

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF ELTISLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2021 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 J Pettifor  
Cllr M Cropley  
Miss J Bowd (Parish Clerk)

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

9 members of public.  
County Cllr M Smith  
District Councillor N Wright

**58. Apologies.**

To receive and accept Apologies for Absence.

Cllr S Ellis - personal  
Cllr M Lines – personal  
District Cllr M Howell- business

**59. 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**

**60. Minutes.**

To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 14<sup>TH</sup> & 28<sup>TH</sup> September 2021.

Cllr Cropley stated that he was present at the meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> September

Cllr Pettifor asked that item 45(xiv) be amended as he had asked that the Clerk check that in taking over the verge maintenance CCC Highways will still clear the gully's and road grips.

**Resolved:** That with eh above amendment the minutes be signed as a true and correct record. (Prop Cllr Pettifor, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr Weldon) All in favour.

**61. Public Forum**

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

5 Members of public addressed the council in turn regarding concerns over the new play equipment and management of The Green

The concerns were all based around the following:

- Cost
- Public Safety
- Visual impact
- Lack of communication
- Lack on consultation

The Charman replied on some matters, but it was agreed that all matters could not be resolved at the meeting. The concerns would be looked at and brought back to the next meeting.

Notes form individual residents are attached under appendix A

## 62. District and County Councillor Reports

To receive verbal reports from district and county councillor.

County Cllr Smith spoke regarding correspondence relating to the current road works and road closure on the A428 whilst a cycle path is installed. She apologised for not replying to the Clerks email on the subject but wanted to hear comments directly at the meeting to feed back to the weekly review meeting.

Cllr Pettifor questioned whether villages affected had been consulted and, in his opinion, residents are being "fobbed off" about all matters relating to the A428. He stated that CCC should not underestimate the power of feeling amongst residents as this is affecting their lives. Action should have been taken after the major accident last week.

Cllr Painter stated that the current situation is outrightly dangerous.

Cllr Pinner considered the works ill-conceived and poorly planned.

Several residents interjected with supporting comments for the Parish Councillor comments.

Cllr Smith said she would look at how the situation can be managed over the next 3 months whilst the works are ongoing.

District Councillor N Wright encouraged residents and the Council to comment on the current local plan consultation and reiterated that 49,000 homes are planned to be built as opposed to the 40,000-limit set for the area.

Cllr Wright further stated that the MP is pushing to get the number reduced.

He also confirmed to a resident that s106 funds are the vehicle to address issues such as doctors, schools etc which a resident considered necessary with all the new housing.

Cllr Pettifor asked if development was planned for this side of the gibbet, to which he was advised that no plans to the effect have been seen, however if the East- West rail link brings a station at Cambourne then further development will be inevitable. A new town will not be subject to planning constraints.

## 63. Matters arising from previous meeting

### (i) A428

Cllr Pinner advised that this is now with the planning inspectorate and that a decision is expected in the New year.

### (ii) Village Drainage

Cllr Pinner reported on the excellent work in Potton End and confirmed that the owner of the caravan in Potton End has been written to advising of the riparian rights.

As CCC are now offering grants for works under riparian rights Cllr Pinner advised that this may be looked at for the next round of work.

### (iii) Zero Carbon Communities Grant Scheme

The Chairman advised of the areas being considered for re-wilding.

Clerk referred to a statement from Cllr Ellis which asked for Council to consider a contribution to the church for water used re the planting of trees.

It was agreed that a contribution of £25.00 be made, to be paid from the zero-grant carbon grant.

### (iv) Play Equipment

Cllr Pinner advised that investigation into a new goal post had not found a grant funding scheme. Also, it had not been possible to source a single goal as they are sold in pairs.

Cllr Painter confirmed that the school has just purchased 4 new goals.

Cllr Pettifor suggested buying to new goals and selling the old one.

### (v) Caravan – woodland Potton End

Owner has been written to advising of riparian rights.

### (vi) Grass cutting – CCC

Nothing to report

### (vii) Bus shelter & seat repairs.

Cllr Pinner advised that the wood for the seat repairs is on order.

Cllr Pinner spoke regarding the overwhelming response from residents to the newsletter asking for comments on repairs or replacement of the shelter in favour of repairing the existing shelter.

He confirmed that quotes for the work will now be sought.

### (viii) Christmas party & Peace tree lights

Cllr Pettifor confirmed that the cherry picker is on order for 7<sup>th</sup> December and that the replacement lights have been supplied free of charge.

Cllr Pettifor offered his apologies for attendance at the Christmas party.

Cllr Pinner confirmed that plans for the party are in hand apart from a volunteer who is required to make mulled wine.

#### 64. Clerks Report

To receive written report.

9<sup>th</sup> November 2021,

Meeting Dates: –

Full Council – Tuesday January 11th

Items to report.

- LHI BID application submitted 21/9/21
- Reply regarding damaged bus stop sign - *Thank you for reporting this issue. I inspected the bus stop pole a while ago and whilst I don't regard it as dangerous or at risk of falling over, I did intend to get it replaced. Unfortunately, due rapidly diminishing budgets this is no longer possible for the time being so I'm closing this report down and would invite you to raise the issue again in the new financial year.*
- I will be attending a SCDC procurement session via zoom 15/11/21 7pm.
- Closure of A428 – For cycle path installation 4 months. Reported to Highways England 1/11/21 ref: 22102923. Officer advised SLA of 10 days, but he will mark as urgent. Later confirmed that this is a CCC Highways project.

#### 65. Members reports

(i) Parish Forum.

Cllr Pinner advised that the next forum meeting is to be held on 29<sup>th</sup> November via Zoom. Regrettably he is unable to attend

(ii) Village working party.

None planned

(iii) Parish plan survey.

Cllr Pettifor spoke to say that, considering the comments made in the public forum he would like to see the work of this group re visited and the terms of reference and management reviewed.

Cllr Pinner advised that the survey is about to be repeated in line with the requirement for the plan to be refreshed every 4 years.

Cllr Copley spoke to express his concerns that a permanent wicket for cricket use may be placed on The Green.

It was agreed that this will be taken to the January meeting.

(iv) Speedwatch

Cllr Pinner advised he had held a meeting with the county speedwatch co-ordinator and the locations of the equipment had been approved.

It was also agreed that collecting data from the area outside of the Cade would be useful in the possible implementation of a 20mph speed limit.

Cllr Pettifor felt that as monitoring of a 20mph limit would be difficult energy should be put into getting traffic away from the village.

(v) Broadband

Clerk reported no response from Openreach.

Cllr Pettifor asked that Council upped the "anti" as many residents were experiencing issues with broadband.

(vi) Platinum Jubilee 2022

Cllr Weldon said there had been no update from the Cade committee.

Cllr Pettifor felt that this was due to the event being so far in the future.

#### 66. Finance and Risk

66.1 To approve the following accounts for payment:

- Miss J Bowd salary September £342.77 October £321.37
- Mrs A Jackson September £87.01 October 87.01
- HMRC September PAYE £80.40 October £80.20
- PT Pinner & Son materials for play area £691.10
- Mr J Brinkley £1340.00 pond clearance
- Bradgate ltd grass cutting £528.00
- CAPALC – Councillor training £150.00

Clerk advised of 2 further invoices PT Pinner & Son £175.90 (reimbursement for wood for seat),

Bradgate Ltd £528.00

**Resolved:** That with the addition of the above 2 items, That the accounts for payment totalling £5708.45 be approved (Prop Cllr Weldon, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr Painter) All in favour.

Cllr Pettifor asked if a quote could be sought to clear the fallen leaves from The Green.

A discussion took place but no further action to be taken at this time.

66.2 To note the bank reconciliation as at 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021

**Noted**

66.3 To note the budget report dated 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021

**Noted**

66.4 To consider quotes for tree survey works.

Clerk confirmed that 5 companies had been approached.

2 quotes received

1 reply advising that they Are not in a position to quote.

As 1 contractor has not supplied a complete quote, Clerk to revisit and bring back to Council.

66.5 To approve the transfer of £3760.28 to Village institute reserve account (VAT reclaim for play equipment).

**Resolved:** That the transfer of £3760.28 to the Village institute reserve account be approved (Prop Cllr Weldon, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr Cropley) 4 in favour. 1 Abstention.

### 67. Policy

(i) To adopt the new model code of conduct.

Clerk confirmed that the model code has been adopted by SCDC.

**Resolved:** That the new model code of conduct be adopted. (Prop Cllr Pettifor, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr Weldon) All in favour.

### 68. Correspondence

To receive correspondence and agree any actions: -

(i) To consider letter from resident(s) relating to the management of The Green.

Cllr Pettifor spoke to say that he had felt the strength of feeling from residents and some matters cannot be resolved tonight e.g., communication which in his opinion needs to come back to a future meeting.

With regards to the Risk assessment, Insurance, legality around the play equipment these need addressing as a matter of urgency. Cllr Pettifor thanked those present for their feedback.

Cllr Painter spoke to say that Council have listened to the concerns and agree that matters will be taken away and sorted, however, she also stated that those present at the meeting were not fully representative of the community.

(ii) To approve request for Boxing Day hunt, meet.

**Resolved:** That the request for the Boxing Day hunt meet on 27<sup>th</sup> December 2021 be approved subject to the usual conditions.

It was noted that The Cade may not be open. (Prop Cllr Weldon, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr Painter) All in favour

(iii) To note Freedom of Information request.

**Noted**

(iv) To consider Greater Cambridge Local Plan consultation

Cllr Pinner asked members to look at and get comments to the Clerk so that a response from the Council can be made

### 69. items to report

- Cllr Pinner advised of a post covid workshop.
- Clerk advised that planning for 38 Caxton End ref 20/05300/FUL & 20/05301/LBC has been granted.
- Clerk advised of an email from a resident questioning the cones in Caxton End.
- Clerk advised that a refund for street lighting electricity is awaited total £94.59.
- Cllr Weldon asked if damaged bus sign on St Neots Road could be reported again as it is dangerous.
- Cllr Pettifor asked that the bus shelter be investigated further. This matter has been discussed under item 61(vii).

Being no further business, the meeting closed 8.50 pm.

Signed

Chairman

Date:

We now have all this play equipment in place, 14 pieces, far too many for a village of this size. **Question: What will be the financial burden for the upkeep of all the equipment over the next ten years?**

I want to draw your attention to one piece in particular, the scramble net construction which is so large and ugly it really has no place in a prominent position on the Green which I remind you is a conservation area and should be cherished.

**I suggest the scramble net and the monkey bars be relocated to pocket park.**

When the idea for this equipment was first mentioned we were told 'as and when grant funding was available equipment would be installed'.

**Question: Who was on the steering group when it was decided we should have all this equipment?**

Yet with only £2500 of funding in place you have gone ahead with your vanity project spending a colossal £30,000 which you knew you hadn't got.

**Question: You say you had considerable support. What percentage of the village residents were in favour of all this equipment?**

You then announce the bus shelter is in need of repair, which by the way is because you haven't carried out regular annual maintenance for years, and then you have the gall to announce you don't have any money for the repair and have threatened to increase our council tax to pay for it!

I'm afraid you've lost my trust trust.

This aside the immediate concern is the extra danger to the children caused by sighting some of the new play equipment close to the road and my Freedom of Information request asking you to provide your risk assessments.

Letter.....

No risk assessment with regards to the sighting of the equipment prior the installation.

No risk assessment for the equipment.

No risk assessment of any kind.

**By failing to carry out a risk assessment Eltisley Parish Council could be deemed to be negligent and in breach of it's statutory duties.**

**This means you are now in a position where you can be pursued for injury claims that occur because an accident was more likely to happened or worse than would otherwise have been the case.**

There's already been two near misses with young children running from between parked cars into the road. We can all see the extra danger you've caused to the children and as a matter of priority **what are you going to do to sort out this mess of your own making and protect the children of this village?**

(A retrospective risk assessment and a couple of signs certainly won't be good enough to protect the children).

**My final Question:**

**What are you going to do to properly protect the children of this village before it's too late and a child is injured on the road or God forbid even worse?**

Regarding the play equipment outside The Cade.

I am very worried about the danger to the children from the road. Also as you may be aware many parents are driving to the village from elsewhere, bringing their children to play on the village play equipment – they will probably not be aware of the dangers.

I couldn't comment on what you were planning to do because I have since found out you put the information in the February Newsletter which was an on-line version only.

There are quite a few people like me with no computer. How are we supposed to know what you are doing, and how do you propose to make sure you contact everyone in the future?

---

Good Evening

**FIRSTLY** I have no problem with providing Play Equipment for young children-it is always always welcome. **SECONDLY** I have always supported this village –even from meetings in The Cade in the 1980's before my move here. **BUT** have to agree with Colin Bell's Letter --- The green sheet given to you will show others who feel the same.

The placing of 14 pieces of Equipment, some **Extremely Large**, has completely ruined the aspect of The Cade and of course Pond Farm. **BUT** most **IMPORTANTLY** you have put **CHILDREN** using this equipment at **RISK** with the immediate proximately of the **ROAD**.

You have spent £29,941.20. according to your published accounts, purchasing new Play Equipment plus £691,10p paid to your Chairman, Pinner and Sons a reimbursement for Play Equipment Materials

**This amounts to an Eye Watering Total of £30,632.30p. You did obtain a grant of £2,500—from South Cambs Council.**

According to your minutes **Money** has been spent you did not have as the **COST** of the Play Equipment was apparently to come from the Houses **YET** to be built in the Village – namely 106 money.



YOU have taken money from the Village Green Trust to pay for the Play Equipment as an interim measure.

**Is this a prudent way to run the Finances of this Parish Council?**

**Question** – WAS any attempt made to get grants for play equipment ? - I can confirm a local village has just benefitted – in my experience money is always available

**Question** – WHY was not a proper PLAN of the Play Equipment showing exact Placement – Height etc. Circulated – Drawings placed outside The Cade for a few days earlier in the year in Lock Down was **NOT** good enough.

**Question** - **WHAT** are you proposing to do to put these Wrongs Right?

