

MINUTES OF MEETING OF ELTISLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 8th MARCH 2022 at THE CADE 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 Covid-19 guidelines will be followed and social distancing, wearing of face masks and hand sanitising will be observed.

PRESENT:

Cllr R Pinner (Chairman)
Cllr A Weldon
Cllr E Painter
Cllr M Lines
Cllr M Cropley
Miss J Bowd (Parish Clerk)

IN ATTENDANCE:

6 members of public.
CCC Councillor M Smith
2 representatives from "Ting" Stagecoach.

88. Apologies.

To receive and accept Apologies for Absence.

Cllr J Pettifor - personal
Cllr S Ellis- personal
SCDC Councillor M Howell - business

89. Declarations of Interest.

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

None

90. Minutes.

To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th January 2022 & Ex-Ord meeting 22nd February 2022.

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

91. To receive a presentation on the Ting service

Representatives from the company explained the service and its benefits to users. The aim is to connect rural communities and covers an area of 350 sq. Miles. Currently the service is on trial. Operates Mon-Friday 7am-7pm Saturday 8am-6pm cost £2/trip.

When questioned the speaker advised that the fleet of buses (4) have CCTV and drivers are trained to be mindful of vulnerable passengers.

Posters etc were left to highlight the service to residents.

92. Public Forum

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

- 1) Resident spoke to thank the Parish Council for the wonderful extension to the play area and ask if Council would investigate lighting the play area to extend its hours of use.
- 2) Resident thanked the Council for bringing Eltisley into 21st Century with an upgrade of the play equipment and said that lighting the area may assist with safety which has previously been raised by a sector of the community as a concern.
Council agreed to look into options.
- 3) Resident raised concerns over the administration of the Allotments and gardeners' leisure fund.
He considered that it was not clear how plot holders could access funds held and that no AGM was being held.
He further commented that the Chairman had shown a letter he had written regarding a reply to a request for suggestions on how to remove waste from plot 1 to a member of the public in breach of confidentiality.
- 4) Allotment plot holder spoke to say Council were welcome to do as they saw fit with the rubbish on the allotment

93. District and County Councillor Reports

To receive verbal reports from district and county councillor.

County Councillor M Smith spoke regarding signage on lamp posts and Cllr Pinner confirmed that a meeting has been booked with the highways officer for next week.

Work is currently ongoing to introduce a policy making it easier for villages to obtain 20mph speed limits. Lessons have been learnt from A14 upgrade and villages need to be able to ban HGV's from taking routes through the villages.

Issues with A1198 diversion remain ongoing.

Cycle path is on schedule for completion by end of March at a cost of £1.2m.

Cllr Painter raised concerns that despite residents contacting CCC over the dangers of the A428/diversion no response has been received. Residents feel they are being ignored. Cllr Smith suggested that Council write to David Mitchell who is leading the project. She will forward contact details.

Cllr Pinner asked if sumping out silt from gulley's may qualify for drainage grant. Cllr Smith will send out details.

Cllr Weldon asked if CCC will look into a street sign for St Neots Rd as there are lots of issues with mis directed post.

94. Matters arising from previous meeting

- (i) A428
See item 93.
- (ii) Village Drainage
See item 93.
- (iii) Zero Carbon Communities Grant Scheme
Cllr Ellis had provided a written report.
Cllr Pinner reported that the verges will be marked out on Friday for the rewilding project.
Verge cutting to be taken over by Bradgate's.
- (iv) Play Equipment/RoSPA report
Minor recommendations in the report are being looked into.
Sign – prices provided. Clerk to action.
A resident who worked on the installations of play areas in Cambourne is looking at the report with Chairman.
Cllr Pinner reported a loose bolt on the "rocker" as this is a new piece of equipment the manufacturer is to be contacted.
Cllr Pinner also reported that the new goals were in situ on The Green and were well received.
The old goal is to remain at the request of the children.
- (v) Grass cutting – CCC
See item 94(iii)
- (vi) Bus shelter & seat repairs
A quote of £22,227-00 had been received.
Members felt that this was too high a price to pay and although the Clerk will check with the insurance brokers it was felt that a suggestion that volunteer labour be used was not feasible.
Clerk to take all quotes to date (updated) to the May meeting.
- (viii) Bin lorries – The Green
Cllr Pinner thanked Cllr Howell for his work in taking this matter up with SCDC.
Cllr Pinner is awaiting a reply from SCDC on the matter.
Members felt that new residents may not be fully aware of the issues on cross path and that contacting those affected seeking suggestions may prove beneficial.

95. Clerks Report

To receive written report.

Full Council – Tuesday 10th May 2022

Items to report

- Wedding request 27th August or 3rd September – use of marquee/The Cade. Email received 24/1/22 – change of venue.
- Refund for streetlight electricity received of £88.97. Overpayment.
- Clerk on leave 21st-25th March 2022

96. Members reports

- (i) Parish Forum
None
- (ii) Village working party.
Cllr Pinner reported that the next meeting to dress the paths in the pocket park will be on 19th March 2022.
- (iii) Parish plan survey
Cllr Pinner reported that the refresh is to be done and a meeting is to be held on 14th March to discuss.
- (iv) Speedwatch
Cllr Pinner reported that the group resumes next week after the winter break.
- (v) Broadband
Further work in Caxton End was reported but no improvement to services has yet been noticed.
- (vi) Platinum Jubilee 2022
Report from committee received.
Members felt that the programme of events was excellent.
Cllr Pinner spoke about a request that the Parish Council provide a souvenir to the school children. Clerk to look into options.
Clerk to contact insurance company about cover for the celebrations.

97. Finance and Risk

97.1 To approve the following accounts for payment:

- i. Miss J Bowd salary January £332.17 February £331.97
- ii. Mrs A Jackson January £87.01 February 87.01
- iii. HMRC January £80.20 February £80.40
- iv. ESPO – Goal post £1470.00
- v. DRAX streetlight energy £2.20 & £23.23

Resolved: That with the addition on £40.42 (wheel for gaol) accounts for payment as listed be approved (Prop Cllr Weldon, 2nd Cllr Painter) All in favour.

97.2 To note the bank reconciliation as at 3rd March 2022

Noted

97.3 To note the budget report dated 3rd March 2022

Noted

98. Policy.

- (i) To adopt the NALC civility & respect statement.

Resolved: That the NALC civility & respect statement be adopted. (Prop Cllr Painter, 2nd Cllr Weldon) All in favour.

- (ii) To approve Clerks delegated powers during period of National mourning & unprecedented times as identified by the Chairman.

Resolved: That the Clerks delegated powers during period of National mourning & unprecedented times be approved. (Prop Cllr Weldon, 2nd Cllr Lines) All in favour

99. Elections.

To note the timetable for elections in May 2022.

Information packs provided along with nomination papers.

Clerk has additional copies if anyone requests, or they can be downloaded from SCDC website.

Cllr Weldon stated she would be prepared to arrange a delivery of completed papers to SCDC before 5th April – date to be confirmed.

100. Correspondence

To receive correspondence and agree any actions: -

- (i) To note letter of thanks from Cambridgeshire Hunt.

Noted

- (ii) To consider letter from resident dated 1st February 2022 regarding village matters.

Noted

- (iii) To note letter from resident regarding play equipment/road safety/chairmanship of steering group.

Members agreed the draft reply provided to resident

Noted

(iv) To consider The Great Gransden Neighbourhood Plan and agree any comments.
Members were asked to email any comments to the Parish Clerk.
Details to be circulated on Facebook for residents' consideration.

(v) To note correspondence relating to Manor Farm Eltisley

Noted

(vi) To note letters from residents requesting lighting in children's play area.

Noted

Cllr Pinner read out the following statement:

- 1) There is a suggestion that it is "not good practice" for me to chair the parish plan steering group. I was elected Chairman following the resignation of the initial one and I saw no conflict of interest. I support the recommendations of the group just as I would support any other group I lead i.e., if the speedwatch team needed new equipment I would happily put the proposal to the Council and support therefore I totally refute the allegation.
- 2) It has been suggested that the payments made to my business PT Pinner & son are "not good practice". I explained at the last Council meeting that this was to enable to Council to claim back VAT. apparently this was not understood, and I will reiterate. Because our Clerk is remote from the village, I undertake to make various purchases on behalf of the Council. This saves the Clerks time and the Council money. VAT @ 20% is charged on most goods apart from food and because my business is registered, I can invoice the Council accordingly.
I send Jane a copy of the supplies invoice together with my own and I am offended by the suggestion that this could be improper. I believe it is an insult to our Clerk, who I would add, had achieved a clear audit every year since she joined us.

Being no further business, the meeting closed 8.20 pm.

Signed

Chairman

Date: