

Minutes of the Elsing Parish Council meeting held Virtually through Zoom on
Monday 16th November 2020 at 7.00 p.m.

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

Other Members Present: - 3 members of the Public, Dist. Cllr Gordon Bambridge and
Mrs G Hubbard, Clerk

1. Welcome and to consider accepting apologies for absence

Cllr Wallwork welcomed everyone to the meeting. Cllr Steve Crebbin was not able to connect with Zoom, although he was trying.

2. To co-opt onto the Parish Council Karen Sunshine

As Karen Sunshine had not read the Code of Conduct she decided to decline being co-opted onto the Parish Council. The Clerk will email the Code of Conduct to her.

3. To receive from Karen Sunshine signed Declaration of Acceptance of Office and issue the Interest Forms.

This item could not be progressed, as a consequence of the position as set out under item 2 above.

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

There were no Requests for Dispensation received.

Cllr Horncastle declared a Personal Interest in item 11, The Mermaid Pub.

5. To confirm and accept the minutes of the meeting held on September 19th 2020.

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

6. To discuss any matters arising from the minutes of September 19th, (not on the Agenda)

Accounts were not an actual subject on this agenda but it will be put on the January agenda.

The Clerk had received an update on the situation regarding the new bench seat by the new sign, on the Bore Hole/water supply project and on Footpath/Allotments, as these items are not on the agenda. The update will be attached to the minutes.

Open Forum for Public Participation

7. To discuss any Planning Issues

3PL/2020/1134/F Three Bridges Solar Farm, land South of Elsing Road. Ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV).

During the week the Parish Council had been busy creating its response to this planning application and Cllr Atkinson has been working extensively on the response. The submission is in draft form and has 6 parts to it. Cllr Atkinson read out to those present at the meeting each section, in great detail, and a few comments were made. Tomorrow any adjustments necessary will be made and it will be submitted to Breckland by the end of the day,

8. To discuss the Mermaid Pub

Cllr Horncastle informed the Parish Council that his son had spoken to someone who had put a Pub into Community ownership. Breckland has a system where they register assets of Community Value. Breckland need to know if it serves a useful purpose to the community and a pub is usually accepted as an asset. Cllr Horncastle and Cllr Laws would like to send the completed forms to Breckland. The Mermaid Pub owners are aware of the situation and it becomes a material planning item. If the Mermaid Pub should be put up For Sale, then Breckland would have an obligation to inform the Parish Council. During the first 6 weeks, if the plan was to sell it for houses, there would be a chance to do something about it. The members of the Parish Council supported the wording put on the form by the two Councillors. Cllr Wallwork proposed the idea and the forms be accepted, seconded by Cllr Laws and carried. The Parish Council will be the nominated body in this project. The owners of the Mermaid Pub have not made any firm decisions.

Open Forum for Public Participation Closed

9. To receive a Financial Update from the Clerk

The Clerk had circulated her financial update for 1st July to 5th November. During that period there had been a total of £1,433.96 paid into the bank account and £1,561.45 paid out. At the beginning of the period there was £7,075.60 in the bank, so on 5th November the proceeds in the bank were £6,948.11. A copy of the financial update will be attached to the minutes.

10. To authorise any necessary Financial Payments:-

Cllr H Atkinson £50.00 (wood) G. Hubbard Net salary, tax and expenses for Sept. – Nov.
Cllr Laws £8.99 (wood preserver)
Claims paid since last meeting Mr Peter Clough £13.10 (Community Car)
Mr Oliver Laws £164.99 (Garden Bench)

The Parish Council agreed the payments to Cllr Atkinson and Cllr Laws be made. The Clerk cannot receive payment until January as there are HMRC problems to sort out.

11. To set the Precept for 2021 – 2022

Cllr Horncastle proposed the Precept be set at £2,866.00, seconded by Cllr Wallwork and carried.

12. To receive items for the next Agenda

In light of item 2 above, the Parish Council to further consider how to move forward on co-option
To discuss the budget for 2021 -2022
To receive an update on the Mermaid Pub situation
To adopt revised Standing Orders
To discuss the possibility of having a Community Speedwatch scheme

13. To confirm date, time and venue of next Meeting

The date of the next Parish Council meeting will take place on Monday 18th January 2021 at 7.00 p.m. Virtually via Zoom. The Chairman thanked everyone for attending. The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.00 p.m.

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Chairman

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Date