

Minutes of the Elsing Parish Council meeting held Virtually through Zoom on
Monday 18th January 2021 at 7.00 p.m.

Present:- Cllr Bill Horncastle, Cllr Pip Wallwork (Chairman), Cllr Henry Atkinson,
Cllr Stuart Chaplin, Cllr Oliver Laws and Cllr Steve Crebbin

Other Members Present: - Mrs G Hubbard, Clerk

1. Welcome and to consider accepting apologies for absence

Cllr Wallwork welcomed everyone to the meeting. Everyone was present, so there were no apologies to be received.

2. To receive any Declarations of interest re items on the agenda and request for Dispensation.

There were no Requests for Dispensation received.

Cllr Chaplin declared a Personal Interest in item 5, Planning

3. To confirm and accept the minutes of the meeting held on November 16th 2020.

The minutes had been circulated. Cllr Laws proposed the minute be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting, this proposal was seconded by Cllr Wallwork and the proposal was carried.

4. To discuss any matters arising from the minutes of November 16th (not on the Agenda)

There were no matters arising.

5. Planning Issues :- Update on the Solar Farm situation

The Clerk has not received any communications from Breckland so currently there is no need for any discussions. The application was not listed on the recent Breckland Planning agenda but it could be going on the February one. Cllr Wallwork has emailed PACE some concerns and questions about the contract but to date has not received any responses. The Clerk will receive in an email the issues that Cllr Wallwork has raised and they will be attached to the minutes.

6. To discuss the Fly Tipping Problem

Cllr Laws has carried out some excellent work regarding this problem. At the moment it is not possible to organise a large Litter Pick. There was some discussion regarding the installation of CCTV cameras. A young resident of Elsing is clearing rubbish in the village, as part of his Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. He started the litter pick at his house and is cleaning up most of the village. Because of this exercise, it may not be necessary to have a Village Litter Pick. At the moment it is not possible to collect the necessary equipment from Breckland Council. A letter of thanks will be sent to the resident. Cllr Chaplin will create and send the letter.

7. To receive an update on the Mermaid Pub

Breckland Council has accepted the Mermaid Pub onto the list of Community Value. The Conditions have been written. The question now is whether a Buyer will come forward in the future when the situation changes. There needs to be a leader to deal with this. Cllr Chaplin enquired whether the current owners were planning to close the Pub but no one could enlighten him. There are issues with the building that need to be addressed.

8. To receive a Financial Update from the Clerk

The Clerk had created a financial update from 6th November up till 11th January and it had been circulated. At the end of that period the Business Premium account held £6,523.88. Throughout that period £458.99 had been paid out. There were no questions regarding the update.

9. To authorise any necessary Financial Payments

Cllr Wallwork proposed the following financial transactions be made, seconded by Cllr Horncastle and carried.

Mrs G Hubbard Net salary from 14th September to 31st January £728.00

HMRC Tax from 14th September to 31st January £182.00

Mrs G Hubbard expenses from 14th September to 31st January £83.49

Steve Jackman (website work) £90.00

The Campaign to Protect Rural England renewal of subscription £36.00

10. To discuss the budget 2021 – 2022

Cllr Horncastle discussed the budget and had emailed out to everyone a blank sheet. Some figures had been inputted onto the sheet, others were added at the meeting and it was decided to look at it again in a couple of months.

11. To adopt revised Standing Orders

Draft revised Standing Orders reflecting Zoom meetings had been created and circulated. These were discussed at great length. Ideas were discussed regarding how to create Standing Orders that are easily understandable. It was agreed that the Standing Orders were too long and should be shortened. Cllr Laws proposed that the shortened version should retain the Zoom meeting section, seconded by Cllr Wallwork and carried. When a shorter version is created and accepted by everyone, they could be adopted at the next meeting.

12. The Parish Council to further consider how to move forward on co-option

Since the last Parish Council meeting, no Parish Councillor has had any contact with Karen Sunshine, so there is still a vacancy. Cllr Wallwork stated that a resident has shown some interest but she proposes that for the moment, the Parish Council continues with six Parish Councillors. There was no objection to this idea.

13. To discuss the allotments, orchard and footpath

Cllr Laws had circulated a report regarding the allotments, orchard, footpath and Bore Hold Project. Regarding the Bore Hole Project, he had also created and circulated a list of organisations that might provide grants. The report stated that it was hoped the Parish Council would pay the V.A.T. which amounted to about £660.00 to the contractor, as it would be possible for the Parish Council to reclaim this back from the V.A.T. department.

Cllr Atkinson quoted from the approved 20th July 2020 minutes, which confirmed that the project can run for the next 9 month'. It, therefore, has Council approval for development work to continue until into 2021.

These documents will be attached to the minutes. Cllr Chaplin stated he did not think the Parish Council had agreed to pay this money but Cllr Laws disagreed.

Cllr Horncastle proposed that Cllr Laws continues with his hard work of investigating possible grants for this project, seconded by Cllr Wallwork and carried. Cllr Wallwork thought it may be necessary to hold a short Parish Council meeting in February through Zoom, to vote on the expenditure regarding this project.

14. Items for the Next Agenda

Report from Highways regarding potholes and flooding
Update on the Bore Hole situation

15. To confirm date, time and method of next Meeting

The date of the next Parish Council meeting will take place on Monday 15th March 2021 at 7.00 p.m. Virtually via Zoom. The Chairman thanked everyone for attending. The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.

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Chairman

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Date