

ELSING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Elsing Parish Council meeting held in Elsing Village Hall, Church Street on Monday January 20th 2025 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: - Councilors Palmer, Butler, Horncastle, Adams and Brailsford

Other Members Present: - 3 Electors and Mrs G Hubbard, Clerk

OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. To appoint the Chairman for the meeting and Clerk to receive signed Declaration of Acceptance of Office from the Chairmen.

Cllr Adams proposed Cllr Horncastle, seconded by Cllr Brailsford and carried. The Clerk received the signed Declaration of Acceptance Form.

2. Welcome by the Chair and to receive apologies for absence.

Cllr Horncastle welcomed those present

There were apologies for absence received from Cllr Laws and Cllr Chaplin and these were accepted.

3. To declare any Interests re items on the agenda.

No interests were declared.

4. To confirm and accept minutes of the meeting held on November 18th.

The minutes had been circulated. Cllr Brailsford proposed the minutes of November 18th be accepted as true and accurate records of the meetings, seconded by Cllr Butler and carried.

5. To discuss any matters arising from these minutes (not on the agenda).

There were no matters to discuss.

6. To discuss the Jumps and a replacement crash barrier.

The configuration of the land is in reality different to what it was thought to be but the Parish Council now has a record of it. Cllr Horncastle went to a S.N.A.P meeting last week organised by the Police and it was useful. There were a couple of P.C.S.O.s there but their main problems are shop lifting and speeding. They are aware of the situation but it cannot be prioritized. The only thing suggested was reporting the problem and any vandalism should be reported. The barrier has gone. Cllr Horncastle has all the materials ready to put them into the ground. So another barrier will be there in due course.

7. To discuss any necessary Correspondence.

As no reply had been received from The Water Management Alliance regarding the River Wensum, another letter will be sent.

8. To discuss an additional notice for defibrillators.

Over the Christmas period the defibrillator showed an orange light. Although there is no problem, the orange light was a warning that something needed attention. Cllr Horncastle has prepared a notice to be put up on the defibrillator case. The purpose of the notice was to make sure people do not become alarmed if they see an orange light. The notice was discussed and Cllr Adams is going to create another with slightly different wording and it will be placed by the defibrillator.

9. To discuss Beekeeping on the Parish Council land above the orchard and how some fencing can be purchased.

Cllr Adams would like to put two bee hives on the field above the orchard. There is a beekeeper in Lenwade who can provide the bees and the hives. Cllr Palmer proposed two bee hives be obtained, seconded by Cllr Brailsford and carried.

10. To discuss any Planning Issues.

3PL/2024/0518/VAR Solar Photovoltaic Farm, Elsing Road. Permission granted with conditions.

11. To receive a statement from Cllr Laws on the Borehole, Allotment, Nursery, Vineyard and to discuss the deer problem.

Cllr Laws' report had been circulated. The report stated that the Woodlanders had cleared the pile of sticks between the 2 large oak trees at the back of the orchard and the ground is being levelled, in case the club is successful in getting planning permission and funds for a shed that the children can use as a workshop. Some of the fruit trees on the orchard need pruning this winter. Eight new trees were planted a few weeks ago and there are two plums left to plant, which will be planted soon.

The 'Trees Outside Woodland' person at Norfolk County Council wants photographs of the tree nursery and a statement explaining how the grant, which was given for fencing, has helped. NCC will receive these soon.

All the allotments are let at the moment. Muntjac and roe deer have been coming onto the allotments and causing damage. Cllr Laws has telephoned the land agent, who used to represent the owner of the field behind the allotments and she has passed the management of the land onto her daughter, who put the land up for sale and later withdrew it. This field has been planted with a wild bird seed crop and left undisturbed for a couple of years. The vegetation gives good cover for deer. Cllr Laws asked the landowner to mow the field and asked permission for shooting on the field. He contacted the estate agent, who said the landowner would be asked to contact Cllr Laws. So far he has not been contacted and if necessary he will write to the landowner, care of the estate agent. Cllr Laws contacted a local gamekeeper who is considering whether he will be able to control the deer. There are other gamekeepers to also approach.

The fence that runs along the back of the orchard is broken and offers little deterrent. The fence could be mended with a few posts and some barbed wire to join the broken strands.

The public present thought that high fencing would help to keep the deer away. They are destroying the allotments. They are coming onto the allotments via Mrs English's field and Bartles Lodge. The allotment holders proposed that all the allotments, vineyards and orchard be all fenced. There would be an 8-foot fence put up and it might not look very attractive. One suggestion was to install cameras to see where they are coming in. Cllr Horncastle suggested electric fencing. It could be investigated but it may not be tall enough, although it is possible to buy electric fences that are high. He thought mowing the field may be a deterrent. The cost of electric fences will be investigated. The residents present were thanked for their input in the discussion.

12. To make a decision regarding the Woodlanders Children's Group having a workshop on the Village Orchard.

The decisions to be made are: -

Does the Parish Council agree, in principle, to a shed being put at the back of the Village Orchard, between the 2 large oak trees?

Cllr Horncastle proposed a shed be purchased, seconded by Cllr Brailsford and carried.

Would the Parish Council make the planning application that is necessary?

Cllr Horncastle proposed the Parish Council make the planning application that is necessary, seconded by Cllr Palmer and carried.

If the Parish Council makes the application, the cost is half what it would be if the application was made by the Woodlanders Club. It would cost about £150.00 if done by the Parish Council.

Would the Parish Council pay for the planning application?

The Parish Council would pay for the planning application and Cllr Laws will deal with the application.

13. To receive a Financial Update from the Clerk.

This had been circulated and no-one had any questions regarding it. Cllr Horncastle's figures had been circulated.

14. To authorize any necessary financial payments.

Cllr Horncastle proposed the following financial payments be authorized, seconded by Cllr Palmer and carried.

Clerk's net salary for Dec – Jan. £351.48 Expenses £65.86 HMRC tax £76.20

Since the last meeting, £150.00 grant was received from Breckland Council for the Community Car Scheme and a bank interest payment for £26.23. Two Comm. Car payments were made, one for £20.75 and one for £22.00 and £186.00 was paid for the defibrillator maintenance.

15. To consider not renewing the NALC membership in April 2025.

The Parish Council decided that for the time being they would continue to subscribe to Norfolk Parish Training and Support but would leave renewing their subscription with Nalc at the moment. They may rejoin the organization at a later date.

The Clerk will contact N. P. T. and S. regarding the restructuring of Local Government.

16. To discuss the purchasing of a SAM2 flashing sign.

After investigations, the Parish Council discovered that by using a SAM2 sign, speeding is reduced by 1.4%. The Clerk will contact the Traffic Management Office and enquire about having some equipment installed that can record the speed of vehicles. She will let them know that the Parish Council is considering purchasing a SAM2 sign perhaps in the future.

17. To receive an update on the Mermaid Pub Project.

Cllrs Butler and Palmer reported back that the pub owners have now decided that they wish to pursue a sale and would not be prepared to lease the pub to a community entity. The owners have indicated a price range they would expect to realise. It is considered that the sale price, plus costs of purchase (Stamp Duty etc.) allied to any refurbishment costs, setting up costs etc., would make the creation of a Community Pub unachievable. Discussion centred around the costs, engagement levels and community input at Gressenhall, which were required to establish the Community Pub. Although the response to the Elsing questionnaire was positive, it is felt it would not be possible to raise the necessary funds and levels of community involvement to establish a Community Pub. Accordingly, it was agreed that the situation would be monitored, with a view to progressing a project if the circumstances change sufficiently in the future, but for now the project would be put in abeyance.

18. To set the precept for 2025 – 2026

After some discussion and calculations, Cllr Horncastle proposed the precept be set at £5,286.00, seconded by Cllr Palmer and carried.

19. To fix a date for a Village Litter Pick.

The Litter Pick will take place on Thursday February 20th. It will start at 10.00 a.m. and those taking part will meet outside Cllr Laws' house by the Village Sign.

20. To receive items for the March agenda.

To discuss Fire and Storm Risks

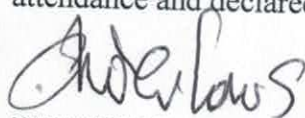
21. To confirm date and time of the next Parish Council meeting in March and set dates for the remainder of the year.

The date of the next Parish Council meeting will take place on Monday March 17th 2025 at 7.00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

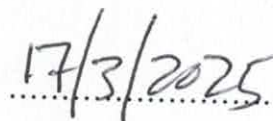
The dates for the meetings to be held for the remainder of the year are as follows: -

Monday May 19 th	Monday July 21 st
Monday September 15 th	Monday November 3 rd

As there was no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.



Chairman


Date