

MINUTES OF MEETING OF ELTISLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 10th

JANUARY 2023 at THE CADE at 7.00pm

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

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

No member of public
CCC M Smith
SCDC Cllr Sandford

59. Apologies.

To receive and accept Apologies for Absence.

Cllr M Cropley - personal

60. Declarations of Interest.

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

61. To note the resignation of Cllr Painter.

Cllr Pinner asked the Clerk to write to Mrs Painter thanking her for her service on the Parish Council. He also advised that the post is now open for co-option.

Noted.

62. Minutes.

To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th November 2022

Resolved: That the minutes of 8th November 2022 be signed as a true and correct record. (Prop Cllr Weldon 2nd Cllr Ellis) All in favour.

63. Public Forum

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

None.

64. District and County Councillor Reports

To receive verbal reports from district and county councillor.

CCC Cllr M Smith checked that the Parish and submitted their LHI BID.

Cllr Smith advised that applications for 20mph speed limits will open in February and remain open until April 2023.

A scheme for restricting weight limits is still pending.

With regards to Cross path, she will arrange a meeting with Mr J Chapman on site.

A428 meeting scheduled for 17th January 2023 @ 2pm, it was agreed that it was important to keep dialogue open.

Location of the meeting was a the "new encampment" a postcode is awaited to enable directions.

Cllr Pinner asked if there was any progress with buses as Council are still receiving complaint of non-arrival and poor time keeping.

SCDC Cllr P Sandford explained that the government subsidy for buses ends in April The Combined Authority is looking at ways to fund and an additional contribution via Council tax may be a solution. Whippet are experiencing a shortage of drivers and sickness problems which is affecting the whole County.

The Parish Council was asked to write to the combined authority with feedback.

SCDC are looking at a 3.4% increase in Council tax. But this is not signed off until next month.

The consultation on the sustainable travel zone/congestion zone received 23,000 responses. An overview is awaited. A vote on any changes will be taken by CCC June/July.

The joint local plan update was published last week. Employment is already 2031 levels therefore the updated local plan will look at increased housing in strategic sites. Shortage of water for new housing is an issue so long term a new reservoir is being considered in the Fens.

Recycled batteries can now be tied to the lid of any bin for SCDC waste collection.

Luton airport. There is a meeting to be held at Great Gransden on 23rd February MP A Browne is on the guest list. The Parish Council has been invited. Attendance can be via zoom. Cllr Pinner asked for volunteers to attend as he will not be available. Nobody came forward.
Cllr Stevenson asked if there was any movement on East-West rail project. There has been no change since Christmas, but a business plan is being worked upon.
Cllr Pinner asked what the regulations were on rendering being applied to the front of a property.
Cllr Sandford agreed to look into this matter.

65. Matters arising from previous meeting.

- (i) A428 including Milestone.
Nothing to report.
- (ii) Parish Plan survey.
Cllr Pinner reported that this is a work in progress and will be brought to Council when completed.
- (iii) Cross path.
See item 64.
- (iv) Parish Forum.
Scheduled for March. Cllr Pinner reported that the meetings are of little value.
- (v) Luton Airport.
See item 64.
- (vi) Bus shelter.
Cllr Stevenson reported that the bricklayer can start once the shelter has been stripped back which will take a day and volunteers are required.
A date was set for Saturday March 11th, 2023.
- (vii) Play area & lighting.
Cllr Pinner reported that quotes were awaited including one from CCC.
- (viii) Cost of living crisis.
Clerk reported that no requests for assistance have been received.
It was agreed to take no further action.
Cllr Pinner did suggest that wood from dead trees may be offered to members of the working parties as firewood.

66. Items to report.

Cllr Pinner reported the following:

- Christmas party was a success with new faces attending as well as the regular attendees.
- Peace tree lights- feedback required so that next year can be planned so this will be requested in the next ramblings. Cllr Weldon commented that in her opinion the lights were not bright enough. Matter to be on the next agenda.
- Flag near The Cade is getting very tatty. Cllr Weldon agreed to obtain a price for a replacement. Cllr Pinner will mention in ramblings to see if anyone wishes to donate towards cost.
- Vandalism is becoming an issue in the village. Councillors asked to be mindful and to try and catch culprits in the act so that this can be reported.
- The Old House – drive has been re done, sits slightly proud of the grass but the assumption is that the edges will be banked up. This will need to be monitored. A report of 3 dead sheep at this site has caused concern and will also need to be monitored.
- Village drainage – Meeting with Mr Barnett has solved the issue of a broken drainage tile. Water now flowing well apart from the ditch by the allotments. Clerk asked to write to landowner asking if he can dredge the ditch in question.
- Horse riders have asked if signage can be investigated for installation in Potton End. Clerk to contact Rights of Way officer at CCC for advice.
- Cllr Ellis spoke about the re wilding project asking if work can be done to improve the area outside of the church. It was agreed that the thistles were a problem, and that the area should be stripped fallowed and then re seeded. Cllr Ellis will speak to other Parishes that have done similar projects to see how they manage the problem of weeds. Clerk to check on the grant funding to see what is still available.

67. Clerks Report

To receive written report.

Meeting Dates: –

Full Council – Tuesday March 14th, 2023
Items to report

- 6 free tree scheme – 1 Pot grown oak tree ordered.
- Annual return EVGT filed 21/12/11.
- Clerk will be attending Practitioners conference 1st – 3rd February 2023.
- Clerk on annual leave 23rd-27th January 2023

68. Finance and Risk.

68.1 To approve the following accounts for payment:

- (i) Bradgate grass cutting £432.00
- (ii) A Linger tree works £2160.00
- (iii) HMRC £78.80
- (iv) Salaries November £424.06
- (v) S&D Services £2070.00
- (vi) Surrey Hill solicitors £606.00
- (vii) ICO registration fee £40.00
- (viii) HMRC £76.80
- (viii) Holywell-cum-Needingworth Parish Council office rent £216.25
- (ix) The Cade - Christmas party expenses £83.00
- (x) DRAX Streetlighting energy £5.94
- (xi) December Salaries £404.46
- (xii) SLCC Practitioners conference £110.40
- (xiii) SLCC membership Clerk £72.00
- (xiv) Reimbursement to Clerk – plaque for jubilee bench £23.95.

Clerk asked that the following payments also be considered:

- Surrey Hills Solicitors £474.00
- D Stevenson reimbursement for peace tree lights £37.40
- Holywell-cum-Needingworth PC contribution towards accounting software £74.88
- Salaries January 2023 £413.46
- HMRC January 2023 £78.60
- R Pinner reimbursement for Christmas party expenses £69.47

Resolved: That with the above additions the account for payment be approved (Prop Cllr Lines 2nd Cllr Weldon) All in favour.

68.2 To note the bank reconciliation as 3rd January 2023.

Noted

68.3 To note the budget report dated 3rd January 2023.

Noted

68.4 To approve application to Nat West online banking services.

Clerk advised that the application process is online.

It was agreed that the Clerk should make an application and keep Council advised of progress.

69. Planning

69.1 To note the following applications that have been approved:

- (i) Application Reference: S/3182/19/CONDA Proposal: Submission of details required by condition 3 (materials), 4 (Landscaping Scheme), 6 (CEMP), 8 (Arboricultural report), 9 (Maintenance Surface Water), 10 (Surface Water Drainage), 15 (Traffic management plan), 18 (Scheme for Investigation), 19 (Verification Report), 20 (written scheme of investigation), 21 (Carbon Reduction), 22 (water conservation) and 23 (Fire Hydrants) of planning permission S/3182/19/FL Site Adjacent Pond At Potton End St Neots Eltisley PE19 6TH

Noted

- (ii) To consider request from DCH Construction relating to input to street naming of rural exemption site.

Cllr Pinner had spoken to the original landowner who expressed no preference.

Cllr Weldon had received feedback that the site should be named either West Farm Close or New Wier Close.

Cllr Lines felt that the community should be consulted and suggested a poll via Facebook.

Resolved: That Cllr Stevenson and Cllr Ellis to arrange a 7-day poll seeking suggestions. Responses to be forwarded to Councillors for putting forward to the developer. All in favour.

- (iii) To consider the Consultation - Joint Planning Compliance Policy and agree any comments
Noted

70. Precept 2023/24

70.1. Receipts and Payments Account

To note the statement of receipts and payments as at 1/12/22.

Noted

70.2. Budgets

- (i) To review the budgets for 2022/23.

Clerk explained the budget as presented and assumptions for spending January – March 2023.

Cllr Ellis queried the high overspend on contingencies. Clerk to send an email with a breakdown.

- (ii) To set the budgets for 2023/24

A discussion took place around the challenges for budgeting in the current economic climate. With inflation as high as it is a cost neutral budget is in effect a decrease which can cause problems in the following year.

Figures show that Council have worked within budget year to date, and it was felt than a small increase was not unreasonable bearing in mind the challenges costing items in 2023/24.

70.3. Precept

To agree the Precept figure for 2023/24

Resolved: That the precept be set at £24163.00. (Prop Cllr Ellis 2nd Cllr Weldon) All in favour.

71. Community events

- (i) To discuss plans for Coronation of King Charles III.
Working party being set up, Cllr Weldon will attend.
Parish council will lead on any event planned with a view to providing insurance cover.
Cllr Lines asked if a budget could be provided prior to any commitment to underwrite the activities.
So far Saturday event is being considered with pre ticket sales.
- (II) To consider lighting the beacon D – Day 2023
The request is for beacon lighting in 2024
Item to be brought back to Council nearer the time.

72. Correspondence.

To receive correspondence and agree any actions: -

- (i) To note the merger of SWARCO.

Noted

- (ii) To note the letter of thanks from Six Village newsletter for donation. (EVGT).

Noted

- (iii) To note email regarding damage to The Green.

Noted

73. items to report.

- Cllr Stevenson reported a broken maintenance plate on lamp post St Neots Road.

74. To resolve to close the meeting to members of the public due to confidential nature of items to be discussed.

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

MEETING CLOSED 8.25pm

- (i) National salary award applicable from 1/4/22.

(ii) Solicitors' advice relating to common land/Manor Farm

MEETING REOPENED 9.03PM no members of the public returned.

Being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.04 pm

Chairman

Date:

DRAFT