

(ii) Village Drainage.

Cllr Pinner stated that the recent heavy rainfall had proved the worth of the works already carried out. He asked CC M Smith if Mr Heffernan has followed up the outstanding matters with residents concerned, she agreed to follow this matter up. Cllr Pinner also requested a letter be sent to the resident in Caxton End who has filled in the road grips.

Cllr Pinner also asked for assistance in identifying the new owners of the land opposite the wood which has a caravan in situ as they need a riparian rights letter sending. He also commented that a sign on the field gate at the location purported to be by order of the Parish Council which it is not. Clerk to follow up matter of ownership with SCDC.

(iii) Zero Carbon Communities Grant Scheme

Cllr Ellis advised of a set back with the project to plant trees as the landowner has discussed with his family over Christmas and subsequently decided not to proceed with the project. Now have 400 saplings to find a site for.

Cllr Pettifor confirmed that the site at the church was still progressing through legal channels. A possible village tree day was discussed but no agreement reached.

(iv) Parking and breach of bylaws: The Green

A summary of the conversation with the resident concerned was appraised by the Clerk.

Cllr Pinner advised that despite resident's assurances contractors' vehicles were again being parked on The Green.

Cllr Lines agreed to erect a temporary fence with "no parking" sign at the site concerned as a last chance. If this does not work, then the fine for breaching the bylaws will be issued.

- (v) Luton Airport
Discussed under item 48.

(vi) Play Equipment.

Members papers included a copy of a proposed plan.

Cllr Pettifor expressed concerns that equipment was proposed for the left side of the driveway to the farm which was further encroaching on The Green.

Cllr Pinner stated that these items could be located the other side of The Cade nearer the peace tree.

It was agreed that a copy of the proposed plans would be placed outside of The Cade with a comments box for residents' opinions.

Clerk explained the s106 funding from the rural exemption site and stated that SCDC had advised that these allocated funds for play equipment can be drawn on in advance of payment and then recompensed to the Parish Council. The only concern is that if for any reason the site did not proceed then the s106 money would not be paid therefore it would be prudent to wait until the developer had broken ground before committing monies to the play equipment project.

Matter to be on the March agenda when comments residents' comments, quotes and funding will be considered.

51. Clerks Report

To receive written report.

Meeting Dates: –

Full Council – Tuesday 9th March 2021

Items to report.

- Clerk will be on leave Tuesday 16th February 2021
- Coronavirus – The Parish along with most of the Country is now in National Lockdown guidance on the government website
www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home
A poster summarising the restrictions is attached.

Cllr Pinner thanked the Clerk and assistant for the excellent flyer produced for the Christmas message to residents.

52. Members reports

- (i) Parish Forum

None held

- (ii) Village working party.

None held

- (iii) Parish plan survey

Dealt with under item 50(vi)

- (iv) Speedwatch

None held

Neighbourhood watch still active and scams are still a big problem.

- (v) Play area repairs

None

53. Finance and Risk

53.1 To approve the following accounts for payment:

- (i) Miss J Bowd salary £321.17. November 2020, £321.17. December 2020
- (ii) Mrs A Jackson November 2020 £69.61, December 2020 £69.61
- (iii) HMRC PAYE £97.80 November, December 2020 £97.80
- (iv) Lights for Fun £47.03
- (v) Mr R Pinner £9.99 reimbursement for PPE equipment for working party.
- (vi) Haven Power streetlighting energy £2.09, £23.21, £2.05 £22.43
- (vii) Bradgate grass cutting £528.00
- (viii) Cambs Water £67.56
- (ix) PKF Littlejohn external audit fee £240.00
- (x) Warren Access cherry picker £342.00
- (xi) Holywell-cum-Needlingworth PC office rent £208.00
- (xii) Cambs Acre subs £57.00

(xiii) Holywell-cum-Needlingworth PC contribution to SLCC subscription £71.32

(xiv) ICO subscription £40.00

(xv) Mr R Pinner £66.54 reimbursement for goal post tyres.

Resolved: That the accounts for payment be approved. (prop Cllr Pettifor, 2nd Cllr Lines) All in favour

53.2 To note the bank reconciliation as at 4th January 2021

Noted

53.3 To note the budget report dated 6th January 2021

Noted

53.4 To consider the SCDC community lifeline scheme.

See item 47. Cllr Pinner to highlight the scheme in the village newsletter.

53.5 To approve The Cade application for Solar together funding.

The Cade have successfully obtained a grant for feasibility into solar funding, as custodian trustees Council need to support. It was unanimously agreed that this could go ahead.

53.6 To note the feasibility report from CCC regarding the LHI bid 2021/22

Cllr Pinner advised of his attendance at the panel on 8th February 2021.

Noted

53.7 To note the external auditors report for year ending 31st March 2020.

Noted

53.8 To appoint an internal auditor for 2020/21.

Resolved: That Mijan Ltd be appointed internal auditor for 2020/21 (prop Cllr Pettifor, 2nd Cllr Weldon) All in favour

53.9 To consider quotes for removal of tree: The Pond.

Cllr Pinner advised of the tree in question and of the Parish Councils responsibility to carry out the works.

Resolved: That the quote of £180 plus VAT be accepted (Prop Cllr Lines, 2nd Cllr Weldon) All in favour

54. Planning

54.1 To note the following applications that have been approved:

(i) Reference: S/3182/19/FL: Erection of 12 dwellings including 9 affordable dwellings.

Site Adjacent Pond At Potton End St Neots Eltisley PE19 6TH.

Hastoe Housing Association

Noted

54.2 To receive an update on the proposed rural exemption site S106 – Hastoe Housing

Cllr Pinner advised that the landowner hopes to have contractors on site shortly.

Clerk confirmed that she holds a full copy of the S106 agreement in the office if any Councillor wishes to view it.

55. Precept

55.1. Receipts and Payments Account

To note the half yearly statement of receipts and payments as at 4/1/2021

Noted

55.2 .Budgets

The Clerk clarified the budget dates.

(i) To review the budgets for 2020/21

Noted

(ii) To set the budgets for 2021/22

A discussion took place over the need for an increase to cover increasing work the Parish is expected to carry out and price increases.

Also, Cllr Pettifor advised that The Cade was looking at an operating loss of between £6,000&£7,000 and it was likely that the Parish Council may have to intervene.

It was agreed to increase The Cade budget by £3500.

It was agreed to increase asset maintenance from £2000 to £3000

Resolved: That the budgets be set as per Appendix A (Prop Cllr Lines, 2nd Cllr Weldon) All in favour.

55.3. Precept

To agree the Precept figure for 2021/22

Resolved: That the precept be set at £19367.00 for the year 2021/22 (Prop Cllr Lines, 2nd Cllr Weldon) All in favour.

56. Policy

- (i) To review the Investment Policy.

Cllr Pinner commented that the EVGT units were decreasing in value whilst the Gibbs Denley investment continued to increase in value. The EVGT Investment to be reviewed at the next trust meeting.

Resolved: That the policy remain unchanged. (Prop Cllr Lines 2nd Cllr Weldon) All in favour.

57. Correspondence.

To receive correspondence and agree any actions: -

- (i) Letter of thanks from MAGPAS for donation.

Noted

- (ii) This Land concerns - a message on behalf of Cllr Mark Goldsack

Noted

- (iii) Thakeham's proposals for South-West Cambridgeshire development.

Noted

- (iv) Residents email regarding Avian flu regulations.

It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the plot holder concerned and advise of the current Avian flu requirements and ask that rat bait boxes be put down to control the vermin.

- (v) To consider response to Sunnica Energy Farm: statutory consultation

Noted

58. Items to report.

- The Clerk reported the tree works 47 The Green
- Cllr Pinner reported that the matter of the Water bill with S Staffs water Co is now resolved.
- Cllr Pinner asked that Bradgate be contacted to ask that they remove the suckers form the Lime trees in line with the maintenance agreement
- Cllr Pettifor asked that Bradgate be asked again to repair the damaged lid to the water meter.

Being no further business, the meeting was closed at 20.52 pm

Signed

Chairman

Date: