

MINUTES OF MEETING OF ELTISLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 11th

JANUARY 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 J Pettifor
Cllr S Ellis
Cllr M Lines
Miss J Bowd (Parish Clerk)

IN ATTENDANCE:

20 members of public.
District Councillor N Wright

70. Apologies.

To receive and accept Apologies for Absence.

Cllr M Cropley- personal
CCC Cllr M Smith-personal
SCDC Cllr M Howell-personal

71. 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

72. Minutes.

To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th November 2021.

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

73. Public Forum

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

Before members of the public spoke Cllr Pinner read out the following statement.

“This Council has always been open and has welcomed comments and criticism – indeed my Ramblings always end that way – the way that these have been presented I believe is both abusive and insulting and has caused a rift in our friendly peaceful Village. I should add that, since the last meeting, I have received an anonymous threatening letter, which has been upsetting for both Pat and I, which I have reported to the police. Sadly because of the anger displayed towards me at that meeting, I can only assume that there may be a connection. I sincerely hope, and I know others feel the same, that should there be any future representation it is considered and polite.”

8 members of public spoke in turn.

The first two residents asked when they would get replies to their correspondence to which the Chairman advised that a letter would be issued after the meeting. One of the residents also stated she objected to being referred to as a “protestor” in the Chairman ramblings. The Chairman also advised of the actions taken by the Parish Council since the November meeting relating to the new play equipment. He confirmed that a further RoSPA report has been carried out, at a cost to the Parish of £474.00, the possibility of installing a 20mph speed limit is being investigated with the help of the Speedwatch co-Ordinator. The Chairman also stated that he made no apology for the terminology of “protestor” being used as in his opinion the members of the public who attended the November meeting did attend to protest.

The third resident spoke to thank the Parish Council for all the work they do carry out on behalf of residents. Specifically, regarding the play equipment he outlined his background in the sector. In his opinion

moving equipment to the pocket park was not an option as it was more subject to safety concerns than being in the centre of the village. Also, it would be liable to vandalism, and he felt that residents would be less likely to use the facilities as they are isolated and in “darkness” with issues with HGVs using the narrow access road.

The fourth resident agreed with all that had been said by the previous speaker which was met with a round of applause.

The 5th speaker asked if flashing warning sign could be looked into similar to those that are used to notify drivers of a school in the vicinity.

Speaker 6 felt the equipment enhanced the village and that road visibility was not an issue.

The next speaker stated that having run the cricket club for many years there had been many near missus with vehicles during matches and that parents needed to take the lead if they felt they had safety concerns for their children when on the equipment.

Cllr Painter spoke to advise of the results of a survey she had instigated. 84 replies were received of which 94% supported the play equipment. The questions asked covered location, safety, range, relocation to the pocket park.

The final speaker asked if the Council would look again at a permanent site for locating litter picking equipment near The Cade so that residents could clear litter when they had spare time. His daughter will be doing another pick shortly for which the Chairman expressed his and the Councils thanks. Cllr Pinner agreed to look into this matter.

The Chairman finished the item thanking everyone for attending.

74. District and County Councillor Reports

To receive verbal reports from district and county councillor.

Cllr Wright spoke to say he was pleased to be attending a convivial meeting following the November 2021 meeting.

He stated that as Councillors you need a “thick skin” specifically referring to Cllr Pinner's unpleasant letter but asked Council to remember that more residents appreciate the Council's work than object.

SCDC continue to meet in public, but Covid is making operations difficult.

The biggest issue at present relates to the Oxford- Cambridge rail link and the green protection along the route.

Cllr Pettifor asked for Cllr Wright's opinion on 20mph speed limits. Cllr Wright referred to Papworth's experiences and said that with inclusion of physical structures then the limits can work.

Any scheme would need to be costed and the Parish Council would need to contribute financially.

Cllr Pettifor urges Council not to go down the 20mph route but stated he would prefer Council to put more energy into keeping non- local traffic out of the village. Cllr Pinner advised the meeting that this was already in hand.

Cllr Pinner asked if Miriam Hill is still the tree officer which Cllr Wright confirmed.

75. Matters arising from previous meeting

(i) A428.

CCC M Smith had tried to arrange a meeting with Highways England as requested. A date was agreed for 17th January 2022 but Highways England have now cancelled.

(ii) Village Drainage.

Cllr Pinner reported that the recent heavy rain had proved that the recent works on drainage had been successful. As there is a current grant available for drainage works Cllr Pinner reported that he has asked the previous contractor for a quote to slump out the ditches to support an application.

(iii) Zero Carbon Communities Grant Scheme.

Cllr Ellis outlined the background to the grant and the fact that an extension has been given on time and also the scope to incorporate the wildflower project. As the re-wilding work is not be reliant upon working parties the Council has gone out for 6 quotes only 1 received. Cllr Ellis proposed acceptance of the quote as the project is time critical.

Cllr Pettifor spoke to say that he felt there was a need to consult more with residents as the areas can look messy and he did not want a repeat of the recent experience over the play equipment. He also asked about maintenance cost.

Cllr Ellis confirmed that there will be no maintenance costs as the areas will be sown with annual seeds and it will reduce the cost of verge cutting.

Resolved: That the quote be accepted, and the work go ahead. Plans of the proposed sites to be made available in the bus shelter on the Facebook page (Prop Cllr Ellis 2nd Cllr Pinner) All in favour. Cllr Ellis also spoke to remind members that 4 residents have undertaken training to carry out heat loss surveys of homes and that this will be offered to residents free of charge during the 1st week of February 2022.

(iv) Play Equipment.

Cllr Pettifor spoke to say that the RoSPA report had raised a few queries.

Cllr Pinner stated that none of the points were “urgent” which Cllr Lines agreed with as they are marked low risk.

Cllr Pettifor felt that Council still have a responsibility to deal with the matters raised and manage the facility.

Cllr Painter spoke to say that this was nothing beyond the normal in that the annual report from RoSPA raises matters that Council deal with according to risk.

Cllr Pinner advised that the Clerk has created a file of inspection logs for monthly inspections of the equipment. He also asked that the report be put onto the March agenda.

(v) Caravan – woodland Potton End.

Cllr Pinner reported that the caravan had been removed over the Christmas holiday period. The site needs to be monitored as it has a water course running across it hence the owners have been written to with regards to their riparian rights.

(vi) Grass cutting – CCC.

Cllr Pinner confirmed that CCC have been advised of the Parish Councils wish to take over the works in the new financial year with Bradgates being asked to carry out the work.

(vii) Bus shelter & seat repairs.

Cllr Pinner advised that Mr R Sharp will be looking at the project later this year.

It is hoped that an offer of subsidised material can be utilised, and a quote brought back to Council.

Cllr Pettifor felt that this may not be forthcoming due to pressure of work. Cllr Pinner replied that Mr Sharp has someone working with him and that he was looking at an August start date.

It was agreed that the original 3 companies be approached and asked to revise their quotes to reflect timber being used as opposed to UPVC.

(viii) Luton airport.

The latest proposal was noted. It does appear that it may be beneficial to Eltisley residents.

76. Clerks Report

To receive written report.

Meeting Dates: –

Full Council – Tuesday 8th March 2022

Items to report

- Road sweeping Caxton End reported to SCDC 17/12/21
- Damage to The Green by bin lorry Cross Path reported 16/12/21 Ref :PFWTJQRL

77. Members reports

(i) Parish Forum

Cllr Pinner advised that he was unable to attend the last meeting and that he has not received minutes from the meeting therefore nothing to report.

(ii) Village working party.

Cllr Pinner stated that the brushwood from around the pond needs to be disposed of and he asked for opinion on burning or turning into an eco-environment.

It was agreed to consult with the allotment holders with a proposal to burn.

Cllr Pinner also reported that the new goal posts have arrived and that he will be seeking help to put them together via the newsletter.

- (iii) Parish plan survey.
This was deferred from the November meeting.
Cllr Pinner tabled copies of the survey update questionnaire to go to all households and proposed an open session one afternoon/evening in the Cade.
Members supported this approach.
- (iv) Speedwatch.
Regular session will recommence in March
Cllr Ellis reported that the sign has been left by the bus shelter to catch those drivers diverting off the A428
He also stated that the data diagnostics show that most cars are travelling at less than 35 mph
- (v) Broadband.
Clerk reported no progress.
Cllr Pettifor stated cabling work has been done but nothing else.
- (vi) Platinum Jubilee 2022
Cllr Weldon advised of a meeting being held on Thursday to discuss plans.
She asked if Council would support the planting of 7 trees as suggested by National organisers and suggested 7 be earmarked in the new planted area by the church.
Members considered there may be a better more visible location.
Cllr Pettifor agreed to raise at the PCC meeting in February.
A further report will be made at the march meeting.

78. Finance and Risk

78.1 To approve the following accounts for payment:

- i. Miss J Bowd salary November £335.82 December £331.97
- ii. Mrs A Jackson November £87.01 December 87.01
- iii. HMRC November £80.40, December £80.40
- iv. Holywell-cum- Needingworth Parish Council quarterly office rent £208.00
- v. Contribution to church for water re trees planting £25.00
- vi. Eon bus shelter electricity £14.37
- vii. Drax – streetlight energy £4.32 & £1.30
- viii. Warren access cherry picker for Peace tree lights £342.00
- ix. ROSPA play area check £474.00
- x. Slcc/alcc contribution to Clerks member ship £73.60
- xi. The Green water £43.24
- xii. ICO registration fee £40.00
- xiii. Drax streetlights energy £1.26 & £4.44
- xiv. Cambs Acre subscription £57.00

Resolved: That accounts for payment as listed be approved (Proposed Cllr Lines 2nd Cllr Painter)
All in favour.

78.2 To note the bank reconciliation as at 16th December 2022.

Noted

78.3 To note the budget report dated 16th December 2022.

Noted

78.4 To consider quotes for tree survey works.

78.5 To note EoN electricity migration to NBS

Noted

78.6 To note the increase in office rent w.e.f March 2022.

Clerk was asked to write to Holywell-cum-Needingworth Parish Council thanking them for the continued office facilities and for the reasonable rent charged.

Noted

79. Precept

79.1. Receipts and Payments Account

To note the statement of receipts and payments as at 1/12/21

Noted

79.2 .Budgets

(i) To review the budgets for 2021/22.

Cllr Pettifor reiterated that the new equipment will require maintenance.

He also spoke to say that the Council need to look at moving away from volunteers and that small increases are better than a large increase.

- (ii) To set the budgets for 2022/23.

Members agreed that the budgets should be accepted as presented.

79.3. Precept.

Clerk talked thought the supporting notes that had been issued with papers.

To agree the Precept figure for 2022/23

Resolved: That the precept for 2022/23 be set at £23191.00 (Prop Cllr Lines 2nd Cllr Ellis) All in favour.

80. Planning

80.1 To consider the following applications received:

- (i) Application ref: 21/04933/PRIOR Single storey rear extension
46 Caxton End Eltisley St Neots Cambridgeshire PE19 6TJ

Resolved; That the application be approved (Prop Cllr Pettifor 2nd Cllr Ellis) All in favour.

80.2 To note the following applications that have been **approved:**

- (i) Application ref: 20/05300/FUL Restoration and conversion of five historic barns to form a family annexe, utility space, gym, garage and one holiday let
38 Caxton End Eltisley St Neots Cambridgeshire PE19 6TJ

Noted.

- (ii) Application Reference: 21/04933/PRIOR

Single storey rear extension Site address: 46 Caxton End Eltisley St Neots Cambridgeshire

Noted.

81. Correspondence

To receive correspondence and agree any actions: -

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

Chairman gave members time to read draft responses.

Cllr Pettifor felt that the Council needed to “build bridges” and that the replies if sent will inflame rather than be constructive.

Cllr Pinner expressed a view that the damage has already been done.

Cllr Painter felt that the letters responded to the questions raised and that was what the resident requested in public forum.

Cllr Lines agreed with Cllr Painter and said that going forward Council need to make residents more aware of what Council does.

Resolved: That the letters be sent as presented (Prop Cllr Painter 2nd Cllr Ellis) 5 in favour 1 against.

- (ii) To consider resident letter regarding access across The Green.

An inconclusive discussion took place over any historic right of way. Clerk to write to resident advising that the Council have no power to permit new accesses across The Green.

- (iii) To consider request for a marquee on The Green for a wedding later in 2022.

Cllr Pettifor felt that there was insufficient information on which to decide.

Cllr Pinner felt that the request should be approved subject to conditions. That the marquee be the one owned by The Cade and that it be located outside of the Cade. Any relevant licences be obtained and parking on The Green is not permitted.

- (iv) To consider resident request for permission to carry out tree works.

Cllr Pinner advised getting permission from the tree officer.

Cllr Lines did not consider that Council is responsible for the conifers concerned and that the resident should be contacted. Cllr Pinner advised that this work has now been carried out.

The Clerk was asked to check the regulations and deal with the matter accordingly.

82. To resolve to close the meeting to members of public due to the confidential nature of the item to be discussed.

Resolved: That the meeting be closed to members of public due to the confidential nature of the item to be discussed. (Prop Cllr Lines 2nd Cllr Weldon) All in favour.

Meeting closed 8.55pm. All members of the public left

(i) Planning application ref: 20/05300/FUL Restoration and conversion of five historic barns to form a family annexe, utility space, gym, garage and one holiday let
38 Caxton End Eltisley St Neots Cambridgeshire PE19 6TJ

Meeting reopened 9.25pm no members of the public returned.
Being no further business, the meeting closed 9.30 pm.

Signed

Chairman

Date: